

PETER VON WINTER
August 28, 1754–October 17, 1825

Von Winter, the opera composer, studied with several Mannheim musicians including Georg Vogler, founder of the Mannheim School. His eclectic musical style was also influenced by Mozart, Salieri, and Georg Benda. In 1798, he was appointed Court Kapellmeister in Munich and toward the end of his career, he began to write church music.

His output includes nearly forty operas, three symphonies, and chamber and vocal music. He composed twenty-seven settings of the mass, including two requiems (both in C minor), a setting of the *Stabat Mater*, offertories, psalms, and motets. The *Requiem* was composed for the funeral services of Joseph II (Munich), held sometime around March 19, 1790 and scored for SATB soli, SATB choir, and orchestra.

The prevailing four-part choral texture is written in homophonic style and is contrasted with occasional fugal writing in *Kyrie*, *Gloria*, and *Lux aeterna*. Canonic passages are employed at *Lacrimosa* and *Amen* (sequence).

As is common with other eighteenth-century composers, Winter employed a *concertante* treatment of the SATB soli and SATB choir (*Dies irae*, *Rea tremendae*, Offertory, and *Agnus Dei*). The only movement scored for solo voice is *Quid sum miser* (tenor). The elaborate solo writing exhibits some of the melodic ornateness of the Neapolitan style and includes two short recitative-like passages.

The orchestral accompaniment provides a strong rhythmic impetus for the choral matrix, but rarely rises above doubling or elaboration of the choral parts. One of the interesting features of this work is the presence of both Latin and German texts, indicating that the work was probably performed in the vernacular language when done locally.

Basic Data

EDITION

P. de Winter

Messe de Requiem à quatre voix

Arrangé pour le Piano-forte

Leipzig chez Breitkopf et Härtel [1827]

(German and Latin)

Yale University Music Library, Rare M213 W786 R 42 + 1

DURATION

Seven movements, 1013 mm

VOICING AND ORCHESTRATION

Choir: SATB range: S-A flat 6, B-1:3

Solos: SATB

Orchestra: strings, woodwinds, probable brass, timpani, piano-forte