

REQUIEM

A challenging work
gets its first performance,
not in mourning
but for reflection.
The choir struggled for months.
Orchestra members asked many questions.
Some Latin text,
but poetry by Whitman and Teasdale
and Rilke as well.
The music ends.
Unexpected silence
of many seconds.

Then ovation.
A sign perhaps
that some here
were approached by the mystery and loss
that is death—
the quiet rest.

Jack King

*Written in celebration of the premiere on May 6, 2012,
at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana
of
FLOWER OF DEPARTURE: A UNIVERSAL REQUIEM
by Cary Boyce*

*Choir and orchestra directed by
Susan Swaney*