- 1. "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do!".
- 2. "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise".
- 3. "Woman, behold your son: behold your mother".
- 4. "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?".
- 5. "I thirst".
- 6. "It is finished!".
- 7. "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit".

Seven times did Christ speak to his Father and people. All these sayings, although scattered in four canonical gospels, complete one another in the context of God's plan of salvation, creating a moving testimonial of forgiveness, salvation, heartache, loneliness, suffering, victory and faith in prayer.



Michelangelo - Crucifixion

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Written by bluesever Thursday, 01 April 2010 11:31 - Last Updated Wednesday, 18 March 2015 16:19

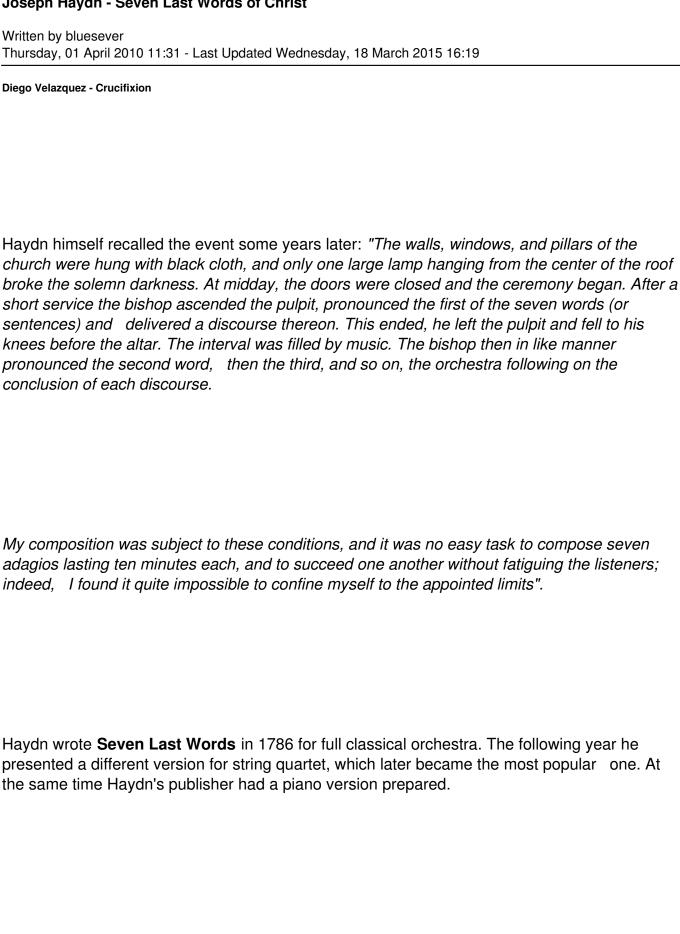
"Oratorio without text" related to the last words of Christ - Haydn received such an unusual request from the superior of the confraternity **Hermandad de la Santa Cueva in Cadiz**. He fulfilled the task exquisitely, creating one of his most popular compositions.

Joseph Haydn - Seven Last Words of Christ

The work consists of seven instrumental sonatas (seven times adagio) preceded by an introduction and crowned by one quick-paced fragment - *II Terremonto* - picturing an earthquake and the resurection. Each of the sonatas announce a fragment of Gospel - the words of Christ spoken before his death.

The composition was first played in Cadiz on Good Friday 1787 and was greeted with such acclaim that three other versions were later created - a vocal one, a quartet one and another one for piano.





In 1975 Haydn travelled around Germany and Austria. In Passau he heard an arrangement with chorus created by Kapellmeister Joseph Friebert, who had added a few chorals to the original. It wasn't until then that Haydn created his own version including chorus, which he then thought

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of as the most important oratorio. He used the lyrics written by Baron Gottfried van Swieten. This final version was first performed in Vienna in 1796 and published in 1801.

"The Seven Last Words of Our Saviour on the Cross" is one of the most spiritual and subtle compositions of Haydn. It was musical proclamation of great piety.

It's really beautiful music, full of expression and grace.



Joseph Haydn, portrait from 1792 by Hardy