



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
Choral Activities

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY CHORAL DIVISION

PRESENTS

REQUIEM NOVUM

by

MÅRTEN JANSSON

featuring

State Singers

&

Corinne Reece, soprano

Phillip Stockton, *conductor*

Rachel Wood, *collaborating accompanist*

February 29, 2024
First Baptist Church Starkville

CHORAL EXCELLENCE, HEALING, & COMMUNITY

statesings.com

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Requiem Novum

Music by Mårten Jansson

English Text by Charles Anthony Silvestri

The greatest moments in life are often accompanied by music. Births, graduations, parties, weddings are some of the joyous occasions we use music to celebrate. On the other end of the spectrum, we often turn to music when life is difficult; anxiety, depression, death. *Requiem Novum* is a multi-faceted work where the choir represents the mourning and God-fearing congregation. They receive an answer from the one who left them—a voice beyond the veil who sends back words of comfort and hope. The voice explains that we, instead of fearing death, should be our brothers' and sisters' keepers. These words are forged by Charles Anthony Silvestri. It is through the marriage between the Latin and English text that we are allowed to grieve, while simultaneously hope for those who are lost.

Swedish composer Mårten Jansson (b. 1965), a graduate of the Royal College of Music in Stockholm, is a sought-after and frequently performed choral composer enjoying popularity all around the world. Jansson's most performed work, *Missa Popularis* for choir and string orchestra, is regularly performed on stages such as Carnegie Hall, Cologne Cathedral, San Francisco Opera, and Latvian Radio. Gramophone Magazine praised *Missa Popularis*: "Inspired by different types of Swedish folk music and dance, it includes what must be the jolliest Gloria and Sanctus movements ever penned since Haydn...in what deserves to be a big hit with choirs around the world." Along with his composing, Jansson also teaches choral conducting, music theory and voice. He earned a Ph.D. in Composition from Aberdeen University in 2022.

Poet, author, composer and speaker Charles Anthony Silvestri has worked with other artists from all over the world to create texts tailor-made for their commissions and specific artist's needs. He enjoys the challenge of solving these creative problems and has provided custom choral texts, opera libretti, program notes and other writing for composers including Eric Whitacre, Ola Gjeilo, Kim Andre Arnesen and Dan Forrest as well as ensembles ranging from high schools to the Houston Grand Opera, from the King's Singers to the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, from Westminster Choir College to Westminster Abbey. He is the author of three books, including *A Silver Thread*, a retrospective of almost 20 years of his lyric poetry. He teaches Ancient and Medieval History at Washburn University and lives in Lawrence, KS.

PROGRAM

INTROITUS

*Rest give unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
A hymn, O God, becometh Thee in Zion; and a vow shall be paid to Thee in Jerusalem:
Hear my prayer; all flesh shall come to Thee.
Rest give unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

OR SO THE LIVING PRAY

Or so the living pray for their beloved dead, and pure is their intention to do so;
But the living only see as through a glass, darkly, the great Enigma that awaits beyond,
Where glimpse of Truth, and grief, and darker shadows still, entwine to weave the old familiar words.
Do not grieve, my friends, that I have gone away, for I have crossed into Infinity
Where now I know the answers to questions hidden then when still I stood where no you stand and grieve.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

CRY NOT IN ANGUISHED VOICES

*Cry not in anguished voices for gifts already given;
He sees the pain our choices inflict on hopes of heaven.
It is we who must have mercy, each one upon another;
Whoever would one curse Him who is himself our brother?
The Lord has mercy boundless and that He freely gives;
Our fear of death is groundless, for He who died now lives!*

DIES IRAE

*The day of wrath, that dreadful day, shall heaven and earth in ashes lay, as David and the Sybil say.
What horror must invade the mind when the approaching Judge shall find and sift the deeds of all mankind!
The mighty trumpet's wondrous tone shall rend each tomb's sepulchral stone and summon all before the Throne.
Now death and nature with surprise behold the trembling sinners rise to meet the Judge's searching eyes.
Then shall with universal dread the Book of Consciences be read to judge the lives of all the dead.
For now before the Judge severe all hidden things must plain appear; no crime can pass unpunished here.
O what shall I, so guilty plead? And who for me will intercede? When even Saints shall comfort need?
O King of dreadful majesty! Grace and mercy You grant free; as Fount of Kindness, save me!
Recall, dear Jesus, for my sake you did our suffering nature take then do not now my soul forsake!
In weariness You sought for me, and suffering upon the tree! Let not in vain such labour be.
O judge of justice, hear, I pray, for pity take my sins away before the dreadful reckoning day.
Your gracious face, O Lord, I seek; deep shame and grief are on my cheek; in sighs and tears my sorrows speak.
You Who did Mary's guilt unbind, and mercy for the robber find, have filled with hope my anxious mind.
How worthless are my prayers I know, yet, Lord forbid that I should go into the fires of endless woe.
Divorced from the accursed band, o make me with Your sheep to stand, as child of grace, at Your right Hand.
When the doomed can no more flee from the fires of misery with the chosen call me.
Before You, humbled, Lord, I lie, my heart like ashes, crushed and dry, assist me when I die.
Full of tears and full of dread is that day that wakes the dead, calling all,
with solemn blast to be judged for all their past.
Lord have mercy, Jesus blest, grant them Rest.
Amen.*

