

# BEATI MORTUI - FELIX MENDELSSOHN

## OVERVIEW

This setting of Revelation 14:13 was composed by Mendelssohn as a part of a 2-song set to commemorate the medical professor Dr. Christian Martin Koch. The Thomanerchor (St. Thomas Choir of Leipzig), which still exists today, premiered this work at an annual ceremony on February 12, 1837 in Leipzig, Germany.



FELIX  
MENDELSSOHN



1837



MUSICAL PERIOD:  
EARLY ROMANTIC

1

### TEXT

Write the text translation in the score to properly inform your syllabic stress, phrasing, and interpretation. Access this translation here that features a poetic translation and word-for-word translation.

2

### SOLFEGE

The A section of this piece tonicizes C Major and its relative minor. Even though the B section starts in F Major, continue with a C-Do as this modulation quickly evolves to return the piece back to C Major. Altered syllables DI, FI, SI, & TE are used.

3

### VOWELS

Use each pure vowel to create a rich, resonant, sound that is accented by consonants, rather than interrupted. Consider practicing on vowels only to achieve this. Ensure the Latin word "in" is pronounced "een" as in "seen".

4

### FORM

This piece is in ternary (ABA') form, where the beginning/end are similar and the middle provides contrast. Ensure the differences between the A sections are performed correctly and the middle section takes on a different character.

5

### TEXTURE

The texture of this piece is mostly homophonic (chordal), where voices align in rhythm/text. However, the A' section is more polyphonic, where the collision of vocal lines creates the harmonies. Ensure you are following the conductor's notes to best showcase the conductor's vision of the texture.

TEXT  
TRANSLATION



SCAN ME