

# Music of America V

## Cleveland Chamber Collective

April 20, 2023

[Disciples Christian Church](#)

3663 Mayfield Rd  
Cleveland Heights, OH

April 28, 2023

[Inlet Dance Theater](#)

2937 West 25<sup>th</sup> St, suite D  
Cleveland, OH

OATH BREAKER  
a Requiem

Ty Alan Emerson

- I. Introit: Let's Talk of Graves and Epitaphs
- II. Kyrie eleison: The Effects of Fear
- III. Dies Irae-This Day of Wrath: Cursed be the Hands that Made these Holes
- IV. Offertory: We Lost Officers-Some Really Good Officers
- V. Sanctus: Last, Best Hope
- VI. Agnus Dei: His Rash, Fierce Blaze of Riot Cannot Last
- VII. Lux aeterna: To Be Free
- VIII. Libera Me: Grief Never Ends, but it Changes

### PERFORMERS

Linda White, flutes, Emily Cornelius, violin,  
Brian Slawta, viola, Trevor Kazarian, cello,  
Eric Charnofsky, piano, Dylan Moffitt, percussion  
Ty Alan Emerson, conductor

Video elements by Kelli Blood

Audio recording by [Erie Fire Sound](#), Jonathon Smith

## NOTES

This work is a reaction to the events of January 6, 2021, when a mob of over two thousand supporters of the “big lie” stormed the United States Capitol.

Like many, I watched in horror as the events unfolded on national news feeds. It was like watching the Towers fall, or the space shuttle explode. I felt anger and helplessness, and sorrow and compassion for those killed or injured. But in the cases of the Towers or shuttle, I was somehow a little divorced. Stunned, yes, but able to accept that it was something done to us or something out of our control.

Unlike those tragedies, the perpetrators on January 6 were my fellow Americans, my neighbors. Even though I wasn't there, this was an attack on me, my belief in our Constitution, my hopes for our Democracy. It was the ultimate peak of an era rife with division and the delusion that if you say something loud enough, it must be true. I could not hide from this event; it was far too personal. I set to work...

I gathered information, learned what I could from depositions and analysis, rescued tweets, and phone records. I read amendments to the Constitution and indictments. I witnessed citizens all around the country and in places just a town or two over, being arrested for their participation on that day. I struggled to process it all.

This work is not meant to underscore the video presented at the hearings or series of chronological events. I chose the frame of a Requiem, because it is about emotional and spiritual process. Assembling it was a kind of spiritual process, helping me work through the events and manage the emotional impact of the all that followed.

It is my wish that by sharing this work, combined with our shared experiences, we ALL may process our grief and claw back some hope.

## TEXT

### **I. Introit: Let's talk of graves and epitaphs**

Let's talk of graves and epitaphs;  
Make dust our paper, and with rainy eyes  
Write sorrow on the bosom of the Earth.  
Let's choose executors, and talk of wills:  
And yet, not so,-for what can we bequeath...  
...nothing can we call our own but death  
...let us sit upon the ground,  
And tell sad stories of the death of Kings;  
...for within the hollow crown

That rounds the mortal temple of a king  
Keeps Death his court;  
...and there the antick sits,  
Scoffing his state, and grinning at his pomp;  
Allowing him a breath, a little scene,  
To monarchize, be fear'd, and kill with looks;  
Infusing him with self and vain conceit,-  
As if this flesh, which walls about our life,  
Were brass impregnable; and humour'd thus,  
Comes at the last, and with a little pin  
Bores through his castle-wall, and-farewell  
King!

*(Richard II, Shakespeare)*

I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President  
Of the United States...

*(Presidential Oath of Office)*

## **II. Kyrie eleison: The effects of fear**

One of the effects of fear is to disturb the senses and cause things to appear other than what they are.

*(Miguel de Cervantes)*

You can have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the -government, while I have the most solemn one to “preserve, protect, and defend” it.

*(Abraham Lincoln)*

Standing down and standing by, sir.

*(Proud Boys responding to Presidential debate)*

## **III. Dies Irae-This day of wrath; Cursed be the hands that made these holes**

“Protestors are literally storming the Capitol. Breaking windows on doors. Rushing in.”

“We are under siege up here at the Capitol.”

“They have breached the Capitol.”

“There’s an armed standoff at the house chamber door.”

“We are helpless.”

“POTUS has to come out firmly and tell protestors to disperse. Someone is going to get killed.”

“He needs to stop this. Now.”

