

Agnus Dei-Requiem  
Gabriel Faure  
(1845-1924)

Gabriel Faure was a French composer born in Pamiers, Ariège, France. It had become apparent at an early age he would become a musician. Louis Niedermeyer, upon hearing Faure, accepted him as a pupil. Faure also studied with Camille Saint-Saens. While studying with Saint-Saens, Faure was exposed to the music of Franz Liszt, and Richard Wagner.

Faure composed the Requiem in D minor Op. 48 in the years 1887-1890. In seven movements, this Latin choral-orchestral setting is one of his best known major works.

The term *Agnus Dei* translates to The Lamb of God that was slain. The term Requiem translates to a Mass (musical Composition) for the repose of the souls of the dead. Faure has been quoted "Everything I managed to entertain by way of religious illusion I put into my Requiem, which moreover is dominated from the beginning to end by a very human feeling of faith in eternal rest." I believe he is not only referring to the text, but also the instrumentation, how peaceful the setting and introduction is, and how it displays peace even before the chorus sings.