

Requiem for Peace - libretto

1) Fratres in Unum – (Psalm 133)

- David (circa 1000 B.C.) Latin translation

Quam iucundum
habitare fratres in unum
Ecce quam bonum et quam decorum
habitare fratres in unum,
Sicut unguentum optimum in capite quod
descendit in barbam,
barbam Aaron quod descendit
super ora vestimenti eius
Sicut ros Hermon qui descendit
in montem Sion
Quoniam illic mandavit Dominus benedictionem
et vitam usque in saeculum.

Brothers in Unity

How pleasant it is
when brothers live together in unity
Behold, how good and honorable it is
when brothers live together in unity!
It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down upon the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls
on Mount Zion.
For there the Lord has bestowed His blessing,
even life forevermore.

2) Requiem Aeternam

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine.
Et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Rest Eternally

Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them

3) Long Black Arm

- Wilfred Owen (1893-1918) British

Be slowly lifted up, thou long black arm,
Great gun towering toward Heaven,
about to curse...

Reach at that arrogance,
which needs thy harm,
And beat it down before the sins grow worse...

But when thy spell be cast
complete and whole,
May God curse thee,
and cut thee from our soul!

4) Ahni Shalom – (Psalm 120)

- David (circa 1000 B.C.) Hebrew

א שיר, המעלות:
אל-יהוה, בצרתה לי--
קראתי, ויענני.
ב יהוה--הצילה נפשי, משפת-
שקר: מלשון רמיה.
ג מה-יתן לך, ומה-יסיף לך--
לשון רמיה.
ד חצי גבור שנונים; עם,
גחלי רתמים.
ה אוה-לי, כי-גרתי משך;
שכנתי, עם-אהלי קדר.
ו רבת, שכנה-לה נפשי-- עם,
שונא שלום.
ז אני-שלום, וכי אדבר; המה,
למלקמה.

I Am a Man of Peace

I call on the LORD in my distress,
and He answers me.

Save me, O LORD, from lying lips
and from deceitful tongues.

What will he do to you,
and what more besides, O deceitful tongue?
He will punish you with a warrior's sharp arrows,
with burning coals of the broom tree.

Woe to me that I dwell in Meshech,
that I live among the tents of Kedar!

Too long have I lived
among those who hate peace.

I am a man of peace; but when I speak,
they are for war.

5) Bani Adam

- Sa'adi Shirazi (1213-1293) Persian

بنی آدم اعضاء یکدیگرند
که در آفرینش یک گوهرند
چون عضو برادر در درگه
در عضو را مانند دستار
تو که زنت دیگران بی غمی
نشاید که هاست نند آردی

Children of Adam

Children of Adam are members of one body
Who are created from the same origin;
If one member is in pain,
the other members cannot be at peace.

Bani Adam – part 2

- Ahmad Shawqi (1870-1932) Egyptian/Arabic

ولد الرفق يوم مولد عيسى
و المروءات والهدى والحياء
وازدهى الكون بالوليد وضانت
بسناه من الثرى الارحاء
و سرت آية لمسيح كما
يسرى من الفجر الوجود الضياء
تملاً الرض و العوالم نورا
فالثرى مانج بها و ضاء
لا و عييد لا صولة لا انتقام
لاحمام لا غزوة لا دماء

Kindness, chivalry, guidance and humility were
born the day Jesus was born.
His coming brightened the world,
His light illumined it.
Like the light of dawn
flowing through the universe -
so did the sign of Jesus (the Messiah) flow.
He filled the world with light,
making the earth shine with its brightness.
No threat, no tyranny, no revenge,
no sword, no raids, no bloodshed
(did He use in His call to the new faith.)

6) Kyrie Eleison

- Latin and Greek liturgy

Kyrie, miserere nobis
Kyrie, dona nobis pacem
Kyrie eleison
Dona nobis pacem
Christe eleison
Exaudi orationem meam
Dona nobis pacem

Lord, have Mercy

Lord, have mercy on us
Lord, grant us peace
Lord, have mercy
Grant us peace
Christ, have mercy
Hear my prayer
Grant us peace

7) Bêtise de la Guerre

-Victor Hugo - (1802-1885)

Ouvrière sans yeux, Pénélope imbécile,
Berceuse du chaos où le néant oscille,
Guerre, ô guerre
occupée au choc des escadrons,
Toute pleine du bruit furieux des clairons,
Ô buveuse de sang, qui, farouche, flétrie,
Hideuse, entraîne l'homme en cette ivrognerie,
[Nuée où le destin se déforme, où Dieu fuit,
Où flotte une clarté plus noire que la nuit.]
Folle immense, de vent et de foudres armée,
A quoi sers-tu, géante, à quoi sers-tu, fumée,
Si tes écroulements reconstruisent le mal,
Si pour le bestial tu chasses l'animal,
Si tu ne sais, dans l'ombre
où ton hasard se vautre,
Défaire un empereur
que pour en faire un autre?

