

Naxos label releases Elisabetta Brusa's 5th album, featuring her *Requiem* and *Stabat Mater* on **12 April 2024**



Friday 12 April 2024

**Album release *Elisabetta Brusa's Requiem and Stabat Mater*
Disc catalogue number 8574589
Barcode number 747313458974**

**Requiem, Op. 25 for soloists, chorus and orchestra (2020–21)
Stabat Mater, Op. 24 for soprano and orchestra (2020)**

Réka Kristóf Soprano
Dorottya Láng Alto
István Horváth Tenor
Marcell Bakonyi Bass

Hungarian Radio Choir
Zoltán Pad Chorus master

Hungarian Radio Symphony Orchestra
Vilmos Oláh Concertmaster
Riccardo Frizza Conductor

To mark Elisabetta Brusa's 70th birthday, Naxos label releases her 5th album, featuring her *Requiem* and *Stabat Mater*, on **12 April 2024. The**

Anglo-Italian composer was a full-time professor of composition and orchestration at the **Giuseppe Verdi Music Conservatory** in Milan for more than 40 years. Her previous **four albums** of orchestral music on the **Naxos label** feature her two symphonies, recorded by the **National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine** (Fabio Mastrangelo, conductor), **Royal Scottish National Orchestra** and the **Ulster Orchestra** both conducted by **Daniele Rustioni**.

With her latest album, Elisabetta Brusa has fulfilled a life-long ambition to write a Requiem, as she explains,

"I've always wanted to compose a Requiem, which is why I first wrote a Stabat Mater. But I knew I had not lived enough and did not have the spiritual, aesthetical and life experiences to be able to compose a mature Requiem. Through life one changes, the motivations that inspire your music change, many questions about the afterlife spring up and it is difficult to be sure whether one is a Believer or not. Empathy and sensitivity force you to tolerate your physical and psychological suffering and extend them to all people. My Requiem is dedicated to my parents."

Featuring the **Hungarian Radio Choir** and **Hungarian Radio Symphony Orchestra**, the album reflects Brusa's feelings about the end of life. The *Stabat Mater* is in the key of E but, being in a single movement, it alternates with E flat. As there are no notes in common, this makes the music abrupt, harsh, and tragic. In contrast, the Requiem is in D, with the 15 sections of the text in different tonalities, though the main tonality is repeated twice and the work ends in it. Brusa comments,

"I have created a medieval aura to certain parts of the Requiem and often the vocal parts follow a restricted range of notes like in liturgical music which gives a calm and resigned atmosphere."

Elisabetta Brusa

Elisabetta Brusa is a pioneer of a growing number of modern composers who write tonal music while avoiding some of the clichés that so often lie in wait. Her music has been performed by the **BBC Symphony Orchestra**, **BBC Philharmonic**, **Hungarian Radio Symphony Orchestra**, and **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra**, to name just a few.



Born in Milan on the **3rd April 1954**, Elisabetta Brusa began writing pieces for piano at the age of 5 until she began her studies with **Bruno Bettinelli** (who also taught conductors **Claudio Abbado** and **Riccardo Muti**) at Music Conservatory Milan, where she returned to teach until 2018. After winning first prize at the Washington International Competition for Composition for String Quartet in 1982, she was awarded the **Fulbright Scholarship (1983)**, which enabled her to study at Tanglewood. She also studied with **Hans Keller** and the late **Peter Maxwell Davies**.

Elisabetta Brusa has also established **The Brusa Foundation**, which launches a composition award aiming to encourage young composers to create new symphonic thought within tonality. The award is free to enter, and this year has deadline of **31 May 2024**.

Her work is available on [Spotify](#) and [YouTube](#).



Requiem and Stabat Mater Tracklist

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Requiem, Op. 25 for soloists, chorus and orchestra (2020–21)

Requiem aeternam: Andante sostenuto
Kyrie: Larghetto
Dies irae: Andante, con vigore
Tuba mirum: Adagio
Rex tremendae: Moderato maestoso
Recordare: Andante
Ingemisco: Adagio
Confutatis: Agitato
Lacrymosa: Andante
Domine Jesu: Solenne – Hostias
Sanctus: Andante
Benedictus: Allegretto moderato
Agnus Dei: Andante
Lux aeterna: Andante con moto
Libera me: Andante sostenuto

Stabat Mater, Op. 24 for soprano and orchestra (2020)

Mesto – Agitato – Tempo primo

Réka Kristóf Soprano
Dorottya Láng Alto
István Horváth Tenor
Marcell Bakonyi Bass

Hungarian Radio Choir
Zoltán Pad Chorus master

Hungarian Radio Symphony Orchestra
Vilmos Oláh Concertmaster
Riccardo Frizza Conductor

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