

# **“Dies irae” from Requiem by Giuseppe Verdi**

## **Arranged for 6 Part Trombone Choir**

**By Jeremy Niles Kempton**

Verdi dedicated his Requiem to the poet and novelist Alessandro Manzoni whom he greatly admired. The first performance was given in 1874 on the first anniversary of Manzoni's death. It was a great popular success and Verdi toured with it all over Europe. It was received enthusiastically everywhere except at London's Royal Albert Hall where it was considered to be “too Catholic an occasion.” It later virtually disappeared from concert halls until it was revived in the 1930's. It has been a staple of the choral repertoire ever since.

The Latin text of the “Dies irae” or “Day of Wrath” portrays the day of judgment. Verdi depicts musically the sheer terror of souls about to face the final verdict. Will they spend eternity in the presence of God or be condemned to everlasting torment in the fires of hell? The final moment is announced by a hair-raising fanfare of trumpets. The question is almost shyly put forward. Then the faithful are enveloped in the warmth of divine acceptance and pass into Heaven. A story line well suited to Verdi's skills as an operatic dramatist.

The “Dies irae” is, in itself, very lengthy with no less than 9 sections. It has therefore been greatly abridged to make it practical for performance by trombones. Most trombonists take great pleasure and pride in their ability to play loud. However to achieve the dramatic contrasts essential for this piece it is necessary to focus on extremely soft, but still beautiful, playing in the piano passages. In the opening section a valve trill on “G” is called for. This will result in a rattling effect and is not intended to sound like the delicate trill of a flute or violin. If a large bass drum with a heavy beater is available, it can be used to great effect on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4th beats of measures 9 and 10.

### **Jeremy Niles Kempton**

Jeremy Niles Kempton grew up in Traverse City Michigan, just a few miles from the Interlochen National Music Camp. He attended Interlochen for 7 summers both as a student and on staff. He graduated from the Eastman School of Music with Distinction where he was a student of Emory Remington. He then earned a Masters Degree from the University of Illinois where he studied with Dr. Robert Gray. He has also studied conducting at the University of Michigan, Oberlin and Westminster Choir College.

He began his playing career as first trombone with the National Opera and Symphony Orchestras of Iran in Tehran, Iran. Upon returning to the United States he has been active as a trombonist and conductor in the New York Metropolitan area. He is currently the principal trombonist with the Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra. He is the founder and conductor of the Island Chamber Symphony and the Young Artist's Showcase. He has conducted “La Traviata,” “L'Elisir d' amore,” “Amahl and the Night Visitors” and “Messiah.” He has also been music director for over 50 productions of music theater.

# Dies irae from Requiem

for 6 - part Trombone Choir

Giuseppe Verdi  
arr. by Jeremy Niles Kempton

**Allegro agitato** ♩ = 132

**Trombone 1 (optional Alto)**  
**Trombone 2**  
**Trombone 3**  
**Trombone 4**  
**Trombone 5**  
**Bass Trombone 6**

**ff**

\* trill with valve

**A**

trill with valve

**B**

\* pull F slide out for F#

*Verdi - Dies irae from Requiem*

61

**F**

**Allegro sostenuto** ♩ = 88

*off stage right (2 players)*

*(optional 8va using  
alto trombone)*

The first system of the musical score consists of six staves. The top staff is for the vocal melody, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The second staff is for the piano accompaniment, also in treble clef. The third staff is for the piano accompaniment in bass clef. The fourth staff is for the piano accompaniment in bass clef. The fifth staff is for the piano accompaniment in bass clef. The sixth staff is for the piano accompaniment in bass clef. The score includes dynamic markings such as *ppp* and *p*, and performance instructions like "off stage left (2 players)" and "(optional 8va)".

73

*animando poco a poco*

[illegible]

82

**G**

The image displays a musical score for a piece, likely a violin or piano solo, in G major and 3/4 time. The score is written on six staves, each with a different clef (treble and bass). The music is characterized by rapid sixteenth and thirty-second notes, often grouped in triplets and slurs. Dynamic markings such as *ff* (fortissimo) are present, indicating loud passages. The notation includes various musical symbols like beams, slurs, and accents, typical of Baroque or Classical era compositions.

