

REQUIESCAT

för blandad kör a c. SATB

Stellan Sagvik 1971/88
~ Text: Oscar Wilde

REQUIESCAT

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 (*once*) 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 is buried here,
Heap earth upon it.

(from Rosa Mystica

On February 23rd of 1867, Oscar Wilde's ten-year old sister, Isola Wilde, died of meningitis, a rare disease that causes inflammation in the brain and spinal cord. Wilde himself was only 12, and grieved deeply. This poem reflects the emotional toll Isola's death caused all around her.

Years later, he still remembered Isola, and wrote Requiescat in her memory.

A requiescat is a prayer for the repose of the dead. "Requiescat in pace" is Latin for "Rest in peace"; hence the English meaning. Even when Wilde himself died penniless and in exile in 1900, one of his few possessions consisted of an envelope labelled "My Isola's Hair"—which contained what the label said.)

REQUIESCAT Op 18:B

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Text: Oscar Wilde (from Rosa Mystica)

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1 ♩ = 72 *Andante, molto espressivo*

Sopran (b.ch) *pp* un- der the snow

Alt *p* -Tread light- ly She is near un- der the snow,

Tenor (b.ch) *pp* She is near un- der the snow

Bas (b.ch) *pp* un- der the snow, tread

8

Speak gent- ly, she can she can

mmm, Speak gent- ly, she can hear

light- ly Speak gent- ly, she can hear the dai- sys

14 *Meno a tempo*

hear -Aaa

the dai- sys grow -Aaa

grow -Aaa

-Tread light- ly, she is

20

pp *legato*

Mmm

pp *legato*

Mmm

8 near mmm

pp *p sotto voce*

she is near mmm -All her bright, gol- den hair

26

mp

-She that once was

mp

-She that once was

mp

-She that once was young and

3

tar- nished with rust

mp

-She once was young

32

mf 3 *p* (viskn) *pp*

She once was young and dust

mf 3 *f* *mp*

She once was young and fal len to, fal- len to dust

f *p* (viskn) *pp*

8 fair dust

f *p* (viskn) *pp*

She once was young and dust

39

Meno *p* *ppp* *Poco moto* *p*

-Mmm Li- ly like

ppp *pp* *p*

8 *ppp* -Mmm -Mmm mmm-

ppp *pp* *mp* *pp* *p*

-Mmm mmm mmm-

45 *a tempo I*

white as snow so sweet ly she

white as snow she hard- ly knew a wo- man- nnn

she was a wo- man so- ooo-

mmm -man- -nnn

mp *p* *mp* *p*

52 *p* *ff* *Meno mosso*

sweet ly she grew

sweet ly she grew, mmm -Ng

sweet ly she grew

sweet ly she grew, mmm -Ng

ff *mp* *ff* *mp*

59 *pp* *dolcissimo* *poco* 3

-Cof- fin board hea- vy stone lie on her

-Ng- nnn -Mmm

-Ng- nnn -Mmm-

ppp *ppp* *ppp*

65 *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *pp*

breast, I vex my heart a- lone

my a- lone

my heart a- lone- nnn

73 *Meno* *pp*

She is at rest

pp

She is at rest

p *pp* *ppp*

She is at rest -mmm

ppp

-mmm

84 *pp* *sotto voce* *p* *cresc*

Peace, peace, she can- not hear lyre or son-

pp *sotto voce* *pp* *cresc*

Peace, peace, mmm lyre or son-

pp *sotto voce* *p* *cresc*

Peace, peace, she can- not hear

p *cresc*

-A(-all)

92 *Tempo I* *mp* *ff* *cresc* *Meno* *fff* *rall*

net -All my life is bu- ri- ed here

mp *ff* *cresc* *fff*

net, lyre or son- net, -All my life is bu- ri- ed here

mp *ff* *cresc* *fff* *dim p á p* *3*

lyre or son- net, -All my life, all my life is bu- ried

ff *cresc* *fff* *dim p á p* *3*

-All my life is, all my life is bu- ried

98 *mp* *p* *pp* *allargando* *f*

Heap earth up- on it mmm mmm mmm

mp *p* *pp* *ppp* *f*

Heap earth up- on it mmm mmm mmm

f *pp* *ppp* *f*

here, mmm -Ng mmm

f *pp* *ppp* *f*

here, mmm -Ng