



REQUIEM: GABRIEL FAURÉ
LUX AETERNA: MORTEN LAURIDSEN

REMEMBRANCE & LIGHT

VALLEY CHORAL SOCIETY

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"Everything I managed to entertain by way of religious illusion, I put into my Requiem, which moreover, is dominated from beginning to end by a very human feeling of faith in eternal rest."

Gabriel Fauré

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REMEMBRANCE & LIGHT

"Requiem" arr. Gabriel Fauré

Soloists: Selena Lavonier & Stephen Lavonier

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924) was a French composer and church organist who grew tired of hearing and performing masses that were dark, heavy and macabre. He began work on his "Requiem" in 1887. The death of his father in 1885 and of his mother two years later may well have given impetus to his "Requiem" which is the Catholic Mass for the dead. Many consider this mass, which reflects Faure's own personal tragedy, to be his masterpiece. It focuses on the beauty and calm of the pending afterlife and offers solace to those suffering from the grief of losing a loved one. It is often described as a "lullaby of death."

Few of the countless performers and listener who have experienced Fauré's "Requiem" are aware of the long and complex history of its composition. In fact the first version, which was completed in 1888, consisted of only five movements. Fauré's more intimate concept of the work was far removed from what we hear today. The "Requiem" in its original form continued to be performed until the end of the century, but Fauré also prepared an expanded version for use on grander occasions. The expanded version, first performed in 1893, included two extra movements. The third version of the "Requiem" – the familiar one published for full orchestra – received its premier in 1900 at the Trocadero Palace during the Paris World Exhibition. How and why the third version came about is not entirely clear. It is surmised that Fauré's publisher urged him to prepare a "version symphonique" in order to secure more performances and to turn the work into more of a concert piece. It is believed that Fauré actually delegated the scoring and reorchestration of the mass to assistants, resulting in a score that had literally hundreds of misprints and other inaccuracies which the normally meticulous Fauré would never have let pass had he read the proofs.

The edition of Fauré's "Requiem Mass" performed today is by famed English composer John Rutter whose aim is "to present the 'Requiem' in a form as close as possible to Fauré's known intentions." The work remains a standard in choral repertoire and is notable for its clarity, balance, serenity and ethereal beauty.

I. Introitus - Kyrie

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine
et lux perpetua luceat eis
Te decet hymnus, Deus in Sion
et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem.
Exaudi orationem meam ad te omnis caro veniet
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,
and may perpetual light shine upon them
Thou, O God, art praised in Sion, and unto Thee
shall the vow be performed in Jerusalem.
Hear my prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come.
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

II. Offertorium

O Domine, Jesu Christe, Rex Gloriam,
libera animas defunctorum
de poenis inferni et de profundo lacu.
O Domine, Jesu Christe, Rex Gloriam,
libera animas defunctorum de ore leonis,
ne absorbeat eos Tartarus ne cadant in obscurum.
O Domine, Jesu Christe, Rex Gloriam,
ne cadant in obscurum.
Hostias et preces tibi Domine laudis offerimus
tu suscipe pro animabus illis
quarum hodie memoriam facimus
Fac eas, Domine, de morte transire ad vitam
Quam olim Abrahamae promisisti et semini eius.
O Domine, Jesu Christe, Rex Gloriam
libera animas defunctorum
de poenis inferni et de profundo lacu
ne cadant in obscurum. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory,
deliver the souls of all the faithful departed
from the pains of hells and from the bottomless pit.
Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory,
Deliver them from the lion's mouth,
nor let them fall into darkness, neither the black abyss swallow them up.
Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory,
neither the black abyss swallow them up.
We offer unto Thee this sacrifice of prayer and praise
Receive it for those souls
whom today we commemorate.
Allow them, O Lord, to cross from death into the life
which once Thou didst promise to Abraham and his seed.
Lord, Jesus Christ, King of glory,
deliver the souls of all the faithful departed
from the pains of hells and from the bottomless pit.
nor let them fall into darkness. Amen.

III. Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth
heaven and earth are full of Thy glory
Hosanna in the highest.

IV. Pie Jesu

Pie Jesu, Domine, dona eis requiem
dona eis requiem sempiternam requiem

Merciful Jesus, Lord, grant them rest
grant them rest, eternal rest.

V. Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi
dona eis requiem, sempiternam requiem.
Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine
Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es
Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant them rest, everlasting rest.
May eternal light shine on them, O Lord,
with Thy saints for ever, because Thou are merciful.
Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,
and may perpetual light shine on them.

VI. Libera me

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna in die illa tremenda
Quando coeli movendi sunt et terra
Dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem
Tremens factus sum ego et timeo
dum discussio venerit atque ventura ira
Dies illa dies irae, calamitatis et miseriae
dies illa, dies magna et amara valde
Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine
et lux perpetua luceat eis
Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna in die illa tremenda
Quando coeli movendi sunt et terra
Dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem

Deliver me, O Lord, from everlasting death on that dreadful day
when the heavens and the earth shall be moved
when thou shalt come to judge the world by fire
I quake with fear and I tremble
awaiting the day of account and the wrath to come.
That day, the day of anger, of calamity, of misery,
that day, the great day, and most bitter.
Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,
and may perpetual light shine upon them.
Deliver me, O Lord, from everlasting death on that dreadful day
when the heavens and the earth shall be moved
when thou shalt come to judge the world by fire

VII. In Paradisum

In Paradisum deducant Angeli in tuo
adventu suscipiant te Martyres
et perducant te in civitatem sanctam Jerusalem
Angelorum te suscipiat
et cum Lazaro, quondam paupere,
aeternam habeas requiem.

May the angels receive them in Paradise,
at they coming may the martyrs receive thee
and bring thee into the holy city Jerusalem
There may the chorus of angels receive thee,
and with Lazarus, once a beggar,
may thou have eternal rest.

intermission

"Lux Aeterna" arr. Morten Lauridsen

"Lux Aeterna", written for chorus and chamber orchestra or organ, was composed by Morten Lauridsen for the Los Angeles Master Chorale and its Maestro Paul Salamunovich, who premiered the work on April 13, 1997. Lauridsen (b. 1943) is an American composer and native of the Pacific Northwest. He actually worked as a Forest Service firefighter and lookout on an isolated tower near Mount St. Helen's before traveling south to study composition at the University of Southern California. Lauridsen states that he "composed 'Lux Aeterna' in response to my Mother's final illness and found great personal comfort and solace in setting to music these timeless and wondrous works about Light, a universal symbol of illumination at all levels – spiritual, artistic and intellectual." In fact, each of the five connected movements in this choral cycle contain references to "Light" assembled from various sacred Latin texts.

Since its premier, "Lux Aeterna" has been performed countless times throughout the world in either the orchestral version or that with organ accompaniment. Lauridsen is a Distinguished Professor of Composition at the University of Southern California, Thornton School of Music, and has been on the faculty there since 1967. Named an "American Choral Master" by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2006, he was also awarded the 2007 "National Medal of Arts," the highest artistic award in the United States.

I. Introitus

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis
Te decet hymnus, Deus, in Sion,
et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem:
Exaudi orationem meam, ad te omnis caro veniet.
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Rest eternal grant them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine on them.
You are praised, God, in Zion,
And homage will be paid to you in Jerusalem:
Hear my prayer, to you all flesh will come.
Rest eternal grant them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine on them.

II. In Te, Domine, Speravi

Tu ad liberandum suscepturus hominem
non horruisti Virginis uterum.
Tu devicto mortis aculeo
aperuisti credentibus regna caelorum.
Exortum est in tenebris lumen rectis.
Miserere nostri, Domine, miserere nostri.
Fiat misericordia tua, Domine, super nos
quemadmodum speravimus in te.
In te Domine, speravi: non confundar in aeternum.

Thou, having delivered mankind,
did not disdain the Virgin's womb.
Thou overcame the sting of death
and opened to believers the kingdom of heaven.
A light has risen in the darkness for the upright.
Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.
Let thy mercy be upon us, O Lord,
for we have hoped in thee.
In thee, O Lord, I have trusted: let me never be confounded.

III. O Nata Lux

O nata lux de lumine, Jesu redemptor saeculi,
dignare clemens supplicum
laudes preces que sumere.
Qui carne quondam contegi dignatus es pro perditis.
Nos membra confer effici tui beati corporis.

