

Rutter Requiem

Requiem was written in 1985 and first performed in October of that year. Following the precedent established by Brahms and Fauré, among others, it is not strictly a setting of the Requiem Mass as laid down in Catholic liturgy, but instead is made up of a personal selection of texts, some taken from the Requiem Mass and some from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

The seven sections of the work form an arch-like meditation on the themes of life and death: the first and last movements (*Requiem aeternam* and *Lux aeternam*) are prayers on behalf of all humanity, movements 2 and 3 (*Out of the deep* and *The Lord is my shepherd*) are psalms, 3 and 5 (*Pie Jesu* and *Agnus Dei*) are personal prayers to Christ, and the central *Sanctus* is an affirmation of divine glory.