

Thank you to our sponsors!



Deluxe Corporation Foundation



We love to know what inspires you. Write and tell us what you liked about the class, and tell us what activities you did that express who YOU are!

education@nashuasymphony.org

Nashua Symphony Association
6 Church Street
Nashua, NH 03060

THE NASHUA SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

Backstage Pass

Your exclusive guide to
the symphony orchestra

This Issue:
Focus on the Mozart Requiem



INSIDE!

- The Symphony Orchestra
- What is a Requiem?
- Singers
- Word Search, Try This at Home, and Trivia!

Date: November 16, 2007

The Symphony Orchestra

Welcome back to the Nashua Symphony!

Have you ever stopped to think about what a symphony really is? Sometimes, the word is used to describe a composition, like Beethoven's 9th Symphony. That means a piece with several movements in different styles. But what does it mean to call a group of musicians a symphony? The answer is one that is always changing.



In Mozart's time, a symphony orchestra was much smaller than modern groups. Also, not all pieces used two of each woodwind and all of the

brass. In fact, he did not write any music for the oboes, flutes or french horns in the Requiem. One of Mozart's favorite instruments to compose for was the clarinet. In this piece, he used two basset horns which are a type of clarinet.

Certain instruments get a lot of solos, like the flute and first violin. But not very many composers wrote solos for the trombone! In the Requiem's Tuba Mirum, listen for the rare trombone solo.



Music Trivia

- * Mozart's Requiem was performed at the funerals of Haydn (1809), Beethoven (1827) and Chopin (1849).
- * When Mozart died, he was buried in a common grave for people without any money. No music was played at his funeral.



- * The count who commissioned the Requiem from Mozart passed it off as his own composition after Mozart died. He did this with many composers' works.
- * Mozart loved to play pool (billiards) while he composed.
- * Sussmayer, one of Mozart's colleagues, finished the Requiem after one of his students was unable to complete it.

Try this at home

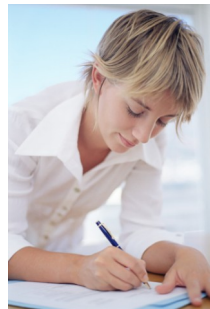
After you have listened to the rehearsal today, think about what kind of art forms you like to use to express yourself. Here are some ideas:

- * Drama
- * Photography
- * Dance
- * Music
- * Drawing
- * Painting

Using your favorite art form, create your own “requiem” for a friend or family member you have lost. Let the music and all of your experiences today be your guide.



Paint a picture!



Write a story!



Write a song!

Other ideas: Write a play and star in it, create a dance, or take pictures of things that remind you of the person you are celebrating.

What is a Requiem?

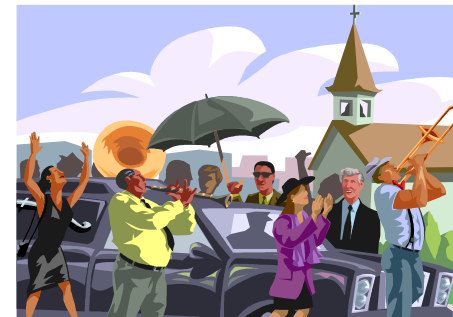
The Requiem is a special way to honor people who have died. It is a mass, which is a special church service, said and sung since the 2nd century. Many composers have written Requiems including Brahms, Verdi, and Britten, who wrote a War Requiem to help promote world peace.



There are many ways to remember the dead.

In Mexico, November 1st is known as the Day of the Dead. Families clean and decorate graves and leave offerings for their loved ones to enjoy in the next life. In other places, people have parties with lots of music to celebrate the life of the person.

How does your family celebrate the lives of your friends and family who have passed away? Is there music? What kind?



Can you identify where this funeral might be taking place?

The Singers

A symphony orchestra doesn't always play by itself! In this piece, it works together with singers. Sometimes, the singers are soloists and other times they are members of a choir. In Mozart's Requiem, there is a choir and a solo singer on each part. There are four parts in a choir: Soprano (the highest voice), Alto, Tenor, and Bass (the lowest voice).



It is the conductor's job to keep everybody singing and playing together.

Have you ever seen a conductor's score? The music that the conductor uses shows the music that every single person on stage is playing! Ask our conductor if you can take a look.

In a lot of pieces where there are solo singers, you get to hear each person by themselves. But not in this piece! The four singers work together, almost as one soloist.

Have you ever thought about singing in a choir? Did you know that there is a children's choir here in Nashua?

Word Search

r s y m p h o n y m
e t e e r e e r r m
n q t r o m b o n e
y q u t o c t h n i
c t u n t c s t b u
h p u e u h s e o q
o o n d n c r s o e
i o n a r p o s a r
r o t n o r e a r m
c y b e u h r b t o

Can you find the following words in the puzzle?

Requiem

Basset Horn

Soprano

Mass

Conductor

Tenor

Score

Symphony

Trombone

Choir