ABSTRACT

In response to the First World War (1914-1918) and in tandem with the English Musical Renaissance of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, a trend began to surface in which composers memorialized the dead. This trend manifested itself through the utilization of English poetry, implementation of non-standard religious text(s), especially the English Burial Service, and/or grandeur in scale. Six constituent works are identified and examined for their relationship to this trend. This trend is referred to as a subgenre within the genre of the Requiem, and it is coined as the “English Requiem.”

The continuation of the subgenre into the twenty-first century is briefly discussed at the end of this study. The purpose of this document is to provide a clear perspective on the development of the subgenre through an understanding of the broader genre of the Requiem. Further, it seeks to examine the causes that led to the genesis of the subgenre, the constituent works associated with its genesis, and the continuation of the practice provides a clear concept of this important facet of English music history.