

Department of Music  
Pittsburg State University  
Graduate Conducting Recital

# ***THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST***

by  
Theodore Dubois

***Dana Ihm, Director***

Flora Bycroft, Soprano  
Douglas Phelps, Tenor  
Marion Conover, Baritone

Tuesday, 7:00 P.M.  
April 9, 1985  
Chapel, Ozark Bible College  
Joplin, Missouri

# PROGRAM

## INTRODUCTION

"O All Ye Who Travel" Soprano Solo

## FIRST WORD

"Father, Forgive Them" Tenor, Baritone and Chorus

## SECOND WORD

"Verily, Thou Shalt Be In Paradise" Tenor and Baritone Duet, and Chorus

## THIRD WORD

"See, O Woman" Soprano, Tenor, Baritone, and Chorus

## FOURTH WORD

"God, My Father" Baritone Solo

## FIFTH WORD

"I Am Athirst" Tenor, Baritone and Chorus

## SIXTH WORD

"Father, Into Thy Hands I Commend My soul" Tenor and Chorus

## SEVENTH WORD

"It Is Finished" Soprano, Tenor, Baritone, and Chorus

## PRAYER

"Christ We Do All Adore Thee" Chorus

# TEXT

## Introduction "O All Ye Who Travel"

O all ye who travel upon the highway, hearken to me, and behold me; was e'er sorrow like unto my sorrow? (Lamentations 1:12, 13)

For the Lord Almighty hath dealt bitterly with me. Call me now no more Naomi, from today call me Mara. (Ruth 1:20)

## First Word "Father, Forgive Them"

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

And the people clamoured: He is death-guilty; take him, take him, let us crucify him! Be his blood on us, and on our children! (Matthew 27:22, 25; John 19:15)

## Second Word "Verily, Thou Shalt be in Paradise"

"Verily, thou shalt be in Paradise today with me. Amen, so I tell thee."

Hear me, O Lord, and remember me, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom. (Luke 23:42, 43)

## Third Word "See, O Woman"

"See, O woman! Here behold thy Son Beloved."

(John 19: 26)

See yon mother, bow'd in anguish  
Who beside the cross did languish  
Where on high her Son is born;

Is there mortal, who not feeleth  
To behold her where she kneeleth,  
So woeful, and all forlorn?

STABAT MATER

## Fourth Word "God, My Father"

"God, my Father why hast Thou forsaken me?"

(Matthew 27:46)

All those who were my friends, all have now forsaken me. (Job 19:14) And they that hate me do now prevail against me; (Psalm 142:3) And he whom I have cherished, he hath betrayed me. (Job 19:19)



Even the vine that I have chosen, and that I have planted: Wherefore art thou now so strangely turned into bitterness, that I by thee am crucified?

(Jeremiah 2:21)

#### **Fifth Word "I am athirst"**

"I am athirst!" (John 19:28)

And the Jews then passing by him, all did rail upon him, and wagging their heads at him, they said unto him:

Ah! Thou wouldst destroy the temple; if thou be Jesus, Son of the Father, now from the cross descend thou, that we behold it and believe on thee when we behold it. If thou art King over Israel, save thyself then! (Matthew 27:39-42)

#### **Sixth Word "Father, Into Thy Hands"**

"Father, into Thy hands I commend my soul."

For Thou art my God and my Father: Thou art my Savior. Into Thy hands I commend my soul.

(Luke 23:46)

#### **Seventh Word "It Is Finished!"**

And with a loud voice Jesus cried, exclaiming:

"It is finished!"

And he did bow his head, and rendered up his Spirit.

(John 19:30)

And it was about the sixth hour; and the sun was darkened, and darkness covered the earth, until about the ninth hour; and the veil of the temple was rent, and all the earth did quake; and the rocks were rent, and all the graves were opened wide.

(Matthew 27:46, 51)

#### **Prayer**

Christ we do all adore Thee, and we do praise Thee forever; for on the holy cross hast thou the world from sin redeemed.

## PROGRAM NOTES

Theodore Dubois was an eminent French composer, teacher, and organist. Although some of his compositions are still performed, there are limited resources containing specific information about his life and works.

Theodore Dubois was born in Rosnay, Marne on August 24, 1837, and died in Paris on June 11, 1924. He studied music at the Paris Conservatory from 1853-1861, and graduated with honors. After spending five years in Rome, Italy he returned to Paris where he was appointed Chapel Master of the Saint-Clothilde church. It was during this time that Dubois wrote "The Seven Last Words of Christ" which was produced on Good Friday in 1867.

Dubois began teaching at the Paris Conservatory in 1871 and in 1896 became the director of the Conservatory. He held this position until the date of his retirement in 1905.

Dubois wrote in nearly every genre. His more important works include: seven stage works, five oratorios, nine cantatas, seventy-one motets, eighty-eight pieces for organs, seventy-two songs, and several orchestral pieces.

"The Seven Last Words of Christ" is a musical setting of the story of the crucifixion. It includes eight movements and is written for soloists, chorus, and orchestra. The tenor and baritone soloists share the role of Christ, while the tenor, baritone, and soprano soloists are all employed as the Narrator. The Crowd is represented by the chorus. The story line is related through a continuous, narrative text. The text itself is an aggregate version of the four Gospel accounts of the crucifixion. The words spoken by Christ are scriptural, while the words of the Narrator and the Crowd are usually paraphrased from the scriptural text. The work concludes with a non-scriptural Prayer that is in Chorale form.



## ***CHOIR PERSONNEL***

### **Soprano**

Sharon Baumgardner  
Kathleen Coffee  
Dana Fraley  
Kristin Hurn  
Cheryl Leon  
Denise Phipps  
Cathy Riechman  
Linda Sawyer

### **Alto**

Lu Ann Cox  
Amy Davidson  
Shana Dickey  
Cathy Haenig  
Gena Beth Patchin  
Kim Simmons  
Lisa Wands  
Stephanie Ward

### **Tenor**

Chris Belk  
Daren Carter  
Harley Ihm  
Jeff King  
Billy Mieir  
Keith Rows

### **Bass**

Jay Bassett  
Keith Colley  
Chad Earhart  
Steven Foster  
Mark Moore  
Pat Sweeten  
Kevin Tyler

Debbie Wohlenhaus, piano  
Carol Hoyt, organ

Deep appreciation is extended to all those who gave of their time and efforts to make this concert possible.

\*A reception will follow in the lower level of the Chapel. Everyone is invited to attend.