

Franz Beyer, Who Revised Mozart's Requiem, Is Dead at 96

By **Richard Sandomir**

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Franz Beyer, a German violist and musicologist who carefully revised Mozart's Requiem, the choral masterpiece that the composer left unfinished at his death nearly two centuries earlier, died on June 29 in a hospital in Munich. He was 96.

His son Friedemann said the cause was heart failure.

The Requiem is one of Mozart's most beloved works, often turned to at times of communal grief, but it is not entirely his. He received a substantial commission for the work in the summer of 1791, but when he died that December he had not completed it.

Needing the money that would come with its completion, Mozart's wife, Constanze, asked his student and assistant Franz Xaver Süssmayr, then only 25, to finish what was roughly half-done. In the eyes of some, Süssmayr's effort was imperfect at best, but it became the standard.

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