THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND THE OFFICE OF LECTURES AND CONCERTS

Present

THE UNIVERSITY SINGERS

DON-ANDRÉ, conductor

Wednesday, May 28, 1975. Meany Theater, 8:00 PM

PROGRAM

AMERICAN REQUIRE

Requiem: "Conscientious Objector"

- Brian Trevor, tenor solo

- Kyrie: "Of God we ask-one favor"

- Carol Sams; soprano solo

- Dies Irae: "Dirge"

- Sanctus: "Lament"

- Valerie Hutchison, soprano solo

- Agnus Dei: "War is Kind"

- In Paradisum: "Goodbye my Fancy"

- Roy Wilson, baritone solo

INTERLUDE

RANDALL THOMPSON 3:29

PAUL CHRISTIANSEN 3:27

PAUL FEITLER 2:42

MAURICE DURUFLE 2:11

ROBERT DE COURTER 2:41

H. A. SCHMIDT 2:21

The Last Words of David

I Heard a Great Voice

Make a Joyful Noise

Notets on Gregorian Themes

 Soldier, Soldier, Won't You Marry Me?

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INTERMISSION

RANDALL THOMPSON

The Last Words of David
I Heard a Great Voice
Make a Joyful Noise
Motets on Gregorian Themes
Ubi caritas

ROBERT DE CORMIER

Soldier, Soldier, Won't You Marry Me?

H. A. SCHMIDERLING

Rde Su Kity Noko

*first performance
American Requiem was begun in May of 1974 and receives its first performance tonight. It is a sectionalized work which juxtaposes the traditional with the contemporary American. Bach movement is based upon a chant theme from the Gregorian Mass for the Dead which is contrasted with a poem by an American poet.

I. Requiem: "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord..."
   "All Flesh shall come to Thee..."
   The soloist, using a text by Edna St. Vincent Millay declares: "I shall die but that is all that I shall do for death...I am not on his payroll...Brother, never through me shall you be overcome..."

II. Kyrie: "Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy"
   The poet, Emily Dickinson, asks what it is that we are begging mercy for..."happiness that too competes with heaven?"

III. Dies Irae: "Day of Wrath, that day when the world dissolves in ashes..."
   Kenneth Fearing responds with "Dirge:" "One, two, three was the number he played but today his number came three, two, one...Zowie did he live and Zowie did he die..." In a poem very reminiscent of Miller's Death of a Salesman we see the American dream wither and fade in one man's life.

IV. Sanctus: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts"
   Again, Edna St. Vincent Millay comments upon the tragedy of unexpected death as she speaks through the mother's voice: "Listen, Children, your father is dead...Life must go on though good men die; Anne eat your breakfast, Dan take your medicine...Life must go on...I forget just why."

V. Agnus Dei: "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, grant them rest eternal..."
   Stephen Crane's bitter and ironic poem offers us a look at war and death through the eyes of a war correspondent. "Do not weep maiden, for war is kind..." while martial voices cry out, "Great is the battle god, and his kingdom a field where a thousand corpses lie..."

VI. In Paradisum: "May the Angels lead thee into paradise, may the chorus of angels take thee up, and may you have rest"
   Walt Whitman's text offers the final comment on death: it is life that really matters: "Long have we loved...together...if we go anywhere, we'll go together to meet what happens, so...Goodbye, my Fancy."

Solo passages tonight are being sung by the soloists for whom each of the sections was specifically written: Brian Trevor, Carol Sams, Valerie Hutchison, and Roy Wilson.

Maurice Durufle, a contemporary French composer, has used ancient Gregorian chant themes as the basis for his set of sacred pieces. The text translations are:

I. "Where there is love and charity, there is God, The love of Christ had brought us together, Let us rejoice and be glad in it."
II. "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I shall build my church."
III. "Such a great sacrament we revere with downcast eyes, and the old yields to a new one."


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Kde Su Kravy Moje ("Where are my cows?") is a Slovakian folk song. The young cowherd falls asleep on the side of a hill, only to waken and find that all the cows have wandered off during the nap. Panic-stricken, the cowherd cries: "where are my cows?" and then proceeds to call each of them by name.