

Great Sacred Music

Sunday, March 6, 2022

Martin Herbst (attributed): Forty days and forty nights
Choir of Wells Cathedral, Malcolm Archer
Rupert Gough, organ

Jules Van Nuffel: Psalm 6
Choir of St. Rombaux Cathedral, Malines, Belgium, Johan van Bouwelen
Peter Pieters, organ

Maurice Greene: Lord, Let me know mine end
Lincoln Cathedral Choir, Colin Walsh
James Vivian, organ

The Lenten hymn “Forty days and forty nights” is sung to an adaptation of a tune by German composer Martin Herbst (1654-1681). This setting of Psalm 6 was composed by Jules Van Nuffel (1883-1953), a Belgian composer.

Orazio Benevolo: Miserere
Le Concert Spirituel, Herve Niquet

Johann Kaspar Kerll: Canzona in E minor
Gustav Leonhardt, organ
The Peter Goltfuss organ in Sint-Jan-de-Doper, Leuven, Belgium

Franco-Italian composer Orazio Benevolo (1605-1672) flourished in Rome where he held several important posts. He composed many large scale works most of which have been performed infrequently much less recorded. Gustav Leonhardt (1928-2012) was one of the leaders in the early music movement.

Commentary: The Rev. Ian McGregor

René Clausen: Prayer
Kansas City Chorale, Charles Bruffy

Robert Ramsey: How are the mighty fallen
Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, Timothy Brown

Claudio Monteverdi: Adoramus te
Choir of Westminster Cathedral, Sir Stephen Cleobury

René Clausen (1953-) is a widely-respected American composer. Robert Ramsey was an English composer who flourished about 1612 to 1644. Sir Stephen Cleobury (1948-2019) was appointed Organist of Westminster Cathedral in 1979.

Richard Redhead: Bright the vision that delighted
Choir of King's College, Cambridge, Sir David Willcocks

Ian Hare, organ

Christopher Tambling: Toccata on Aus der Tiefe

Piers Maxim, organ

Nicholson organ in Malvern Priory

The text of “Bright the vision that delighted” was written by Richard Mant (1776-1848) and is based on Isaiah 6: 1-3. It is commonly sung to the tune “Redhead No. 46” composed by Richard Redhead (1820-1901). Christopher Tambling (1964-2015) was an English composer who was Director of Music of Downside School.

J.S. Bach: Motet No. 3: "Jesu, meine Freude", BWV 227

Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys, John Scott

The eleven movement motet “Jesu, meine freude” is the most complex of the six motets which Bach wrote. Scholars seem to think it dates from the 1720s and that Bach composed to not for a funeral as some writers suggest but for educational purposes.

Stephen Hough: Missa Mirabilis

Colorado Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Andrew Litton

English polymath Stephen Hough (1961-) composed his Missa Mirabilis in 2006 for Martin Baker and the Choir of Westminster Cathedral.

Thomas Arne: Organ Concerto No. 2 in G

Cantilena, Adrian Shepherd

Roger Bevan Williams, organ

English composer Thomas Arne is perhaps best known for his patriotic song “Rule Britannia!”

Gaetano Donizetti: Messa da Requiem, Op. 73

Bamberg Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Miguel Angel Gomez Martinez

Cheryl Studer, soprano; Helga Muller-Molinari, alto

Aldo Baldin, tenor; Jan Hendrik Rootering, bass; John-Paul Bogart, bass

The death of his friend Vincenzo Bellini in 1835 prompted Donizetti to compose his Requiem. The work was not published until 1975. It is a massive work notwithstanding the fact that it does not have Sanctus, Benedictus or Agnus Dei movements. Some say that it foreshadowed Giuseppe Verdi’s Requiem.

Louis-Nicolas Clerambault: Miserere

Les Demoiselles De Saint-Cyr, Emmanuel Mandrin

Emmanuel Mandrin, organ

Les Demoiselles De Saint-Cyr is a choral ensemble named after the young ladies from impoverished noble families who attended La Maison Royale de Saint Louis.

Samuel Alman: Innocence and Fughetta from Eleven Short Pieces for Organ

Carys Hughes, organ

Carys Hughes is a Welsh organist of some note.