Four Weddings and a Funeral or Two: Ceremonials of Celebration in the Early Modern Era

Cynthia Cyrus, Professor of Musicology
Vanderbilt University
cynthia.cyrus@Vanderbilt.edu

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What are some of the events of the “later Middle Ages”? 

PLEASE BRAINSTORM WITH YOUR NEIGHBOR: 

You’re trying to reconstruct what was happening in 13\textsuperscript{th} to 15\textsuperscript{th} century Europe. What are your three-to-five crucial events?
Lots and Lots of Deaths...

For which we have three important framing narratives
Giotto, Last Judgment

There's a lovely video study on Khan Academy, worth your time:

The Requiem Mass.... Was mostly plainchant!

- Mention of Eucharist in honor of the dead: end of 2\textsuperscript{nd} century
- Chant itself dates to 10\textsuperscript{th} c
- These were votive masses, and texts varied until the Council of Trent, mid-16\textsuperscript{th} century
- The mass is named after its introit ("Requiem mass") or its function ("Missa pro defunctis")
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine (INTROIT FOR THE REQUIEM MASS): “Grant them eternal rest, O Lord”:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TjrsqJaLDOg
Vienna Hofburgkapelle

For more listening, the requiem mass in plainchant, with various artists:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzKFz8b0JxY&list=PLX68ZEYlh74uVyZuzNzLdlabS3em1l_XD&index=5
Dies Irae (The day of wrath, that day will dissolve the world in ashes, David being witness along with the Sibyl....)

Dies Irae: sequence [structure A A B B C C D D]

Ingmar Bergman’s Seventh Seal:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnD3ZgfEg8s (2.12)
(see also the stage entertainments: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4d_peULPTc)

Performed in alternatim, men and boys, by Alessio Randon and the choir Aurora Surgit

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DlR90NLdP-0
So, our cultural clichés in mind... let’s expand our understanding, starting with
The Black Death
Office of the Dead

1) Performed daily

2) Readings from the book of Job
   a) The first lesson (Job 7:16-21) begins: “Spare me, O Lord, for my days are nothing.”
   b) The second lesson (Job 10:1-7) asks, “Tell me why thou judgest me so? Doth it seem good to thee that thou shouldest calumniate me, and oppress me, the work thy own hands?”

3) Antiphon/psalm/responses vary by use

Deller Consort: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Elx_iOWpHg

   Ego sum resurrection et vita (00.00) / De profundis clamavi a te Domine (0.46)
https://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft1d5nb0d9&chunk.id=d0e5802&toc.depth=1&toc.id=&brand=ucpress
But... what about special occasions???
Death... musical memorials

Ockeghem’s Requiem

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpEZIhf_ETw
Polyphony: Ockeghem: earliest surviving polyphonic setting of the Requiem Mass

- **Requiem Mass**: Ockeghem, Requiem (aka Missa pro Defunctis), Introit, Ensemble Organum, Marcel Pérès:
  - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpEZlfh_ETw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpEZlfh_ETw)
    - This is the introit again – (4.38): ANT – PS [1.46] – ANT [2.54]
  - Created for the funeral of ?Charles VII in 1461 or after death of Louis XI in 1483

Another recording, by the Hilliard ensemble: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-z_MI4Z2hc&t=356s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-z_MI4Z2hc&t=356s)
“No, mine was first”

- Dufay’s 3-voice requiem Mass was copied during 1470 (but it doesn’t survive)
  - Died in 1474: Dufay requested that his motet *Ave regina celorum* be sung for him as he died, with pleas for mercy interpolated between verses of the antiphon, but time was insufficient for this to be arranged.
- Ockeghem’s copy was in the Chigi codex from 1500 (but Ockeghem died in 1497)
  - Ockeghem uses the chant in **paraphrase**

- Then, everybody seems to write one:
  - Pierre de la Rue, probably while employed at Courtrai
  - Antoine Brumel, first published in 1516
  - Antoine de Févin
  - Claudin de Sermisy
  - Johannes Prioris
  - Jean Richafort
  - Etcetera
Pressures on church music

• A wave of 13th century monastic foundations:
  • Dominican, Franciscan, Clarissan foundations
  • Associated provisions of library and sacristy
• Benefices (hiring professional substitutes)
• Patrons and the scramble for good P.R.
• Death (resulting in obits and memorial services)
And other economic and spiritual concerns:

- Economic impact of death
- Concerns about the hereafter
- Liturgical impact of burials and blessing
- Artistic impact
- MORE MONEY IN THE ECONOMY FOR THE ARTS
- Musical impact
  - More commissions
  - More benefices
  - Less competition
Musicians in Memory: Déplorations

• Machaut, 1377: by Franciscus Andrieu (poet Eustache Deschamps)
  • “Armes, amours, Dames, Chevalerie / O fleur des fleurs de toute melodie”
  • Calls on categories of people to mourn.
  • It’s Andrieu’s only surviving composition

Performance by TENET
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4L-GYUbO6E

Excerpt performed by Sollazzo
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmwqUyUNp5o
Déploration sur la mort de Binchois, *aka* Planctus sur la mort de Binchois: “Miserere pie Jesu” – composed by ... OCKEGHEM

(by Graindelavoix, directed by Björn Schmelzer.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9tcg1VfKPs

Death, you have wounded with your dart
The father of joyousness, 
Spreading your great flag
Over Binchois, the model of goodness.
We grieve and lament for his body, 
Which now lies under the ground;
Alas, please in pity... pray for his soul (stanza one of three)
Déploration sur la mort d’Ockeghem: Nymphes des bois, deesses des fontaines

- One of the widely circulated pieces: a master of one generation paying homage to the generation before
- Cappella Partensis
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qToBYimC8AE
- Other recordings
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2on2P7syDzQ (with score): Hilliards
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTvYwoGdD8Y (Graindelavoix)
Wood-nymphs, goddesses of the fountains,
Skilled singers of every nation,
Turn your voices, so clear and lofty,
To piercing cries and lamentation
Because Atropos, terrible satrap,
Has caught your Ockeghem in her trap,
The true treasurer of music and master,
Learned, handsome and by no means stout.
It is a source of great sorrow that the earth must cover him.

2.55:

Put on the clothes of mourning,
Josquin, Pierre de la Rue[?], Brumel, Compère,
And weep great tears from your eyes,
For you have lost your good father.
May they rest in peace. Amen.