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Dear Malcolm, leaving a message on Kate Quarry's answer-phone is scarcely adequate thanks, so I am sending you a note of sincere thanks for the excellent performance of my 'Requiem for a Tribe Brother'. You and the choir gave us great satisfaction with every aspect of the music - tempi, textures, clear harmonic understanding and a profound sense of the spiritual and musical structure. It was difficult afterwards to single out individual soloists and duetists as all were good and understood their place in the tapestry.

It no longer matters, tragically, that poor Vivian Walker (Kabul Noonuccal) died of an Aids-related condition, and he and his magnificent post-mother died sometime afterwards. Her death was not unrelated to her. Various kidney and liver maladies were probably caused by Vivian's painful slow declension. She asked that Aids not be mentioned. The Queensland Aborigines have greatly suffered. She asked that it not be mentioned - "We have already suffered enough." - but after her death the national press made a meal of it. Vivian appointed me his Tribe Brother. His fellow-Aborigines has largely deserted him, but I, who had known him well, kept in touch by phone in his last days and he nominated me his tribe-brother. This is a great honour conferred by every male at puberty. He chooses a companion for the After-life (The Dreaming) as in Dante. I have never before heard of an Aborigine taking a Caucasian Tribe-Brother so I was a very honoured. The Aborigines trace their ancestry (like the classical Greek states) for some 80,000 years. The common features of their civilised life

approaches religion very differently from Judaism and Christianity. They seem not to understand any problem about combining Christianity with their tribal spirituality; so when Vivian died they had a funeral service followed by a Christian Requiem in the Doornuccal language.

Then his mother and brother asked me to write a Latin Requiem for him which is what you sang. Alas his mother did not live to hear it. Naturally, I hope for many performances in the future, particularly since the didgeridoo effect (a risk?) came off so well, and since, although not of my doing, the association of the AIDS plague seems to with it even if not essentially.

Thank you and yours again for a beautiful and moving performance.

All best season greetings,

Yours = Xsto

Malcolm W.