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Requiescat
for mezzo-soprano and piano
2019
rev. 2020

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Text by Oscar Wilde

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Requiescat was first performed by
Annabel Kennedy and Cameron
Richardson-Eames at Hinde Street
Methodist Church, London on the 21st
of November, 2019 during the London
Song Festival.

Requiescat
by Oscar Wilde

Tread lightly, she is near
Under the snow,
Speak gently, she can hear
The daisies grow.

All her bright golden hair
Tarnished with rust,
She that was young and fair
Fallen to dust.

Lily-like, white as snow,
She hardly knew
She was a woman, so
Sweetly she grew.

Coffin-board, heavy stone,
Lie on her breast,
I vex my heart alone
She is at rest.

Peace, Peace, she cannot hear
Lyre or sonnet,
All my life's buried here,
Heap earth upon it.

Duration approx. 3'00"

Requiescat

for mezzo-soprano and piano

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

Luciano Williamson

Mournful ♩ = 48

p sotto voce

Tread light-ly, she is near

pp bell-like

p

Red. with harmonic changes

Detailed description: This system contains the first four measures of the piece. The vocal line is in 4/4 time, with a 3/4 measure at the end. The piano accompaniment is in 4/4 time. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The piano part features a 'bell-like' texture in the first two measures and a more melodic line in the last two. Dynamics range from *pp* to *p*.

5

mp

Un-der the snow, Speak gen-tly, she can hear the dai-sies

p

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 5 through 8. The vocal line continues with a 7/8 measure. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a more rhythmic line in the left hand. Dynamics include *mp* and *p*.

9

poco accel. . . . slightly faster ♩ = 66

p

grow. All her bright— gold-en hair

mp

p

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 9 through 12. The tempo increases from 'poco accel.' to 'slightly faster' (♩ = 66). The vocal line has a 3/4 measure at the end. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a more rhythmic line in the left hand. Dynamics include *p* and *mp*.

mf *mp*

Tar-nished with rust, She that was young and fair

p *poco accel.* $\text{♩} = 72$ *mf*

Fall-en to dust. Li-ly-like,

f *p*

white as snow, She hard - ly knew She was a wom-an, so

rall.

Sweet-ly she grew.

ethereal, molto rubato

32 $\text{♩} = 66$ *mp* *mf*

Cof-fin-board, heav-y stone, Lie on her breast,

36 *mp* *rit.* *Tempo I* ($\text{♩} = 48$)

I vex my heart a-lone She is at rest.

40 *accel.* *mp* *mf* *rall.*

Peace, Peace, she can-not hear Lyre or son-net,

44 *p* *ppp* *sotto voce* 5:4

All my life's bur-ied here, Heap earth up-on it.