

Great Sacred Music

Sunday, January 16, 2022

This edition of Great Sacred Music is dedicated in memory of English organist and composer, Dr. Francis Jackson (1917-2022). He was Organist of York Minster for thirty-six years. Dr. Jackson died last Monday at the age of 104.



Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov: O Gentle Light of Holy Glory
Chamber Choir "Lege Artis", Boris Abalyan

William Henry Monk: Abide with me
Choir of King's College, Cambridge, Sir Stephen Cleobury
Richard Gowers, organ

Anton Bruckner: Ave Maria
Choir of King's College, Cambridge
Sir Stephen Cleobury

Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov (1859-1939) was a student of Rimsky-Korsakov. Legend has it that William Henry Monk wrote his hymn-tune "Eventide" in 10 minutes after discovering that Henry Lyte's text "abide with me" in the 1861 edition of Hymns Ancient and Modern had no tune.

Pyotr Tchaikovsky: The crown of roses
Cambridge Singers, John Rutter

Sir Hubert Parry: There is an old belief
Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, Timothy Brown

Sir Edward Elgar: Nimrod from Enigma Variations, Op. 36
Peter Richard Conte, organ
The Wanamaker Grand Court Organ, Macy's, Center City, Philadelphia

Anton Arensky used this "crown of roses" theme in the second movement of his String Quartet, Op. 35. The words for "There is an old belief" were written by John Gibson Lockhart.

There is an old belief
That on some solemn shore
Beyond the sphere of grief dear friends shall meet
once more,

Beyond the sphere of Time
And Sin, and Fate's control,
Serene in changeless prime of body and

of soul.

That creed I fain would keep,
That hope I'll ne'er forgo.
Eternal be the sleep, if not to waken so.

American organist Peter Richard Conte has been the Grand Court Organist of the Wanamaker Organ in Macy's, Philadelphia since 1989.

Commentary: Christopher Jacobson

Leo Sowerby: I Was Glad
Duke Chapel Evensong Choir, Christopher Jacobson
Christopher Jacobson, organ

Pavel Alexandrovich Chesnokov: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent, Op.27 No. 1
St. Petersburg Chamber Choir, Nikolai Korniev

Gerald Near: Holy is the True Light
Choirs of St. John's Cathedral, Denver, Donald Pearson
Eric Plutz, organ

Dr. Leo Sowerby (1895-1968) won the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 1946. Russian composer Pavel Chesnokov(1877-1944) studied with Sergei Taneyev and Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov, and composed over 500 choral works. American composer Gerald Near (1942-) studied with Leo Sowerby.

Robert Prizeman: Ave Maria
Libera, Robert Prizeman

Sergei Taneyev: Chorale Variations
Valeri Rubacha, organ
1891 Walcker in Hall of the Capella, St. Petersburg, Russia

Libera is an English boy band or concert choir which was founded in 1984. Russian composer Sergei Taneyev (1856-1915) based his cantata on the poem by Alexei Tolstoy. The work is also known as "A Russian Requiem."

J.S. Bach: Cantata 3, "Ach Gott, wie manches Herzeleid"
Bach Collegium Japan, Masaaki Suzuki
Dorothee Miels, soprano; Pascal Bertin, countertenor
Gerd Turk, tenor; Peter Kooy, bass-baritone

"Ah God, how many heart pains" is one translation of the German. This cantata was written for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany. It was first performed on January 14, 1725, in Leipzig.

Antonio Vivaldi: Gloria in D, RV 589
The English Concert Choir and Orchestra, Trevor Pinnock
Nancy Argenta and Ingrid Attrot, sopranos; Catherine Denley, contralto
Ashley Stafford, alto; Stephen Varcoe, bass

Peter Carey writes: “Antonio Lucio Vivaldi composed this Gloria in Venice, probably in 1715, for the choir of the Ospedale della Pietà, an orphanage for girls (or more probably a home, generously endowed by the girls’ “anonymous” fathers, for the illegitimate daughters of Venetian noblemen and their mistresses). The Ospedale prided itself on the quality of its musical education and the excellence of its choir and orchestra. Vivaldi, a priest, music teacher and virtuoso violinist, composed many sacred works for the Ospedale, where he spent most of his career, as well as hundreds of instrumental concertos to be played by the girls’ orchestra. This, his most famous choral piece, presents the traditional Gloria from the Latin Mass in twelve varied cantata-like sections.”

Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla: Missa Ego Flos Campi
Angelicum de Puebla, Benjamin Juarez Echenique

Spanish composer Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla (ca. 1590–1664) emigrated to Mexico in 1620. He became the maestro de capilla of the Basílica Catedral Metropolitana de Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción in Puebla in 1628 and remained in that post until his death in 1664. He composed over 700 works.

Anton Bruckner: Mass No. 2 in E minor for choir and winds
Schutz Choir of London; Philip Jones Wind Ensemble, Sir Roger Norrington
Peter Hall, tenor

Austrian composer Anton Bruckner composed his Mass No. 2 in E minor in 1866 at the request of the Bishop of Linz.

Peter I. Tchaikovsky: Selections from Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, Op. 41
St. Petersburg Chamber Choir, Nikolai Korniev

Tchaikovsky’s setting of the ancient chants of the Russian orthodox is simple and straightforward. The composer opens a window into an unknown world of music and liturgy so that you and I can experience it.

Henry Purcell: My heart is inditing
Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford; English Concert, Simon Preston

Henry Purcell (1659-95) wrote his anthem “My heart is inditing” for the coronation of King James II in 1685.