The Stupidity of War

Servant without eyes, childish Penelope,
Cradle where newborn Chaos rocks,
War, oh war,
who busies herself with the clash of troops,
Filled with the furious blasts of trumpets,
Oh drinker of blood, who - fierce, shriveled,
hideous - drags man along in her drunkenness;
(Hidden where fate is disfigured, where God flees
Or where reasoning hovers, darker than the night)
Gigantic folly, armed with wind and lightning,
What use are you, Monster? What use are you, Smoky O
What if your destruction reconstructs evil,
What if in your blood lust, you seek the animal in us all
What if you don't know, within the shadows
where your opportunity grovels,
How to bring down an emperor
without creating another?

8) Bing Chuh Shing - 兵車行

Ballad of the Army Cart (trans. David Lunde)

Dao Fu – (circa 12 AD) Mandarin

車麟麟馬蕭蕭
行人弓箭各在腰
爺娘妻子走相送
塵埃不見咸陽橋
牽衣頓足攔道哭
哭聲直上千雲霄
邊亭流血成海水
武皇開邊意未已
君不聞
漢家山東二百州
千村萬落生荊杞
縱有健婦把鋤犁
禾生隴畝無東西
況復秦兵耐苦戰
被驅不異犬與雞
信知生男惡
反是生女好
生女猶得嫁比鄰
生男埋沒隨百草
青海頭
古來白骨無人收
新鬼煩冤舊鬼哭
陰雨濕聲啾啾

Wagons rattling and banging, horses neighing and snorting,
The conscripts marching, each with bow and arrows at his hip,
Fathers and mothers, wives and children, running to see them off—
So much dust kicked up you can't see Xian-yang Bridge!
And the families pulling at their clothes, stamping feet in anger, blocking the way and weeping—
The sound of their wailing rises straight up to assault heaven...
The frontier posts run with blood enough to fill an ocean,
and the war-loving Emperor's dreams of conquest have still not ended.
Haven't you heard, sir,
In our land of Han, throughout the two hundred prefectures east of the mountains
thousands of little hamlets; growing nothing but thorns
And even where there is a sturdy wife to handle hoe and plough,
the poor crops grow raggedly in haphazard fields.
It's even worse for the men of Qin; they're such good fighters
they're driven from battle to battle like dogs or chickens....
Truly, it is an evil thing to bear a son these days,
it is much better to have daughters;
at least you can marry a daughter to the neighbor,
but a son is born only to die, his body lost in the wild grass...
Has my lord seen the shores of the *Kokonor?
The white bones lie there in drifts, uncollected.
New ghosts complain and old ghosts weep,
under the lowering sky their voices cry out in the rain."

9) Dvatsit Vosyem Shtikovich

Twenty Eight Bayonets

- Anna Akhmatova (1889-1966) Russian

Не бывать тебе в живых,
Со снегу не встать.
Двадцать восемь штыковых
Огнестрельных пять.
Горькую обновушку
Другу шила я.
Любит, любит кровушку
Русская земля.

You are no longer among the living,
You cannot rise from the snow.
Twenty-eight bayonets,
Five bullets.
A bitter new shroud
for my beloved I sewed.
The Russian earth loves, loves
droplets of blood.

10) Recordare

- Latin liturgy (from the Recordare,
Tuba Mirum and Liber Scriptus)

Liber scriptus proferetur,
In quo totum continetur,
Cum resurget creatura,
Judicanti responsura.

Remember

The written book shall be brought,
in which all is contained,
When mankind arises
to render account before the Judge.

Recordare, Jesu pie,
Quod sum causa tuae viae;
Ne me perdas illa die.
Redemisti crucem passus;
Quaerens me, sedisti, lassus.
Tantus labor non sit cassus.

Remember, gentle Jesus,
that I am the reason for your time on earth;
Do not cast me out on that day.
You saved me by enduring the cross;
Seeking me, you sank down wearily.
Let not such travail be in vain.