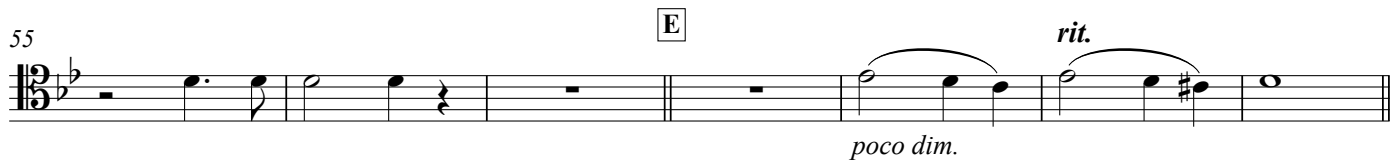
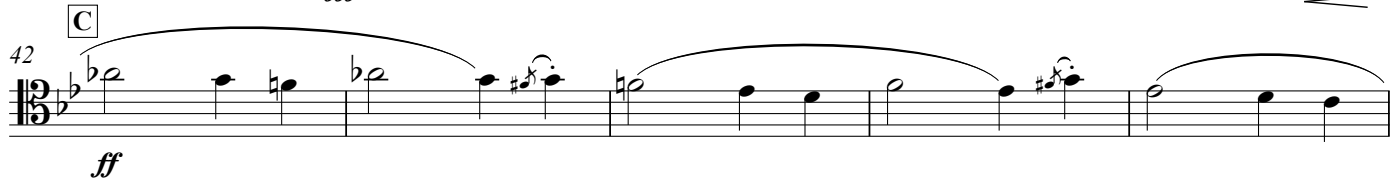
# Dies irae from Requiem

Trombone 1 (Tenor)

for 6 - part Trombone Choir

Giuseppe Verdi  
arr.by Jeremy Niles Kempton

Allegro agitato ♩ = 132



# Dies irae from Requiem

for 6 - part Trombone Choir

Giuseppe Verdi  
arr.by Jeremy Niles Kempton

**Allegro agitato** ♩ = 132



9



17

A



23

B

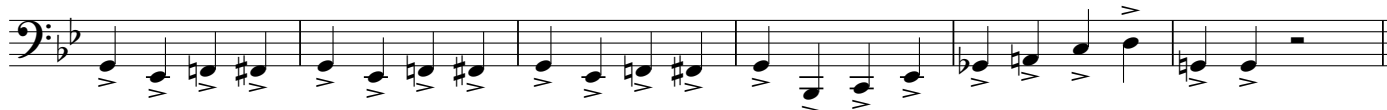
2



30

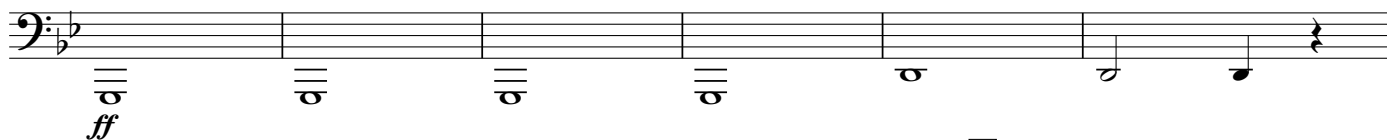


36



42

C

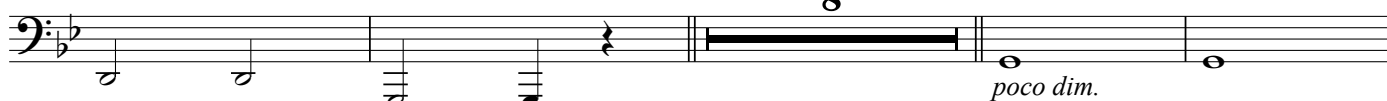


48

D

8

E



60

rit.

F

**Allegro sostenuto** ♩ = 88

12

