

Great Sacred Music

Sunday, August 21, 2022

Plainsong with fauxbourdons by Hancock: Psalm 8: O Lord, Our Governor
Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys, Gerre Hancock

Rowland Huw Prichard, arr. by Stephen Cleobury: Alleluya, sing to Jesus
Choir of King's College, Cambridge, Sir Stephen Cleobury
Richard Gowers, organ

Herbert Howells: Regina caeli
Choir of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, Frank W. Boles

"Fauxbourdons" refers to a section of the chant in which the tenors sing the melody. The text for "Alleluya, sing to Jesus" was written by William Chatterton Dix. Prichard's tune is known as "Hyfrydol" which means "pleasant." Herbert Howells' setting of "Regina caeli" was one of four Marian anthems that he wrote for Richard Runciman Terry of Westminster Cathedral in 1916.

Leonel Power: Salve Regina
Hilliard Ensemble, Paul Hillier

John Rutter: Behold, the tabernacle of God
Cambridge Singers; City of London Sinfonia, John Rutter

Johann Pachelbel: Toccata in E minor
Marilyn Mason, organ
Fisk Organ, Opus 87, "The Marilyn Mason Organ" at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, designed in honor of the performer

Leonel Power (1370 to 1385 – June 5, 1445) was an English composer. This setting of the Marian devotion "Salve Regina" (Hail, Queen of Heaven) may have been composed by either Leonel Power or John Dunstable. Musicologists are not certain who wrote it. While German composer Johann Pachelbel is best known to audiences at large as the composer of a well-known Canon, he actually composed hundreds of works for keyboard and other instruments.

Commentary: John Shelton Reed

Sir Arthur Sullivan: Onward, Christian soldiers
Choir of Wells Cathedral, Malcolm Archer
Rupert Gough, organ

Javier Busto: Ave Maria
Utah State University Chamber Singers, Cory Evans

Sir Charles Villiers Stanford: Ye Holy Angels Bright, Op. 135 No. 1
Worcester Cathedral Choir, Donald Hunt
Paul Trepte, organ

Marcel Dupré: Carillon, Op. 27 No. 4
Michael Murray, organ
1947 Aeolian-Skinner organ, Opus 1134 in Boston Symphony Hall

The text of “Onward, Christian soldiers” was written by Sabine Baring-Gould. It is commonly paired with the tune “St. Gertrude” composed by Sir Arthur Sullivan. Javier Busto (1949-) is a Spanish composer. Irish composer Stanford numbered Brahms among his friends. This association developed during Stanford’s time spent in Germany studying at the Leipzig Conservatory. "Carillon" is one of 7 Pièces which Marcel Dupré published in 1931.

J.S. Bach: Cantata 102, "Herr, deine Augen sehen nach dem Glauben"
Holland Boys' Choir; Netherlands Bach Collegium, Pieter Jan Leusink
Ruth Holton, soprano; Sytse Buwalde, alto
Nico van der Meel, tenor; Bas Ramselaar, bass

The German translates as “Lord, Thine eyes look towards the Faith!” The cantata opens with a short sinfonia which leads to one of those energetic choruses which Bach seems to craft from the most simple musical motives. The work was first performed in Leipzig on August 25, 1726.

Philippe Rogier: Missa Philippus Secundus Rex Hispaniae
Magnificat; His Majesty's Sagbutts and Cornets, Philip Cave

Flemish composer Philippe Rogier (c1561-1596) spent most of his career working in the Spanish court.

Johann Pachelbel: Fugue on the Magnificat sexti toni, No. 1
Joseph Payne, organ
The Gothic organ (c. 1500) in the Parish Church of St. Valentinus & Dinoysius, Kiedrich (Rheingau), Germany

British/Swiss German organist Joseph Payne (1937-2008) made over 100 recordings of early keyboard music.

Karl Jenkins: The Peacemakers
Berlin Radio Choir; City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus; London Symphony Orchestra; The Really Big Chorus (1000 voices), Sir Karl Jenkins

The Peacemakers is Welsh composer Karl Jenkins’ (b. 1944) latest major choral work. It consists of 17 movements with texts by Gandhi, Martin Luther King, the Dalai Lama, Nelson Mandela, Anne Frank and Mother Teresa, the Bible and the Qur’an.

Anonymous: Messe de Tournai
Trio Mediaeval

This 14th century mass appears to be the first setting of the mass written as an entire composition. Apparently the music of the mass used to be chosen from a variety of sources according to the whims and inclinations of the celebrant.

Avraham Caceres: Le El Elim
Ensemble Salomone Rossi

The title in English "To the Mighty God." Avraham Caceres (fl. 1718-1740) was a Dutch composer-in-residence to the Amsterdam Sephardic community.