

Rachel

Jeremiah 31:15

Requiem for the Innocents

Music by
E. LOUIS CANTER

Recitative ♩ = 66

Cello cues

mp

mf

The LORD _____ says, "A sound is heard, is heard, in _____ Ra - mah,

mf

Ra - chel is cry-ing for her chil-dren; for they are no more,

f

f

and she re - fus - es to be com - fort - ed." _____

f

Kyrie

Requiem for the Innocents

Music by
E. LOUIS CANTER, OEF

Moderately ♩ = 80 *p*

Re - qui-em, re - qui-em, re - qui-em ae - ter - nam,

re - qui-em ae - ter - nam, ae - ter - nam, re - qui-em ae - ter - nam,

do - na e - is Do - mi - ne:

7

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Narration I

We cry, “Lord have mercy,” and we ask for eternal rest, dear God. Rest for whom? For ourselves? For those who were not given the chance to live and love and be? And at what end does our Requiem bring eternal rest, when at this moment decisions are being made which can alter many lives? And in fact terminate futures and presents? Yes, Lord, give us eternal rest, rest from senseless taking of innocent lives.

O day of wrath, O day of mourning, days that are filled with ashes and consternation because of a disregard for life. What trembling there shall come, the trumpet, scattering its awful sound across the graves of all lands—graves of those torn from life, torn from future, taken before their time!

And yet what shall I, a wretch, say then? To what protector shall I appeal when even the just one is barely safe? Death and nature shall be stunned—stunned when mankind arises to render an account before the Judge! Who then judges? To whose mercy can I come?

(Pause)

And yet these Innocents, Lord, You Who love and are of great mercy: grant them eternal rest, those who sleep now, those for whom we have mourned, have prayed for—have even named. You, O God, Who have formed each one of them, give them eternal rest.

Psalm 139:13-16

Requiem for the Innocents

Music by
E. LOUIS CANTER, OEF

Moderately ♩ = 90

p Baritone Solo

For You formed my in-most parts, You knit-ted me to-geth-er

in my moth-er's womb. I praise You for

You are won-der-ful. Won-der-ful are Your works,

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Reflection I

Requiem for the Innocents

Music by
E. LOUIS CANTER, OEF

Moderately ♩ = 80

The piano introduction begins in 4/4 time with a *mf* dynamic. It features a series of chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

The vocal line enters with the lyrics "If I knew then what I know now, you nev-er would have died." The melody is in 4/4 time, starting with a *mf* dynamic and moving to *f* for the final phrase. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line, with a *f* dynamic marking for the final measure of the phrase.

The vocal line continues with the lyrics "I'd have held you close and nur - tured you and". The melody is in 3/4 time, starting with a *mf* dynamic. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line, with a *mf* dynamic marking.

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Recordare

Requiem for the Innocents

Music by
E. LOUIS CANTER, OEF

With expression ♩ = 76

mp

Re - cor - da - re Je - su -

For rehearsal only

mp

pi - e, Quod - sum cau - sa tu - ae vi - ae:

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Confutatis

Requiem for the Innocents

Music by
E. LOUIS CANTER, OEF

Moderately slow $\text{♩} = 70$

Oboe cues

mf

mf

Tenor Solo *f*

Con - fu - ta - tis,

f

5

con - fu - ta - tis, con - fu - ta - tis ma - le - dic - tis,

9

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Sanctus

Requiem for the Innocents

Music by
E. LOUIS CANTER, OEF

Moderately ♩ = 85

The first system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is a vocal line in treble clef, and the lower staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 6/8. The tempo is marked 'Moderately' with a quarter note equal to 85 beats per minute. The music begins with a four-measure rest in both staves. In the fifth measure, the vocal line enters with a half note 'San' and a quarter note 'ctus,'. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and a steady eighth-note bass line. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed above the vocal line in the fifth measure.

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal and piano parts. The vocal line in the upper staff has a four-measure rest. The piano accompaniment in the lower staff continues with harmonic support. The vocal line enters in the fifth measure with the lyrics 'San - ctus Do - mi - nus De - us Sa - ba - oth.' The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. A dynamic marking of *f* is present in the first measure of the piano part. A page number '7' is written below the first measure of the piano part.

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Narration II

Remember, O sweet Jesus, remember that you came and died and rose so that I may have life. What about our children, and what about those of us who have made bad choices? Do You remember us to the Father? What about the millions who had no voice who now sleep silently in Your presence, and what about those who brought this about? Do you remember them as well?

(Pause)

But blessed be God, in Whose name is mercy because He sent You, Jesus, His only Son, so that we could be saved—forgiven—reconciled. For this, Lord, we confess. We name our sin, our brokenness. We know You hear our voice, hear our prayers, and hear our deep, deep sadness.

Yet, we are reminded that You, Lord, are Holy. You are the one Whose name is blessed. You are the one Who dwells in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth. You, Lord God of Hosts, want us to be saved!

Why else would You weep—weep like You did at the death of Your friend Lazarus? You, Lord God, want our sadness to end, and to heal the wounds of all Rachels, of all whose loss of a child brings pain in the world. We ask You, blessed God, blessed Jesus, and Blessed Mary our mother, to take all those children who were taken, robbed, and abandoned. Take them in Your arms, hold them, and speak Your eternal peace upon them. Give them eternal rest, and upon our sickened, sad and wounded hearts give us too, Your *shalom*—wholeness—peace.

Reflection II

Requiem for the Innocents

Music by
E. LOUIS CANTER, OEF

Moderately ♩ = 80

mf

The piano introduction consists of five measures. The first measure is in 3/4 time, followed by a 4/4 measure, a 3/4 measure, a 4/4 measure, and a final 3/4 measure. The music is written in a key with one flat (B-flat) and features a melodic line in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand.

Alto Solo

mf

I've nev - er writ - ten po - et - ry that has - n't been a praise

5

The vocal line begins with the lyrics "I've nev - er writ - ten po - et - ry that has - n't been a praise". The piano accompaniment continues with the same harmonic structure as the introduction, with five measures in total.

to the Lord who wept with me and held me through those days. _____

9

The vocal line continues with the lyrics "to the Lord who wept with me and held me through those days." followed by a long horizontal line. The piano accompaniment continues with the same harmonic structure, with four measures in total.

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Pie Jesu

Requiem for the Innocents

Music by
E. LOUIS CANTER, OEF

Moderately slow ♩ = 80

mp

4/4

Introduction: Moderately slow, 80 bpm. The piano part consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand and a melody of quarter notes in the right hand.

mp Child's Solo

Pi - e Je - su Do - mi - ne,

5

First vocal entry: A child's solo voice enters with the lyrics "Pi - e Je - su Do - mi - ne,". The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern.

9

Second vocal entry: The voice enters with the lyrics "pi - e Je - su Do - mi - ne,". The piano accompaniment continues.

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Third vocal entry: The voice enters with the lyrics "pi - e Je - su Do - mi - ne,". The piano accompaniment continues.

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Agnus Dei

Music by
E. LOUIS CANTER, OEF

Moderately ♩ = 94

mf

mf

A - gnus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun - di:

mf

do - na e - is, do - na e - is re - qui - em.

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Narration III

O Lamb of God, You *do* take our sins away. We hope for that eternal peace, that quiet rest where we can see You and be with You, like those who have gone before us, and like those countless children who live in Your kingdom now, those innocents who play before the throne of God, those who like countless angels play and sing, glorify and praise the God who created their innocent souls. Yes, Lamb of God, take away our sins, so that we too can be with them, loved, forgiven—innocent—and able to sing our Hosannas, our alleluias, our gratitude before your throne.

So, God of mercy, can You forgive us for taking the life of our children? Do the words of Psalm 51 fit me as well? Can I be forgiven? Then who forgives? And which forgiveness will set me free? God's? Mine? The child's? Could it be that You, O God of mercy and compassion, forgive me through the innocents? Could it be that it is through Your love, dear God, that the children can set us free from our sins which caused them to escape life here on earth? Could this reconciliation which Your Son Jesus gained for us through His own death and resurrection be revisited through the forgiveness of the innocent ones?

God forgive us for our lack of obedience to the gift of life You gave us. Forgive us for not wanting Your love to be lived through us and our children. In your compassion, O God, wipe out our offense and have mercy.

In Paradisum

Requiem for the Innocents

Music by
E. LOUIS CANTER, OEF

Moderately $\text{♩} = 55$

mp Soprano Solo

In pa - ra - di - sum de - du - cant te an - ge -

mp

li: in tu - o ad - ven - tu sus - ci - pi - ant

7

mf

te mar - ty - res, et per - du - cant te

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Reconciliation

Requiem for the Innocents

Music by
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Moderately ♩ = 88

mp Woman:

Be — mer - ci - ful, O God. Be —

p

mp Child:

— mer - ci - ful to me, O God. — I love you; I

mp

6

mf Woman:

mp Child:

miss you. Be - cause I come to You for safe - ty. I love you; —

mf

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