

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)  
Der Gerechte Kommt Um

Johannes Brahms (1833-97)  
Geistliches Lied

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47)  
Hear my Prayer  
Sechs Sprüche  
Verleih' uns Frieden

Interval

John Rutter (b. 1945)  
Requiem

**Bach: Der Gerechte Kommt Um**

"Music owes as much to Bach as Christianity does to its founder." - Robert Schumann.

J S Bach, together with his near exact contemporary, G F Handel, represents the ultimate flowering of the style of music which has become known as Baroque. Unlike Handel, who travelled extensively throughout Europe and achieved fame and fabulous riches through his music, ending his days as composer to King George I, Bach never left Germany, and by the end of his life was already considered a musical anachronism. His music has survived (largely because of the efforts of Mendelssohn almost a century later) and is now regarded as the ultimate expression of musical technique, combined with a deep humanity. When the Voyager space probe was launched in the 1970s, a collection of messages were assembled, informing any civilisation that might find it of who the human race was and what they had achieved. The music that was used was Bach's.

In this Passiontide motet, Bach takes a five part unaccompanied motet by his predecessor at Leipzig, Johann Kuhnau, and recomposes it, substituting a new German text for the original Latin, and adding an instrumental accompaniment.

Der Gerechte kommt um,  
und niemand ist, der es zu Herzen nehme,  
und heilige Leute werden aufgerafft,  
und niemand achtet drauf.  
Denn die Gerechten werden weggerafft  
vor dem Unglück;  
und die richtig vor sich gewandelt haben,  
kommen zum Frieden  
und ruhen in ihren Kammern.

The righteous perish,  
and no one takes it to heart;  
the devout are taken away,  
and no one understands.  
For the righteous are taken away  
and spared from evil;  
those who walk uprightly  
enter into peace  
and will rest in their chambers