

# OU handles Requiem in style

By Mary Jane Doerr  
special writer

Large choruses were popular in the late 19th century. Now, with so much emphasis on baroque instrumentation, it is rare to hear a well-trained ensemble of 112 voices such as the Oakland University Chorus. Actually, the group is a combination of the Oakland University Chorus and the University Chorus.

The Oakland University Chorus, with conductor Dr. John Dovaras, presented the Mozart Requiem at Guardian Angels Catholic Church of Clawson last Saturday. Dovaras, who has been the group's conductor for nearly as long as it has existed, directed a precise and confidently executed Requiem with a full, clear sound that was a joy to hear.

Dovaras balanced the group with a 30 piece orchestra that never overshadowed the chorus.

Mozart died before completing the last three sections of his 12-section Requiem. Mozart's student, F. X. Süssmayr completed the work at the request of the composer's widow. Generally, the ending is considered inferior to Mozart's writing.

Another orchestration by Franz Beyer will be presented at 3 p.m. Sunday at Varner Recital Hall on the Oakland University campus with the Oakland Chorus and the New American Chamber Orchestra.

In the Süssmayr edition Saturday, the cut-offs and entrances were especially concise, particularly in the abrupt Sanctus. Both the Requiem and the Mozart motet performed for the second half of the program, "Splendide Te Deus," were sung in Latin, clearly enunciated by the large ensemble.

The four soloists were Jan Albright, soprano,

Alena Moon, alto, David Troiano, tenor, and John Paul White basso. Troiano has been performing in a number of local productions recently such as "H.M.S. Pinafore" and "The Barber of Seville." His lyric tenor voice is even, always forward and very beautiful.

Dovaras, who is about to publish his third book, does extensive research on the music he selects for the Oakland University Chorus and his choir at Kirk in the Hills. He has found the original setting for "Splendide Te Deus" used for the first presentation of this motet, the first ever composed by Mozart. He will give it later this spring at Kirk in the Hills.

The Requiem, which lasted under an hour, was so loved by Beethoven that he requested that it be performed at his funeral. It is a glorious work and this Oakland University Chorus performed it with style.



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