

Great Sacred Music

Sunday, August 29, 2021

Silesian Melody: Fairest Lord Jesus
Coral Ridge Choir and Orchestra, Roger G. McMurrino
Diane Bish, organ

George Talbot: Psalm 62
Grace Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys, San Francisco; Benjamin G. Bachmann

Adolphus Hailstork: They That Wait Upon The Lord
Cincinnati Cathedral Choristers, Charles Hogan

Written by an unknown German author, the text of "Fairest Lord Jesus" dates from the 17th-century. George Talbot (1875-1918) was Vicar Choral of York Minster from 1904-1915. Adolphus Hailstork (1941-) is a professor of music and Composer-in-Residence at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia.

Antonio Vivaldi: Sanctorum meritis, RV 620
King's Consort, Robert King
Susan Gritton, soprano

Robert Lowry, arr. Cory Evans: Shall We Gather at the River
Utah State University Chamber Singers, Cory Evans

J.S. Bach: Chorale Prelude "Vater unser im Himmelreich", BWV 737
Michael Murray, organ
Walcker Organ at Methuen Hall, Methuen, Massachusetts

Vivaldi's setting of the hymn "Sanctorum meritis", dates from 1720. Philadelphia native Robert Lowry wrote the text for "Shall we gather at the river" in 1864. The Walcker Organ at Methuen Hall, Methuen, Massachusetts, was originally imported from Germany for Symphony Hall in Boston.

Commentary: Tom Heaton

John Rutter: I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes
Cambridge Singers; City of London Sinfonia, John Rutter

Leo Sowerby: O God of Light
Gloriae Dei Cantores, Elizabeth Patterson
Sr. Christine Helfrich, soprano

Ned Rorem: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Concora, Richard Coffey

John Rutter's "I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes" dates from 1974 and is scored for SATB chorus and organ or orchestra. Dr. Leo Sowerby (1895-1968) was considered by most Episcopal church musicians to be the unofficial Dean of American Church Music. Ned Rorem (1923-) is a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer

justly renowned for his songs.

Henry Purcell: O god, Thou art my God
Oxford Camerata, Jeremy Summerly
Laurence Cummings, organ

Maria Theresia von Paradis: Sicilienne
Haig Mardirosian, organ
Dobson organ at Sykes Chapel, University of Tampa

Purcell's anthem "O God, Thou art my God" dates from 1680-82. It is perhaps best known for its final chorus which was made into a hymn tune. The Dobson organ played by Dr. Mardirosian brings out the beauty of this rarely-performed composition by Maria Theresia von Paradis (1759-1824) who was a student of Antonio Salieri.

J.S. Bach: Cantata 77, "Du sollt Gott, deinen Herren Lieben"
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 "Thou shalt love God, thy Lord". The cantata is a meditation on the ten commandments, and Bach uses all of his musical tricks to reinforce that theme. The trumpet enters ten times in the opening chorus which is a canon. And so on. This is an early work first performed in Leipzig on August 22, 1723.

Franz Schubert: Prayer, D. 815
The Monteverdi Choir, Sir John Eliot Gardiner

Franz Schubert wrote this gorgeous work in a day in September 1824. It is scored for SATB with piano accompaniment.

Arthur Honegger: King David
Suisse Romande Orchestra; Vaudoise National Church Youth Choir, Ernest Ansermet
Suzanne Danco, soprano; Marie-Lise de Montmollin, mezzo-soprano
Michel Hamel, tenor; Pauline Martin, Witch of Endor; Stephane Audel, narrator

Swiss composer Arthur Honegger wrote Le Roi David in 1921 in just two months. The work tells the story of King David from his youth until his death. It really is a dramatic psalm consisting of some 27 sections. The musical forces include orchestra, chorus, soprano, boy soprano, alto, tenor and bass soloists, and a narrator.

J.S. Bach: Concerto in A minor, BWV 593
Christopher Herrick, organ
1978 Metzler organ, SS. Peter and Paul Church, Villmergen, Switzerland

Karl Jenkins: Gloria
National Youth Choir of Great Britain; London Symphony Orchestra, Karl Jenkins

Wikipedia notes that "Jenkins composed the work in 2010 on a commission by Don Monro who

founded the Concerts from Scratch and The Really Big Chorus."

John Rutter: Winchester Te Deum

Cambridge Singers; brass and percussion of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, John Rutter

John Rutter composed his Winchester Te Deum "for Winchester Cathedral, on the occasion of the installation of the Very Reverend James Atwell as Dean, 25th March 2006."