

## Cary Boyce—REVIEWS:

Comments from the May 2019 *Vonnegut: Requiem* concerts:

"This meant SO much to me. I was Vonnegut's student. I have a book coming out ... in Nov. on his writing advice ... in which I quote his efforts on revising the requiem and his disappointment when he heard it AT LAST, because the music drowned out the words. So I feared that would happen again. But it didn't, He would have LOVED this performance." [Underlines changed to CAPS in this transcription]

"This is one of the greatest things I have ever seen."

And the same person wrote this to Dan Wakefield [Editor of Vonnegut's letters for publication]: "Dan, I just came from the Requiem. It was stupendous!!!!!! Someone in the choir told me you were the conduit for it. My God, you would love it. Know that you helped along an amazing work of art, and honored our mutual friend Kurt enormously."

And others:

"Fluent and creative."—Washington Post

"*Dreams within a Dream*, Boyce's new oratorio commissioned and performed by the Bloomington Chamber Singers is an honest, inspired, and deftly crafted work, one of scope; of artistic worth."  
—*Bloomington Herald-Times*

"...the best by far is [Boyce's] very brief but absolutely stunning *Ave Maria*. Boyce's lush vocal polyphony and his careful control of harmony enable this work to stand alongside the very best music in this vein."  
—*American Record Guide*

"Three extraordinary pieces by American composer Cary Boyce ...compare and contrast quite favorably with spiritualists/minimalists Pärt and Tavener. *Noche oscura* is a haunting setting of words by the Spanish monk and mystic St. John of the Cross, and its bittersweet intensity lingers long after the melody has faded. Boyce's setting of the Marian *Ave Maria* is as close to a masterpiece as you can come in four minutes. *Nightshade* is for classical music fans who know where Freddy the Freeloader comes from...Hey MacArthur folks! Give that boy a grant and some Ritalin so he can spend more time composing!"  
—*Sequenza 21*

"I personally know of no group that could have performed all that technically demanding vocal/instrumental/electronic music with the kind of ease and total command brought to it."—Shulamit Ran, Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, Director of Tempus Fugit Festival 2000

"A performance not to be missed...Such perfection!"—*Ha'aretz*, Jerusalem

"... easily one of the most impressive new music ensembles in America today, and I look forward with impatience to their next recording."—*International Record Review*

"A brilliant musician and a world-class composer."  
—David Baker, Distinguished Professor of Music; Jazz Department Chair, Indiana University