“We need an Oval address. He has to lead now. It has gone too far and gotten out of hand.”

*(Text messages to the President’s Chief of Staff, January 6)*

We aren’t getting through this without a civil war. Too late for that. Prepare your mind, body, spirit.

*(leader of the Oath Keepers through social media)*

O, cursed be the hands that made these holes!  
Cursed be the heart that had the heart to do it!  
Cursed the blood that let this blood from hence.  
Foul devil...thou hast made the happy earth thy hell,  
Filled with cursing cries and deep exclaims  
If thou delight to view thy heinous deeds,  
Behold this pattern of thy butcheries...  
Villain, thou know’st no law of God nor man:  
In thy foul throat thou liest...

*(Lady Ann from Richard II, Shakespeare)*

These are the things and events that happen when a sacred landslide victory is so unceremoniously & viciously stripped away from great patriots who have been badly and unfairly treated for so long...Remember this day forever!

*(former President via social media, January 6)*

You must not dare, for shame, to talk of mercy  
For your own reasons turn into your bosoms,  
As dogs upon their masters...

What shall I say to thee...though cruel,  
Ingrateful, savage, and inhuman creature!

*(Henry V, Shakespeare)*

Then trip him that his heels kick at Heaven; and that his soul  
May be as damned and black as Hell, whereto it goes.

*(Hamlet, Shakespeare)*

#### **IV. Offertory: We lost officers-some really good officers**

I can just remember my breath catching in my throat, because what I saw was just a war scene.

There were officers on the ground...They were bleeding...it was carnage. It was chaos...

*(US Capitol Police Officer Caroline Edwards,  
Testimony, January 6 committee)*

I heard an “Attention, all units!” radio dispatch that the Capitol had been breached... I rushed into the Capitol... I saw rioters...carrying a Confederate flag, a red “MAGA” flag, and a “Don’t Tread on Me,” flag...I decided to stand my ground there...

*(US Capitol Police Officer Harry A. Dunn,  
Testimony, January 6 Committee)*

Despite being outnumbered, we did our job. Every member of the House of Representatives, Senator, and staff member made it home safely. Sadly, as a result of that day, we lost officers – some really good officers. But we held the line to protect our democratic process, and because the alternative would have been a disaster.

*(US Capitol Police Sgt. Anquilino A. Gonell,  
Testimony, January 6 Committee)*

#### **V. Sanctus: Last, best hope**

My dream is of a place and a time when America will once again be seen at the last, best hope of Earth.

*(Abraham Lincoln)*

#### **VI. Agnus Dei- His rash fierce blaze of riot cannot last**

His rash fierce blaze of riot cannot last,  
For violent fires soon burn out themselves;  
Small showers last long, but sudden storms are short...  
Light vanity, insatiate cormorant,  
Consuming means, soon preys upon itself.  
This royal throne of kings, this scepter’d isle,  
This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,  
This other Eden...

This land of such dear souls, this dear dear land,  
Dear for her reputation through the world  
Is now leased out...  
Bound in with the triumphant sea  
Whose rocky shore beats back the envious siege  
Of watery Neptune, is now bound in with shame,  
With inky blots and rotten parchment bonds:  
...That..., that was wont to conquer others,  
Hath made a shameful conquest of itself  
*(Gaunt from Richard II, Shakespeare)*

## **VII. Lux aeterna: To be free**

For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to Live in a way that respects and enhances the Freedom of others.  
*(Nelson Mandela)*

Our responsibility as citizens is to address the inequalities that linger and we must secure our birthright freedoms for all people.  
*(Barak Obama)*

## **VIII. Libera Me: Grief never ends, but it changes**

Grief never ends, but it changes. It is a passage, not a place to stay. Grief is not a sign of weakness nor a lack of faith: it is the price of love.  
*(Queen Elizabeth I)*

My friends, love is better than anger. Hope if better than fear. Optimism is better than despair. So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic and we'll change the world.  
*(Jack Layton)*

## **THE CLEVELAND CHAMBER COLLECTIVE**

The Cleveland Chamber Collective is committed to the idea that great music can have a great impact. Leonard Bernstein said, "Art cannot change events. But it can affect people so that they are changed...enriched, ennobled, encouraged." Our mission is to enrich, ennoble, and encourage the diverse people of our community by providing exceptional artistic experiences to all. We continue to seek out new and innovative ways to engage our community, challenging the normal performance paradigms. We further seek out similarly motivated partners in the hopes that our shared resources will have a greater impact than our work separately.