FOR US
the LIVING

A REQUIEM

ALFRED V. FEDAK

in MEMORY of
WILLIAM
and
ETHEL LAMERE

Selah Publishing Co.
FOR US THE LIVING: A REQUIEM
Alfred V. Fedak
In Memory of William and Ethel Lamere

I. SENTENCE: All We Go Down to the Dust

All we go down to the dust,
yet even at the grave we make our song:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
—Orthodox Kontakion for the Departed

II. INTROIT: Requiem æternam

Requiem æternam dona eis Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Te decet hymnus, Deus in Sion,
et tibi redetur votum in Jerusalem.
Exaudi orationem meam:
ad te omnis caro veniet.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and may perpetual light shine upon them.
Hymns will be sung to you, O God in Zion,
and to you will homage be paid in Jerusalem.
Hear my prayer:
to you shall all flesh come.

III. KYRIE ELEISON


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

IV. THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul and guides me along right pathways
for his Name’s sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil, for you are with me,
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me.
You have anointed my head with oil, my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.
—Translation from the Book of Common Prayer (1979)

V. SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth!
Pleni sunt cœli et terra Gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis!
Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis!

Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord God of Hosts!
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is He who comes
in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

VI. PIE JESU (soprano solo)

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem.
Dona eis sempiternam requiem.

Gentle Lord Jesus, grant them rest.
Grant them eternal rest.

VII. AGNUS DEI (Chaconne)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem.
Dona nobis requiem.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant them rest.
Grant us rest.

VIII. VALEDICTION

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and there no torment shall touch them.
In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die, but they are at peace.
Come then, be joyful for the righteous,
for they shall be gathered together,
And shall praise the eternal God forever Amen.
**FROM THE COMPOSER**

Alfred V. Fedak

*For Us the Living* was commissioned by Clifford Lamere of Albany, New York, to honor the memory of his parents, William and Ethel Lamere. But while the work was intended as a memorial to two specific individuals, its message is universal. For although it fully acknowledges the twin realities of death and grief, *For Us the Living* is meant to serve as a grateful affirmation of the gift of life, and as an expression of comfort, consolation, hope, and encouragement to all who have suffered loss. It is, quite literally, a requiem for us, the living.

The title, of course, is drawn from Abraham Lincoln’s *Gettysburg Address*, which (to paraphrase) admits that there is, in truth, very little which we the living can do to honor our departed loved ones, except to commit ourselves to the noblest principles by which they lived, and to complete the work which they left unfinished. Simply put, we best honor our dead by the way we live.

The work’s opening movement quotes the Eastern Orthodox *Kontakion for the Departed*: “All we go down to the dust, yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.” While this opening sentence is, in reality, a death sentence, at its heart lies a heroic existentialism: there is something persistently and joyfully defiant about singing Alleluias at one’s own grave, or for that matter, at the start of a choral requiem.

*For Us the Living* was conceived as a concert work, but none of its words would seem out of place at a church funeral or memorial service. To the traditional liturgical texts (*Introit, Kyrie, Sanctus and Benedictus, Pie Jesu*, and *Agnus Dei*) I have added, besides the Orthodox verse quoted above, a setting of Psalm 23, and a final section called “Valediction” (meaning a leave-taking or farewell), which includes two passages from the Apocrypha: the well-known Justorum animae (“The Souls of the Righteous”) from the Book of Wisdom, and a verse from the book of Tobit. The closing measures of the *Agnus Dei* further underscore the work’s real intent: the prayer’s final petition, “Dona eis requiem” (grant them rest) becomes “Dona nobis requiem” – grant us rest.

*For Us the Living* was first performed on April 22, 2007, by the Burnt Hills Oratorio Society and Orchestra, Rand Reeves, Director, in Memorial Chapel, Union College, Schenectady, New York. The soprano soloist was Gene Marie Callahan Kern.

**ORCHESTRATION**

S.A.T.B. choir and organ

or

2 Flutes
2 Oboes
1 English Horn
2 Bassoons
2 Horns
Harp
S.A.T.B. choir
2 Violin I
2 Violin II
2 Viola
2 Cello
1 Contrabass
Organ

*Available on rental or for purchase*
I. Sentence: All We Go Down to the Dust

With great sadness and nobility, but not too slowly (♩=69)

Alfred V. Fedak

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down to the dust, All we go down to the
dust, go down to the dust, down to the dust,
dust, go down to the dust, down to the dust,
dust, go down to the dust, down to the dust,
dust, go down to the dust, down to the dust,
dust, go down to the dust, down to the dust,
Yet even at the grave, e - ven
Yet even at the grave, e - ven
even at the grave, even at the grave we make our song.

at the grave, even at the grave.

Emphatically
Relaxing  dim.

we make our song.

Relaxing
(with transparent purity)

\( p \) a tempo primo

Al le lu ia, Al le lu ia, Al le -

6–For Us the Living: A Requiem–440-820
II. Introit: Requiem æternam

Alfred V. Fedak

\[ \text{warmly (} \frac{q}{4} = \frac{q}{4}, \text{of the preceding)} \]

Requiem æternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis. Requiem æternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat

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e - is. Te de - cet hym - nus, De - us in Si - on, et De - us in Si - on, 
ti - bi re - de - tur vo - tum in Je - ru - sa - lem.

Re - qui - em æ - ter - nam do - na e - is,
IV. The Lord Is My Shepherd

Psalm 23

Alfred V. Fedak

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16–For Us the Living: A Requiem–440-820
Tenors & Basses unis.  

He restores my soul and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.  

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  

440-820–For Us the Living: A Requiem–17
shadow of death I shall fear no evil for you are with me, your rod and your staff, they comfort me, they comfort
With joyful energy and drive ($\frac{4}{4}=$ca. 160)

V. Sanctus

S.A.

T.B.

Sanc tus, Sanc tus,

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Ple ni sunt cœli et terra, unis. mf

Ple ni sunt cœli et terra,

Ple ni sunt cœli et terra,

gloria tua. f

Hosanna

gloria tua
Be-ne-di-c-tus, be-ne-di-c-tus qui ve-nit, qui ve-nit in nomi-ne Do-mi-ni.

Be-ne-di-c-tus qui ve-nit, qui ve-nit in nomi-ne Do-mi-ni.
VI. Pie Jesu

With gentle expression; like a lullaby (♩=58)

Solo Soprano

Pie Je su Do mi-ne,

Pie Je su Do mi-ne, Do-na e is re-qui-em,

Do-na e is re-qui-em.

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tol-lis, qui tol-lis, qui tol-lis pec-ca-ta mun-di,

mi-se-re-re no-bis.

Ag-nus De-i, qui tol-lis pec-ca-ta mun-di mi-se-re-re no-

VIII. Valediction

Wisdom 3:1–4; Tobit 13:13

With quiet confidence ($\approx 80$)

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there, and there, no torment shall touch them.
In the sight of the unwise, in the

sight of the unwise, in the sight of the unwise,

wise they seemed to die,
but they are at peace,

they are at peace,

peace,

peace,

peace,

peace.

poco rit.

poco meno mosso

poco rit.

cresc.