11) Hiroshima Lacrimosa

- Toge Sankichi (1917-53) Japanese

あの閃光が
忘れえようか!
瞬時に街頭の三万は消え
ちちをかえせ
ははをかえせ
としよりをかえせ
こどもをかえせ
わたしをかえせ
わたしにつながる にんげんをかえせ
にんげんの にんげんのよのあるかぎり
くずれぬへいわを
へいわをかえせ

Tears for Hiroshima

That flash of light!
How could I ever forget!
In a moment,
thirty thousand people vanished!

Bring back the fathers
Bring back the mothers
Bring back the old people
Bring back the children
Bring me back
Bring back the human beings I once knew.

For as long as there are human beings,
a world of human beings,
bring back peace, unbroken peace.

Dies Irae, dies illa
Solvat saeculum in favilla
Lacrimosa dies illa
Lacrimosa, Hiroshima

The day of wrath
shall consume the world in ashes
That day is one of weeping
Tears for Hiroshima.

12) Dulce et Decorum

- Wilfred Owen (1893-1918) British

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge,
Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs,
And towards our distant rest began to trudge.
Men marched asleep, many lost their boots,
But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame, all blind;
Drunk with fatigue;
deaf even to the hoots of gas-shells dropping softly behind.

Gas! GAS! Quick, boys!--An ecstasy of fumbling
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time,
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling
And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime.--
Dim through the misty panes and thick green light,
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.
In all my dreams before my helpless sight
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.
If in some smothering dreams, you too could pace behind
the wagon that we flung him in,
and watch the white eyes writhing in his face...

My friend, you would not tell with such high zest
To children ardent for some desperate glory, The old Lie:
Dulce et decorum est Pro patria mori.
(It is sweet and honorable to die for the father-land)

13) de Kinderen van de Vrede

– Menno Simons (1496-1561) Dutch

Wij zijn de kinderen van de Vrede
die hun zwaarden tot ploegscharen
en speren tot sikkels hebben gemaakt
en kennen geen oorlog meer.

Wehrlos und verlassen

- Carl Röhl (1810-1883) German

Wehrlos und verlassen sehnt sich
oft mein Herz nach stiller Ruh
doch Du dekkest mit dem Fittich
Deiner Liebe sanft mich zu

Unter Deinem sanften Fittich
Find'ich Frieden, Trost und Ruh
denn Du schirmest mich so freundlich
schüttest mich und deckst mich zu
Selig sind die' welche trauen dem Gott

the Children of Peace

We are the children of peace
who have beaten their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks,
and know war no more

Lonely and Defenseless

When I'm lonely and defenseless
my heart longs for rest and peace
Then you spread Your wings of caring
with Your love You cover me

Under Your gentle wing
I find peace, solace and rest
For You shield me so kindly
Protect me and console me.
Blessed are they who trust in God

14) Reconciliation

– Walt Whitman (1819 - 1892) - American

Word over all, beautiful as the sky,
Beautiful that war and all its deeds of carnage must in time be utterly lost,
That the hands of the sisters, Death and Night
incessantly softly wash again, and ever again, this soiled world;
For my enemy is dead, a man divine as myself is dead,
I look where he lies white-faced and still in the coffin
I draw near, bend down and touch lightly with my lips
the white face in the coffin

15) Agnus Dei

- Latin liturgy and the Vulgate Bible

Scio enim quod Redemptor meus vivit;
Agnus Dei, Princeps Pacis.

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi
Dona eis requiem
Requiem sempiternam.

Miserere nobis, Deus
Miserere mei, Deus

Si dixerimus quoniam peccatum non habemus
ipsi nos seducimus et veritas in nobis non est
Si confiteamur peccata nostra fidelis est et
iustus ut remittat nobis peccata
et emundet nos ab omni iniquitate

et ipse est propitiatio pro peccatis
Non pro nostris autem tantum
sed etiam pro totius mundi

Agnus Dei, Christe Jesu, Princeps Pacis
Dona nobis Pacem

For I know that my Redeemer lives;
Lamb of God, Prince of Peace.

O Lamb of God,
Who takes away the sins of the world,
Grant them rest,
Eternal rest.

Have mercy on us, O God.
Have mercy on me, O God.

If we claim to be without sin,
we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,
not only for ours
but also for the sins of the whole world.

O Lamb of God, Christ Jesus, Prince of Peace,
Grant us Peace.