

Libera Me: This final section is a powerful and emotional prayer for deliverance and salvation.

Verdi's Requiem demands a large-scale orchestra, a massive choir, and four soloists (soprano, mezzo-soprano, tenor, and bass). The work requires exceptional vocal abilities from the soloists and requires the choir and orchestra to navigate through a wide range of emotions, from profound sorrow to jubilant celebration.

Over the years, Verdi's Requiem has become a staple of the classical choral repertoire, loved for its emotional intensity, dramatic power, and profound musical beauty. It continues to be performed by orchestras and choirs around the world, captivating audiences with its grandeur and deeply moving expressions of grief, hope, and transcendence.

VERDI REQUIEM

Eugene Ormandy • The Philadelphia Orchestra



Giuseppe Verdi's "Requiem" is a monumental choral-orchestral work that was composed in memory of the Italian poet and novelist Alessandro Manzoni. Verdi completed the Requiem in 1874 and it premiered in Milan, Italy, on May 22 of the same year.

The Requiem is structured in seven sections, following the traditional Latin text of the Requiem Mass. It combines powerful choral and solo vocal writing with dramatic orchestral passages to create a deeply emotional and theatrical piece. Verdi's use of operatic techniques and his skill in creating intense and poignant musical moments make the Requiem a unique and compelling work.

The sections of Verdi's Requiem are as follows:

Requiem and Kyrie: The work begins with a solemn and plaintive prayer for rest and mercy.

Dies Irae: This section is the most dramatic and powerful part of the Requiem. It depicts the Day of Judgment with its terrifying imagery and intense choral and orchestral passages.

Offertorio: A lyrical and heartfelt solo for the mezzo-soprano, expressing the offer of sacrifice and pleading for mercy.

Sanctus: A glorious choral movement, praising God and invoking His blessings.

Agnus Dei: A solo for the soprano, expressing a plea for eternal rest and peace.

Lux Aeterna: A serene and ethereal movement, offering eternal light and peace.

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- 1 Requiem And Kyrie 9:06**
- 2 Dies Irae (Beginning) 14:42**
- 3 Dies Irae (Conclusion) 22:00**
- 4 Offertorio 9:28**
- 5 Sanctus 2:48**
- 6 Agnus Dei 5:15**
- 7 Lux Aeterna 6:15**
- 8 Libera Me 13:18**

Recorded May 14-15, 1964 at the Manhattan Center, NYC
Producer – Thomas Frost



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