O born light of light, Jesus redeemer of the world,
mercifully deem worthy and accept
praises and prayers from your supplicants.
Who once was clothed in the flesh for those who are lost.
Allow us to become members of your holy body.

IV. Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Veni, Sancte Spiritus et emitte caelitus lucis tuae radium.
Veni, pater pauperum, veni, dator munerum,
veni, lumen cordium. Consolator optime,
dulcis hospes animae, dulce refrigerium.
In labore requies, in aestu temperies,
in fletu solatium.
O lux beatissima, reple cordis intima Tuorum fidelium.
Sine tuo numine, nihil est in homine,
nihil est innoxium.
Lava quod est sordidum, riga quod est aridum,
sana quod est saucium.
Flecte quod est rigidum, fove quod est frigidum,
rege quod est devium.
Da tuis fidelibus, in te confidentibus,
sacrum septenarium.
Da virtutis meritum, da salutis exitum,
da perenne gaudium.

Come, Holy Spirit, and send from heaven Your ray of light.
Come, Father of the poor, Come, giver of gifts,
Come, light of hearts. The best of Consolers,
Sweet guest of the soul, Sweet refreshment.
In labor, thou art rest, In heat, thou art the tempering,
In grief, thou art the consolation.
O light most blessed, Fill the inmost heart of all thy faithful.
Without your grace, There is nothing in us,
Nothing that is not harmful.
Cleanse what is dirty, Moisten what is dry,
Heal what is hurt.
Flex what is rigid, Heat what is frigid,
Correct what goes astray.
Grant to thy faithful, Those that trust in thee,
Thy sacred seven-fold gifts.
Grant the reward of virtue, Grant the deliverance of salvation,
Grant joy everlasting.

V. Agnus Dei – Lux Aeterna

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona eis requiem sempiternam.
Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine,
cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es.
Requiem aeternum dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis. Alleluia. Amen.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
grant them rest forever.
May eternal light shine on them, Lord,
as with your saints in eternity, because you are merciful.
Grant them eternal rest, Lord,
and let perpetual light shine on them. Alleluia. Amen.

**Program notes graciously provided by Joanne Reigner*

end

ADOPT AN INSTRUMENT

When VCS set out to prepare this program in 2020, an "Adopt an Instrument" initiative was set in motion to fund the additional costs of hiring an orchestra and acquiring orchestral scores. Support poured in and was secured before the deadline. Our sincere thanks to all of those that supported this campaign and were so patient to wait until 2023! We are grateful for the opportunity to work with these gifted musicians!

Violin: Linda Kistler, Amy Chryst, Stephani Bell

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Sponsored by: VCS Sopranos

Bassoon: Kimberly Seifert

Sponsored by: Karen Bieber

Andrew Lutz-Long *Artistic Director*

Music Team

Andrew Lutz-Long is Associate Director of Music & Networking at Christ Lutheran Church, Allentown, PA since July 2022. Previously, Drew served as Director of Music Ministries at Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkasio, PA for 15 years.. He arrived at Trinity after graduating from Lebanon Valley College, Annville, PA with a Bachelor of Arts degree in music with a concentration in church music and administration.

At Christ Allentown, Drew oversees the choir programs including Chancel Choir and all-female Immanuel Singers; he also oversees the outreach efforts of the church both within the local community and via its digital footprint.

In 2009, Drew was invited to join the staff of the Valley Choral Society, Pennsburg, PA, as Assistant Director and serve as an accompanist. He served this role working with Patricia Conrad as Artistic Director until the summer of 2018 when Drew was offered the directorship.

Since fall of 2014, Drew serves as Chapel Organist at Muhlenberg College in Egner Chapel. In this role, he helps plan worship for the Christian community gathering weekly on Sundays, and assists at other special campus events especially concerts involving organ accompaniment. Recently, Drew has expanded his role on campus as an adjunct professor of organ studies and performance.

Mary Beth Penjoke *Assistant Director*

Mary Beth Penjoke is a resident of Bucks County and an elementary music teacher for Penridge Area School District, recognized as one of the Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Lebanon Valley College and a Master's degree from Cabrini University. Additionally, she holds a level one Orff Certificate and a First Steps in Music certification from the University of the Arts. She was awarded a 2021 ACEMM Spark Grant and a 2018 PCEF Grant which procured musical instruments for her classroom teaching. She has served as a cooperating teacher for both West Chester University and Kutztown University.

