Performance Notes

The Composer

Musicologists generally classify the Czech composer Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904) as a “nationalist” composer, and he did follow the lead of the Czech nationalist Smetana in his early works (a “nationalist” composer is one who combines native texts, word accents, and often folk melodies in the composition of his or her music; the style began in eastern Europe in the last half of the 19th century and spread west over the succeeding forty or fifty years).

Dvořák was a violist and an organist who was anything but a child prodigy as a composer. Working at a time when the battle lines were drawn between the “progressive” composers represented by Wagner and the “conservative” composers led by Brahms, Dvořák was aligned with the “Brahms faction.” His music was not trendy, and it took a while before he had any significant success. His Slavonic Dances, written when he was in his mid-thirties, got him noticed by Brahms and launched him as a significant composer.

Trips to England, where he conducted an enormously successful performance of the Stabat Mater in 1884, and the U.S. vaulted Dvořák into the upper echelon of international composers. International recognition was particularly important, as anti-Czech sentiment was running high in Vienna and the German countries. In 1892 Dvořák came to the U.S. to work at the National Conservatory, where he wrote: “The Americans expect great things of me. I am to show them the way into the Promised Land, the realm of a new, independent art, in short a national style of music! . . . This will certainly be a great and lofty task, and I hope that with God’s help I shall succeed in it. I have plenty of encouragement to do so.” While in the U.S. he wrote his most celebrated work, the New World Symphony. He stayed in the U.S. for three years, then returned to his home in Europe permanently.

The Composition

The Stabat Mater is a sequence of unknown authorship that became widely used in Catholic services in the 14th century. It enumerates the “Seven Sorrows” of Mary’s life, and, according to Britt, “represents the Mother of the Redeemer plunged in grief and weeping beneath the Cross on which He was suffering an unmerited and agonizing death.”

Dvořák began work on his setting of the Stabat Mater in 1875, after he and his wife lost their two-day old daughter, Josefa. He set it aside, but when two more of his children died in 1877 (one was accidentally poisoned, the other died of smallpox) he returned to his sketches and completed the work in about two months. His first large sacred composition, it became a breakthrough piece for his career when it was performed in England.

The work is intense and operatic, written for performance in the concert hall rather than in a church service. Dvořák uses thematic material from the opening movement in the final movement, which fosters a sense of the cycle of birth and death, and produces a work with a compelling sense of “completeness.”
Program

Stabat Mater..........................................................Antonin Dvořák (1841-1904)

I. Stabat Mater dolorosa
   Chorus and solo quartet

II. Quis est homo
    Solo quartet

III. Eia Mater, fons amoris
    Chorus

IV. Fac ut ardeat cor meum
    Chorus and Bass solo

V. Tui nati vulnerati
    Chorus

VI. Fac me vere tecum flere
    Chorus Men and Tenor solo

VII. Virgo virginum praeclara
    Chorus

VIII. Fac ut portem Christi mortem
     Soprano and Tenor duet

IX. Inflammatus et accensus
    Alto solo

X. Quando corpus morietur
    Chorus and solo quartet

Courtney Ames, soprano
Joanna Gates, mezzo-soprano
Perry Brisbon, tenor
James Kirk, bass
Steven Powell, conductor
University Chorus and Orchestra

Orchestra

*guest artists from the Fairmount Chamber Ensemble

Violin 1:
    Taia Harlos*
    Melissa Locati*
    Andreia Torain*
    Ellen Strange*

Violin 2:
    Barbara Jaffe*
    Jen Bolcar*
    Katie Bechtold*
    Kirsten Caminiti*

Viola:
    Beth Dzwil*
    Louise Jaffe*
    Fran Berge*

Cello:
    Ronald Lipscomb*
    Linda Metzler*
    Elizabeth Loughran*

Bass:
    Timothy Raub*

Flute:
    Carolyn Moy

Oboe:
    Rachel Goeken
    Jarrett Farkas

Clarinet:
    Max Goldberg
    Timothy Koh

Trumpet:
    Nicholas Pescatore
    Anthony Romano

Bassoon:
    Ping Liang*
    Janet Albrycht*

Horn:
    Angela Cordell Bilger*
    Paul Rosenberg*
    Emma Fowler
    Shawn Dessaigne

Timpani:
    Steven Burns

Organ:
    Stephanie Abruzzo
Drexel Chorus
Dr. Steven Powell, director
Stephanie Abruzzo, accompanist

