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## 'Requiem' Ends Music Season

Dr. Sevitzky Conducts Difficult Work

By HENRY BUTLER

Verdi's "Requiem" was a powerful dramatic conclusion to the Indianapolis Symphony season yesterday afternoon at the Murat.

More than any other comparable choral work, the "Requiem" interprets the mysteries of death and eternity in terms of operatic music.

That comment has been sometimes made in criticism of the Verdi composition. Some listeners, preferring the relative austerity of Bach or Brahms, find the "Requiem" emotionally over-intense.

The work is prodigiously difficult, a fact which I suspect contributes to Fabien Sevitzky's evident enthusiasm for it. With great energy and concentration, Dr. Sevitzky kept soloists, orchestra and chorus together in some of the trickiest passages to be found in choral music.

Miss Robertson Successful

Yesterday's soloists were Ingrid Robertson, soprano; Mary Van Kirk, Metropolitan contralto; David Lloyd, tenor, and James Pease, bass-baritone.

Miss Robertson, whose assignment called for some Italian-operatic high, sustained notes and some deceptive changes of key, was pretty generally successful. I think her voice, like Miss Van Kirk's, is more remarkable for volume than for quality; but since much of Verdi demands range and power, it was fortunate that both women could sing above the orchestra and chorus.

Miss Van Kirk, as is appropriate in the Met, has enough vocal klawt to make a Wagnerian dragon cringe. She sustained the mezzo-soprano melodic line with vigor and flexibility.

Mr. Lloyd's Tenor Good

Despite a slight constricted-throat quality, peculiar to oratorio tenors, Mr. Lloyd has some fine tones. So has Mr. Pease, native Hoosier from Richmond, who was obliged occasionally to bellow like a boatswain's mate to be heard above the orchestra. Verdi wrote so much string-and-wind calisthenics into the "Requiem" score that all the quartet of soloists have to work mightily.

Verdi learned as he went on, progressing, for example, from "Il Trovatore" to "Otello." I had the impression yesterday that ultimately he might have revised the "Requiem," trimming it here and there, doing more than he first did with the best musical ideas in it.

Elmer Steffen's Symphonic choir is steadily gaining in quality and volume. Yesterday the choir did admirably with some of the toughest choral passages in the literature.

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