ON THAT DAY OF WEeping

*On that day of weeping there is no weeping here; for here is only Heaven, here is only joy, and God is only love.
The torments that we fear are real for once we are enfolded in the perfect love of God,
Gentle, boundless, freely given, we remember past transgressions.
Our selfishness and self delusion to stand in our shame before such terrible love is
exquisite torment and we become our own tormentors.
But just as stone is worn away by endless washing of the sea, so the stubborn spines of our illusion and the armor of
our pride are sanded down to the raw, however long it may required, until, at last we lay aside our heavy burdens
and accept the indescribable gift.
Abandon your illusions and die before you die, so on that day you cross the veil and slip into eternity, you will fall
headlong into Love, into Joy, into the waiting arms of God.*

SANCTUS

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

I STAND UPON A LANDSCAPE OF ETERNITY

*I stand upon a landscape of infinity, vast, yet intimate. In the distance I see the Presence,
Glowing with impossible light; the thrum of hosts beyond number surrounds me as they sing their endless
Holy! Holy!
Wave upon wave of Love emanate from that light while lightning flashes of
golden Evangelion carry prayers and blessings to and from the Presence.
Holy! Holy!
Drawn into the Light, I fade, I lose myself...
Holy! Holy!
There is no I, there is only We, only the endless eternal One.
I cannot describe...words fail...
Holy! Holy! Holy!*

PIE JESU

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

ETERNAL REST

Eternal rest. Eternal rest? No rest for me; My journey has only just begun!

IN PARADISUM

*May the Angels lead thee into paradise: may the Martyrs receive thee at thy coming,
And lead thee into the holy city of Jerusalem.
May the choir of Angels receive thee, and with Lazarus, who once was poor,
Mayest thou have eternal rest.*

HERE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF ETERNITY

*Here, on the other side of eternity, I need not await your coming,
For we are already together, as always we have been.
Here on the other side of eternity, time and space have no meaning,
For past and future fall away, and there is only ever now.
Here, on the other side of eternity, there are no limits of thought,
Or dimensions, or understanding for here, all is known,
All is revealed, and all is infinite, perfect Love.*

ORCHESTRA

Dr. Joe Ortiuguera, concertmaster
Trey Hedgemon, violin I
Laura Pitney, violin II
Kester Nucum, violin II
Alex Encinas, viola
Jordan Wayne, viola
Amy Catron, cello
Bennett Smith, bass

Dr. Olivia Boatman, flute
Dr. Jessica Haislip, oboe
Kathryn McArthur, clarinet
Dr. Denise Rowan, bassoon
Mimi Lineman, horn I
Dr. Matthew Haislip, horn II
Sam Young, timpani & percussion
Griffin Bowers, percussion

Rachel Wood, keyboard

STATE SINGERS

Sopranos

Haley Bondurant
Madeline Chapman
Emma Duncan
Aubrey English
Carly Ferrell
Natalia Gonzalez
Elizabeth Harwell
Alexandra Lewellyn
Marie Schemitsch
Veronica Washington
Alexandria White
Emma Woodward

Altos

Kenzie Claire Burchfield
Kyana Conway
Hannah Daniels
Asia Ellis
Audrey Harper
Aniyah McKissic
Aliyah Necaise
Madlyn Ross
Zion-Nahzir Scott
Anna-Katherine Thompson
Katherine Trinque
Sydney Williams

Tenors

Lawson Ashurst
Kendall Austin
Daryl Brundidge
Jacob Glenn
Graham Hughes
Jacob King
Jonathan Lindamood
Matthew Parker
Caleb Shirley
Jaylen Stowers
Jackson Valdez
Jakob Vernon

Basses

Hudson, Akin
Jaden Cleveland
Bodie Dodson
Austin Gothard
Joshua Hamann
Justin Howard
Ethan Maness
Adonijah Mpinga
Willian Pereira da Silva
Nikolas Pullum
Blaine Russell Smith
Maxwell Smaglick
Jarreau Weaver

SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Garrett Torbert, coordinator of voice

Mr. Peter Infanger, voice faculty

Ms. Rachel Wood, collaborative piano faculty

Dr. Daniel Stevens, music department head

Dr. Roza Tulyaganova, voice faculty

Danielle Gaudé – choral administrator

Dr. Sophie Wang, collaborative piano faculty

Andy Williams, FBC Tech

Dr. Jeanette Fontaine, applied music coordinator

Ms. Cori Reece, voice faculty

Anne Catherine Ragsdale, collaborative piano faculty

Dr. Tom Jenkins, FBC Minister of Music

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit www.statesings.com for more details

Saturday, March 23, 2024	<i>A Sea Symphony</i> Featuring Starkville-MSU Symphony Orchestra, Schola Cantorum, & OPUS	MSU Bettersworth Auditorium
Friday, April 5, 2024	Spring Choral Concert Featuring Cantaré	MSU Music Building Recital Hall
Friday, April 12, 2024	Spring Choral Spectacular Featuring: Schola Cantorum, OPUS & State Singers	First Baptist Church - Starkville

Thank you for your attendance this evening. As a courtesy to the performers and audience members please silence all electronic devices and refrain from use during the performance. We hope you enjoy the performance!