

REQUIEM · AVE VERUM MOZART MISSA HYEMALIS RICHTER INSANÆ & VANÆ CURÆ HAYDN

16 OCTOBER 2008 THURSDAY AT 7:30 PM

The concert opens with Haydn's motet, *Insanae et vanae curae*, a wonderful "storm chorus" of great dramatic impact, adapted towards the end of Haydn's life from his first oratorio, *Il Ritorno di Tobia*.

This is followed by the first modern performance of the *Missa in A* by Franz Xaver Richter. Richter was a major contributor to the Mannheim School of Composition, and worked as Kapellmeister at the Strasbourg Cathedral from 1769-1789, a position most envied by Mozart. Franz Xaver Richter probably wrote his *Missa in A* (one of his 34 settings of the Mass) with the nickname, *Hyemalis* (winter), between 1781 and 1783, during his tenure at Strasbourg. Richter achieves a festive character with musical variety by means of a comparably modest ensemble.

Composed in the last year of his life, Mozart's *Ave verum corpus* encompasses a universe of refined emotion and sublime intensity in its mere 46 measures. In its serenity, it resembles parts of the *Requiem Mass*, Mozart's final composition. The *Requiem* is one of his most powerful and well-known works, not only for its music, but also for the debate over how much of the music Mozart managed to complete before his death, and how much was later composed by his student Franz Xaver Süssmayr. The music captures Mozart's special attitude towards mortality which is reflected in an oft-quoted letter he wrote to his father in 1787. In it, Mozart speaks of death as "the one true goal of our existence...the best and truest friend of mankind . . . something very soothing and consoling." The profoundly beautiful music of this *Requiem* was sung at Haydn's funeral in 1809.

Requiem Mass in D Minor, K. 626
Ave verum corpus, K. 618

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Missa Hyemalis
Franz Xaver Richter
Insanae et vanae curae
Franz Joseph Haydn

The Saint Thomas Choir of
Men and Boys with
Sinfonia New York
John Scott, conductor
Laura Heimes, soprano
Brenda Patterson, contralto
Lawrence Wiliford, tenor
Sumner Thompson, bass