Soprano
Elizabeth Brayman---------------------------------- Chemistry
Olivia Cipriano------------------------------------ Architectural Engineering
Charlotte DiGiorgio-------------------------------- Architecture
Erica Henn---------------------------------------- Biological Sciences & Dance
Reeba Ivan----------------------------------------- Marketing
Emily Lantz---------------------------------------- Entertainment & Arts Management
Julianna Quazi------------------------------------- Math
Julianne Scott------------------------------------- Culinary Arts
Hayley Selden------------------------------------- Architectural & Civil Engineering
#Johanna Mikitka Simon--------------------------- Architectural & Civil Engineering
*Kayla Speedy------------------------------------- Fashion Design
Victoria Tielebein-------------------------------- Physics
Carrie Wang--------------------------------------- Biological Sciences
Alexis Wolfer------------------------------------- Business Administration
Yiting Zhu---------------------------------------- Hospitality Management
#Nicole Zusman----------------------------------- Music Industry

Alto
#Laura Allan-------------------------------------- Materials Sci and Engineering
#Emily Barth-------------------------------------- Chemical Engineering
*#Meghan Cash------------------------------------- Environmental Engineering
Demi Ferker--------------------------------------- Engineering
Emily Fister--------------------------------------- Health Sciences
Annia Jasper--------------------------------------- Music Industry
#Jacquelyn Kane----------------------------------- Business Administration
#Katie LaVoie------------------------------------- Music Industry
Samantha Leinberger----------------------------- Environmental Science
Taylor Nolan-------------------------------------- Psychology
Grace Petrecca------------------------------------ Chemistry
Pritika Ramesh----------------------------------- Music Industry
Cameryn Richards-------------------------------- Graphic Design
Sarah Ritter--------------------------------------- Biological Sciences
Jessica Williams----------------------------------- International Area Studies

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Julianne Scott------------------------------------- Culinary Arts
Hayley Selden------------------------------------- Architectural & Civil Engineering
#Johanna Mikitka Simon--------------------------- Architectural & Civil Engineering
Lauren Smith-------------------------------------- Still Deciding
*Kayla Speedy------------------------------------- Fashion Design
Victoria Tielebein-------------------------------- Physics
Carrie Wang--------------------------------------- Biological Sciences
Alexis Wolfer------------------------------------- Business Administration
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Sarah Ritter--------------------------------------- Biological Sciences
Jessica Williams----------------------------------- International Area Studies
Tenor
Elias Agia ......................................................... Architecture
#Ben Anderson .......................................................... Nursing
Miguel Calderon ....................................................... Computer Science
Joshua Cohen ........................................................ Civil Engineering
James Donnelly ....................................................... Business and Engineering
Jacob Havens ........................................................ Chemistry
Michael Hoy .......................................................... Music Industry
Bryce Keller .......................................................... Mechanical Engineering
William Kocher ....................................................... Civil Engineering
#Doug McCaskey ..................................................... Biological Sciences
Nick Nanfito .......................................................... Psychology
#Jonas Newschaffer .................................................. Business Administration
•#Brett Rodgers ..................................................... Music Industry
Noah Scheffey ........................................................ TV Production & Media Mgmt
#Michael Zimmermann ............................................. Business Administration

Bass
Michael Annucci ..................................................... Mechanical Engineering
Daniel Carrion ........................................................ International Area Studies
Xan Christopherson ................................................ Information Systems
Austin Dean .......................................................... Software Engineering
Chris Doblovosky .................................................... Software Engineering
#Corey Fedorowich ................................................ Biological Sciences
#Joseph Juhase ....................................................... Entertainment & Arts Management
Philip Moyer ........................................................ Architectural Engineering
•Adam Nassani ....................................................... Mechanical Engineering
Sanjeev Oommen ..................................................... Mechanical Engineering
Matthew Prusinski ................................................ Biomedical Engineering
Brian Rex ............................................................. Music Industry
Gabriel Robitaille ................................................ International Area Studies
Alexander Ruth ....................................................... Mechanical Engineering
Jonathan Shoup ...................................................... History
Eric Simon .......................................................... Computer Science
Ted Swanson ........................................................ Graphic Design
Evan Taylor .......................................................... Finance

• Section Leader       # Pi Nu Epsilon Member

Tenor
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