

Great Sacred Music

Sunday, September 19, 2021

Henry Purcell: Christ is made the sure foundation
Choir of Westminster Abbey, Martin Neary
Martin Baker, organ

George Mursell Garrett: Psalm 93, "The Lord is King"
Choir of King's College, Cambridge, Philip Ledger
Francis Grier, organ

Thomas Attwood: Come Holy Ghost
Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral, John Scott
Andrew Lucas, organ; Thomas Colwell, treble

The hymn "Christ is made the sure foundation" uses the "Alleluias" at the end of Henry Purcell's anthem 'O God, Thou art my God.' English organist George Mursell Garrett (1834–1897) was director of music at St. John's College, Cambridge for over forty years. Thomas Attwood (1765-1838) became organist of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, in 1796.

Aaron Copland: Simple Gifts from Old American Songs, Set I
Turtle Creek Chorale; Dallas Wind Symphony, Timothy Seelig

Anonymous: Salve virgo virginum
Ensemble P.A.N. with Tapestry

Traditional Dutch: In Babilone: "There's a wideness in God's Mercy"
Barbara Harbach, organ
1965 Aeolian-Skinner organ at Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis, Missouri

American composer Aaron Copland introduced the much-loved Shaker tune in his 1944 score for Martha Graham's Appalachian Spring. Ensemble P.A.N. is Project Ars Nova, a vocal and instrumental ensemble. Tapestry is a vocal group. Dr. Barbara Harbach has been Professor of Music at the University of Missouri-St. Louis since 2004.

Commentary: The Reverend Robin Arcus

John Rutter: The Gift Of Each Day from The Gift of Life, Six Canticles of Creation
The Cambridge Singers; Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, John Rutter

Ralph Vaughan Williams: O clap your hands
Elora Festival Singers, Noel Edison
Thomas Fitches, organ

John Rutter writes that "The Gift of Life is a six-movement choral celebration of the living earth, of creation, and of life itself." Ralph Vaughan Williams setting of Psalm 47 dates from 1920.

William Byrd: Domine quis habitabit

The Cardinall's Musick, Andrew Carwood

The Latin translates as "Lord, who shall dwell". This motet is scored for 9 voices.

Emma Lou Diemer: Fantasie (1958)

Christa Rakich, organ

1932 Kilgen organ in St. Justin's Church, Hartford, Connecticut

The Latin of William Byrd's motet based on Psalm 14:1-3 translates as "Lord, who shall dwell". It is scored for 9 voices. Dr. Emma Lou Diemer (1927-) has written music in a variety of styles from traditional to experimental.

J.S. Bach: Cantata 95, "Christus, der ist mein Leben"

Monteverdi Choir; English Baroque Soloists, Sir John Eliot Gardiner

Katherine Fuge, soprano; Robin Tyson, alto; Mark Padmore, tenor; Thomas Guthrie, bass

Listen to how Bach uses the familiar tune for "All Glory Laud and Honor" to create a spell-binding alto aria in this cantata written for the 16th Sunday after Trinity.

George Frideric Handel: Saul, HWV 53

RIAS Chamber Choir; Concerto Cologne, René Jacobs

Writing for the [Los Angeles Philharmonic](#), Howard Posner states: "Saul appears to have begun with the 18th-century equivalent of a cold call, when Charles Jennens, a wealthy landowner, sent Handel a libretto for an oratorio in July 1735. Handel had known Jennens for years and was on friendly terms with him, unlike most of Jennens' social circle, who found him overbearing and called him "Suleyman the Magnificent." Handel wrote back that he was setting off on a trip and hadn't time to give the text "the attention it deserves" but "what I could read of it in haste, gave me a great deal of satisfaction." He also wrote that there were no firm plans for the next theater season, "but it is probable that some thing or other may be done" with the libretto."