

EDITOR'S NOTES FOR "LIBERA ME DOMINE"

Libera me ("Deliver me") is a Roman Catholic responsory sung in the Office of the Dead and at the absolution of the dead, a service of prayers for the deceased said beside the coffin immediately after the Requiem Mass and before burial. The text of *Libera me* asks God to have mercy upon the deceased person at the Last Judgment. Many composers have written settings for the text, e.g. Giuseppe Verdi, Gabriel Fauré, Maurice Duruflé, Igor Stravinsky, to name a few.

Eslava's version is especially dramatic with its full orchestration (including timpani) and two bass choral parts.

LYRICS

Libera me, Domine, de morte æterna, in die illa tremenda
Quando cœli movendi sunt et terra
Dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.

Tremens factus sum ego, et timeo,
dum discussio venerit, atque ventura ira
Quando cœli movendi sunt et terra.

Dies illa, dies iræ, calamitatis et miseræ,
dies magna et amara valde
Dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.

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

Kyrie eleison
Christe eleison

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Deliver me, O Lord, from death eternal on that fearful day,
When the heavens and the earth shall be moved,
When thou shalt come to judge the world by fire.

I am made to tremble, and I fear,
till the judgment be upon us, and the coming wrath,
When the heavens and the earth shall be moved.

That day, day of wrath, calamity and misery,
day of great and exceeding bitterness,
When thou shalt come to judge the world by fire.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord:
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy