

Music at Bennington Presents:

Cantique de Jean Racine
and

Requiem
by Gabriel Fauré

Performed by:
Vocal Chamber Ensemble
Directed by Tom Bogdan

Student String Ensemble
directed by Kathy Andrew

with guest artists:
Semyon Fridman, cello
Chris Faris, Bass
Barbara Browne, Piano
Matthew McConnell, Keyboard
Amy Williams, Conductor

Friday, April 14, 8:30 pm Deane Carriage Barn

Program

Cantique de Jean Racine

Requiem

I. Introit and Kyrie

II. Offertory

III. Sanctus

IV. Pie Jesu

V. Agnus Dei

VI. Libera Me

VII. In Paradisum

soloists:

Catherine Baldassari-Lichtman

Dan Mohr

Matthew Pillischer

Vocal Chamber Ensemble

Catherine Baldassari-Lichtman, Sara Baumgartel, Tom Bogdan, Andrea Boothby, John Brauer, Matthew Follette, Camille Hartman, Elizabeth Kessler, Michael Metivier, Dan Mohr, Shana Onigman, Amanda Parla, Matthew Pillischer, Jeremy Schulick, Narayani Sharp, Hannah Strom-Martin, and Anna Zimmer

Student String Ensemble

Kathy Andrew, Michael Close, Sara Cronan, Sarah Gancher, Nicole Macagna, Katrina Monta

CANTIQUE DE JEAN RACINE

Oh Word, at one with the Most High, our sole hope, eternal life of earth and heaven, we break the silence of the peaceful night, divine Saviour, look down on us.

Spread over us the fire of your mighty grace, may all hell flee before the sound of your voice, disperse the slumber of a languishing soul which causes it to forget your laws.

Oh Christ, look with favour on your faithful people now gathered together to bless your name, receive the songs we offer to your eternal glory, and may we return laden with your blessings.

REQUIEM

I. Introit and Kyrie

Lord, Grant them eternal rest,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
You shall have praise in Zion, O God,
and homage shall be paid to you in
Jerusalem. Hear my prayer.
All flesh shall come to before you.
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.

II. Offertory

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, deliver the souls of the departed from the pains of hell and from the depths of the pit. Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, deliver the souls of the departed from the mouth of the lion, lest hell engulf them, lest they fall into darkness.

Lord in praise we offer you sacrifices and prayers: accept them on behalf of those souls whom we remember this day: Lord, make them pass from death to life, as once you promised to Abraham and to his seed.

III. Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts!
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest!

IV. Pie Jesu

Gentle Lord Jesus, grant them rest;
grant them eternal rest.

V. Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant them rest. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant them eternal rest. May eternal light shine upon them, with your saints for ever, for you are compassionate. Grant them eternal rest, Lord, and may eternal light shine upon them.

VI. Libera me

Deliver me, Lord, from everlasting death on that awful day when heaven and earth will be moved, when you will come to judge the world by fire.
I am made to tremble and am afraid because of the judgment and wrath to come: when heaven and earth will be moved. That day, that day of wrath of calamity and misery a great and bitter day. Lord, grant them eternal rest, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

VII. In paradisum

May the angels lead you into paradise; may the martyrs receive you at your coming and lead you into the holy city of Jerusalem. May the choir of angels receive you and with Lazarus, once poor, may you have eternal rest.

The Vocal Chamber Ensemble was initiated as a means to give students, primarily voice students, an ensemble experience that was more than a chorus. Members of the Ensemble are taught to listen and to be responsible for their own part of the music as well as, and foremost, the whole composition. They are taught to read and experience all the parts and to see how they fit into the bigger picture. Score-reading, sensitivity to dynamics, helping members with less experience, and ultimately the ability to perform a work without a conductor, are goals of the class.

For this concert we have chosen to focus on one composer, Fauré, and have invited the Student String Ensemble to perform the Requiem with us, as to have a new experience besides our usual a cappella performances. Asking Amy Williams to conduct was a means to facilitate the joining of the Ensemble with the Orchestra as efficiently as possible.

The Vocal Chamber Ensemble will repeat this program with organ accompaniment at The Old First Church in Bennington on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. without a conductor.

The Student String Ensemble was started by Kathy Andrew as a means to give her students and other string players an opportunity to play together and practice ensemble techniques. They have become the basis of orchestras used for several performances at Bennington College.

Special thanks for the support and assistance of Kathy Andrew, Ida Faiella, Matthew Follette, Jim Hasenfus, Suzanne Jones, Susie Reiss, and Amy Williams.

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