Sue Ellen Echard *Accompanist*

Sue Ellen Echard, MM, BS, BMus, is Choir Master and Organist at Church of the Holy Spirit, Episcopal, Harleysville, PA serving there for 20 years. Over her career, she has worked as choral director, workshop leader, Kindermusik® teacher, recitalist and teacher of organ and piano. She has been a member of the Philadelphia AGO for over 30 years and was recently elected to the executive committee of the Philadelphia Chapter. She specializes in choir and community building and was recruited early in the founding of Church of Holy Spirit to build music, arts and youth programs. The intention of growing this new parish was focused on well done music and liturgy through use of the Royal School of Church Music resources. Under her leadership, the choirs have grown to over 60 youth and adult participants in singing, instrumental and handbell choirs. The church continues to grow and thrive. In recent years, Sue Ellen led choral residencies at Bristol Winchester and Lincoln Cathedrals in England and is currently preparing for a residency at Exeter in 2023. Sue Ellen has served on the music staff of Bel Canto Children's Chorus and the Royal School of Church Music at the King's College Course in Wilkes-Barre.

Sue Ellen's career has been broad and comprehensive serving churches in the Episcopal, Catholic, Presbyterian, Reformed and Evangelical traditions. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Theology and Bachelor of Music in Church Music from Cairn University and a Master of Sacred Music Degree from Westminster Choir College where she studied organ with Eugene Roan and choral conducting with Allen Crowell and Andrew Megill. She completed further studies in choral conducting at the Choral Institute at Oxford in 2017 and 2019.



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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Valley Choral Society is to produce outstanding music both in rehearsal and performance. In order to achieve our mission, we will:

- Challenge and educate
- Entertain and inspire
- Foster discipline and respect
- Develop growth in musicianship
- Encourage diversity and unity
- Share in the joy of music

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ABOUT THE CHOIR

Originally known as the Choral Arts Society of the Upper Perkiomen Valley, Valley Choral Society (VCS) was founded in 1983 by Richard F. Lampe. It was formed as a community choir composed of singers from the Upper Perkiomen Valley, however, as the enthusiasm grew for a community music program, membership continued to expand to its now multi-county composition including Montgomery, Bucks, Lehigh and Berks Counties.

Presenting major concerts in the late fall and spring, VCS performs a wide variety of music – from John Rutter's Requiem to Broadway show tunes, from classical sacred music to well-loved music from the 1940s, from classic Christmas carols to the Beatles, from composers from past centuries to contemporary composers – all to the delight of appreciative audiences.

In addition to its major concerts, VCS has always had a rich history of community outreach that continues to expand with performances at community day events such as Quakertown Alive or Relay for Life, retirement communities throughout the area, and the annual "Make Music Upper Perk" event. Outside of the area, Valley Choral Society has most recently toured to Washington DC (2014) and New York City (2012); in keeping with our mission statement, other opportunities to perform are welcome as scheduling allows.

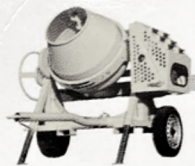
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Molly Faust
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Julie Swan
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Alto I

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Yvonne Caputo
Deborah Dayton
Lindee Fitting
Marian Henry
Terry Hughley
Amanda Keightly
Nan Jacobs
Amanda Keightly
Ann Kolb
Cheryl Kulp
Laura Loewen
Vickie Long
Patricia McCully
Diane Tipping
Linda Wood
Betty Ruth Yerger

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Barbara Cleland
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Patti Landis
Selena Lavonier
Emma Lewis
Denise Long
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This performance was supported in part by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

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40TH ANNIVERSARY

VALLEY CHORAL SOCIETY

Gala

SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2024

THE LOFT AT SWEET WATER
6PM-10PM

LAUNCHING THE
VALLEY CHORAL SOCIETY

Scholarship Fund

TO PURCHASE TICKETS, SPONSOR A PORTION OF THE EVENT, OR
CONTRIBUTE TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND, VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.VALLEYCHORALSOCIETY.COM

Celebrate Our Ruby Year!

FOUR COURSE SIT-DOWN DINNER
OPEN BEER & WINE BAR
DJ ENTERTAINMENT

\$75

per person