

# Great Sacred Music

## Sunday, June 27, 2021

Henry Ley: Psalm 29  
Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, John Scott  
Andrew Lucas, organ

Richard Webster: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty  
Advent Press Choir, brass and percussion, Richard Webster  
Thomas G. Whittemore, organ

John IV of Portugal: Crux fidelis; Pange, lingua  
The Gentlemen of the Choir of Westminster Abbey, Martin Neary

The St. Paul's Cathedral School where the boy choristers are educated was founded in 1123. Richard Webster is Director of Music and Organist at Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston. The Latin titles of these two hymns translate as "Faithful cross" and "Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle."

Katherine Dienes-Williams: Ave verum corpus  
Cincinnati Cathedral Choristers, Charles Hogan  
Nicholas Bideler, organ

Hans Leo Hassler: Psalm 120  
Cappella Amsterdam, Jan Boeke

Johann Pachelbel: Ciacona in D minor  
Joseph Payne, organ  
1778 Malleck organ in St. Martin's Cathedral, Eisenstadt, Austria

New Zealand-born organist and composer Katherine Dienes-Williams is Organist and Master of the Choristers at Guildford Cathedral. German composer Hans Leo Hassler (1564–1612) studied in Venice with the Gabriellis. Joseph Payne was born in 1941 on the Chinese-Mongolian border, the son of British missionary parents.

Commentary: The Very Reverend Amy McCreath

Sir Edward Elgar: Lux aeterna  
Voces 8

John Tavener: A Hymn to the Mother of God  
Cathedral Choir of St. James, James Savage

Sir Edward Elgar's setting of "Light Perpetual" is set to the tune of "Nimrod" from the "Enigma Variations." Ivan Moody writing about John Tavener's "A Hymn to the Mother of God" states that it "sets a text taken from the Liturgy of St Basil, sung on the feast of St Basil and on all the Sundays of Great Lent. It speaks of the cosmic power of the Mother of God, in whom 'all creation rejoices'."

John Rutter: Lord of the Dance

Cambridge Singers, John Rutter

Felix Mendelssohn: Tu es Petrus, Op. 111  
Chamber Choir of Europe; Wurttemberg Philharmonic, Nicol Matt

Gaston Belier: Toccata  
Diane Bish, organ

John Rutter's arrangement of the Shaker tune with text by English hymn-writer Sydney Carter dates from 2001. Mendelssohn's setting of "Thou art Peter", an anthem for St. Peter's Day, dates from 1827. Gaston Béliet (1863 – 1938) was a French organist and composer.

J.S. Bach: Cantata 185, "Barmherziges Herze der ewigen Liebe"  
Bach Collegium Japan, Masaaki Suzuki  
Midori Suzuki, soprano; Akira Tachikawa, alto;  
Makoto Sakurada, tenor; Stephan Schreckenberger, bass

The German means "Merciful Heart of Eternal Love." This cantata, one of the shortest of Bach's cantatas, is an early work first performed on July 14, 1715. The libretto is by the Weimar court poet Salomon Frank.

George Frideric Handel: Chandos Anthem No. 08, "O come, let us sing unto the Lord" Psalm 95  
The Sixteen Choir and Orchestra, Harry Christophers  
Patrizia Kwella, soprano; James Bowman, alto; Ian Partridge, tenor

Cannons was the country estate of the Duke of Chandos who employed Handel when his opera productions were running into financial distress. Handel wrote eleven instrumentally accompanied anthems for the Duke between 1717-1718. These were performed in the chapel at Cannons.

Max Reger: Introduction and Passacaglia in D minor  
Martin Welzel, organ  
Johannes Klais Organ, Trier Cathedral

German organist Max Reger was a prolific composer who wrote dozens of fiendishly difficult compositions for organ, this being one. Martin Welzel performs on the magnificent Klais organ in Trier Dom.

Ludwig van Beethoven: Mass in C, Op. 86  
Gachinger Kantorei and Bach Collegium Stuttgart, Helmuth Rilling  
Katherine van Kampen, soprano; Ingeborg Danz, alto  
Keith Lewis, tenor; Michel Brodard, bass

Prince Nikolaus Esterházy II commissioned Beethoven to write his "Mass in C" in 1807. The Prince apparently did not think much of Beethoven's creation. While the "Mass in C" is not often performed and, indeed, pales by comparison with the composer's Missa Solemnis in terms of scale, you can hear Beethoven's acknowledgement of the masses of Franz Josef Haydn.

W.A. Mozart: Regina coeli, K. 127

Chorus and Orchestra of the Academy of Ancient Music; Westminster Cathedral Boys Choir  
Christopher Hogwood  
Emma Kirkby, soprano

Mozart was 24 years old when scholars think he composed this Marian anthem for Michael Haydn's wife.

Ildebrando Pizzetti: *Messa di Requiem*  
Vasari Singers, Jeremy Backhouse

Italian composer Ildebrando Pizzetti (1880-1968) was known for his operas of which he wrote nineteen. His *Messa di Requiem* dates from 1922-23.

Richard Rodney Bennett: *Missa brevis*  
Cambridge Singers, John Rutter

English composer Sir Richard Rodney Bennett was well-known for his film and TV scores. This *Missa Brevis* is his only sacred composition.