

ABSTRACT

(Requiems in Czech contemporary music)

The requiem has been a part of religious music for centuries and we perceive it more as an untraditional type of a mass, that has been through a huge change since the last decades of the 20th century until now. More and more often the composers create so called „concert requiems“, which are not determined to be a part of a church service, but they are pieces of music for concert stages.

This doctoral thesis aims to provide a current overview of a mass for the dead, different approaches to its musical adaptations and its position among contemporary sacred compositions. Apart from cultural and historical view on requiem and its role in contemporary musical work, the main analytical part focuses on four Requiems by Czech composers, who finished their compositions in the past three decades. From these four examples we can study the differences of compositional approaches of each author. Last but not least, it is interesting to see the variety of texts that appear in contemporary requiems. The traditional Latin text is not the only one as it used to be. Very often the composers use verses from poems of various poets or their own texts.

We can assess contemporary requiems according to different criteria, but we should never compare them. Each one is an original piece of music and bears the characteristics of a more or less modern creative approach. It sometimes may be demanding to expound current musical compositions to the listeners, which is one of the main goals of this dissertation.