

# Great Sacred Music

## Sunday, May 21, 2023

### **Traditional American folk tune, arr. by Mack Wilberg: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

Performed by The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square; Orchestra at Temple Square Conducted by Craig Jessop, Mack Wilberg

Mack Wilberg's arrangement of the beloved American folk tune "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" beautifully captures the essence of the original melody while infusing it with rich orchestral textures. The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square, accompanied by the Orchestra at Temple Square, presents a heartfelt rendition of this timeless hymn. Wilberg's arrangement showcases the choir's impeccable harmonies and the orchestra's lush accompaniment, elevating the hymn's message of gratitude and praise.

### **Lennox Berkeley: The Lord is my Shepherd**

Performed by the Choir of St. John's, Elora, conducted by Noel Edison Featuring Michael Bloss on organ

Lennox Berkeley's setting of "The Lord is my Shepherd" is a contemplative and introspective choral work. The Choir of St. John's, Elora, under the baton of conductor Noel Edison, delivers a poignant interpretation of this psalm setting. Michael Bloss accompanies the choir on the organ, providing a delicate and supportive foundation to the choral textures. Berkeley's composition beautifully captures the comforting and reassuring nature of the psalm, offering solace and hope to listeners.

### **Robert Prizeman: Ave Maria**

Performed by Libera, conducted by Robert Prizeman

Robert Prizeman's ethereal composition, "Ave Maria," is brought to life by the angelic voices of Libera. The boys' choir, known for their pure and celestial sound, delicately weaves a tapestry of harmonies in this devotional piece. Prizeman's arrangement embraces the timeless beauty of the Ave Maria text, creating a serene and transcendent atmosphere that touches the hearts of all who listen.

### **Sebastian de Vivanco: Magnificat octavi toni**

Performed by the Choir of Westminster Cathedral, conducted by David Hill Featuring Andrew Lawrence-King on harp, Andrew van der Beek on bass dulcian, and James O'Donnell on organ

Sebastian de Vivanco's "Magnificat octavi toni" is a radiant and uplifting choral masterpiece. The Choir of Westminster Cathedral, led by conductor David Hill, presents a captivating rendition of this intricate polyphonic work. Accompanied by Andrew Lawrence-King on the harp, Andrew van der Beek on the bass dulcian, and James O'Donnell on the organ, the choir's voices soar through Vivanco's rich harmonies, creating a tapestry of joyous praise.

### **W.A. Mozart: Church Sonata in C, K. 329**

Performed by the Amsterdam Mozart Players Featuring Peter Hurford on organ Recorded on the 1976 K. B. Blank organ in Bethlehemkerk, Papendrecht, Holland

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Church Sonata in C, K. 329, showcases the composer's masterful craftsmanship and flair for composition. The Amsterdam Mozart Players, with the esteemed Peter Hurford on organ, deliver a spirited and vibrant interpretation of this delightful work. The sonata's exuberant melodies and lively rhythms, combined with the rich tones of the K. B. Blank organ, create

a joyful atmosphere that epitomizes Mozart's brilliance.

### **Thomas Tomkins: O praise the Lord**

Performed by Stile Antico and Fretwork

Thomas Tomkins' "O praise the Lord" is a gem of English Renaissance choral music. Stile Antico, renowned for their impeccable vocal blend and expressiveness, joins forces with the esteemed ensemble Fretwork to bring this composition to life. The intricate interplay between the voices and the vibrant timbres of the viols create a tapestry of rich textures and harmonies. Tomkins' composition beautifully captures the exultant spirit of the text, offering a resounding and triumphant ode of praise.

### **Claudio Monteverdi: Beatus Vir**

Performed by Gentlemen of the Chappell; His Majesties Sagbutts and Cornetts, conducted by Peter Bassano

Claudio Monteverdi's "Beatus Vir" is a shining example of the composer's mastery of the early Baroque style. The Gentlemen of the Chappell, accompanied by His Majesties Sagbutts and Cornetts, present a vibrant and dynamic interpretation of this sacred work. Led by conductor Peter Bassano, the combined forces of voices and instrumentalists weave a tapestry of intricate counterpoint and jubilant melodies, embodying the spirit of praise and adoration found in the text.

### **Dietrich Buxtehude: Prelude and Fugue in A minor, BuxWV 153**

Performed by Robert Noehren on organ Recorded on the Noehren Organ, First Unitarian Church, San Francisco, California

Dietrich Buxtehude's Prelude and Fugue in A minor, BuxWV 153, is a testament to the composer's remarkable organ works. Renowned organist Robert Noehren breathes life into this piece, showcasing the expressive capabilities of the instrument. With its intricate contrapuntal lines and virtuosic passages, Buxtehude's composition captivates the listener with its rich harmonies and rhythmic complexity. Noehren's masterful interpretation on the magnificent Noehren Organ in the First Unitarian Church, San Francisco, brings this masterpiece to full realization.

### **J.S. Bach: Cantata 183, "Sie werden euch in den Bann un..."**

Performed by the Holland Boys' Choir; Netherlands Bach Collegium, conducted by Pieter Jan Leusink  
Featuring Marjon Strijk, soprano; Sytse Buwalde, alto; Knut Schoch, tenor; Bas Ramselaar, bass

Johann Sebastian Bach's Cantata 183, "Sie werden euch in den Bann un..." is a powerful and emotionally charged composition. The Holland Boys' Choir, together with the Netherlands Bach Collegium under the direction of Pieter Jan Leusink, delivers a compelling performance of this cantata. With its intricate vocal lines, poignant solos, and dramatic choruses, Bach's work explores themes of struggle, persecution, and ultimate redemption. The exceptional vocalists—Marjon Strijk, Sytse Buwalde, Knut Schoch, and Bas Ramselaar—bring forth the depth and intensity of the music, drawing the listener into Bach's profound musical narrative.

### **Marcel Tyberg: Mass No. 2 in F**

Performed by the South Dakota Chorale, conducted by Brian A. Schmidt Featuring Christopher Jacobson on organ

Marcel Tyberg's Mass No. 2 in F is a testament to the composer's lyrical and deeply spiritual style. The South Dakota Chorale, led by conductor Brian A. Schmidt, presents a sublime rendition of this remarkable work. With its lush harmonies and soaring melodies, Tyberg's Mass No. 2 in F envelops listeners in a tapestry of reverence and devotion. The choir's precision and expressiveness bring forth the emotive power of the text, while Christopher Jacobson's skilled organ accompaniment adds layers of grandeur and depth.

### **George Frideric Handel: Joshua**

Performed by the Choir of New College, Oxford; King's Consort, conducted by Robert King Featuring Dame Emma Kirkby, soprano; James Bowman, counter-tenor; John Mark Ainsley, tenor; Michael George, baritone; Aidan Oliver, treble

George Frideric Handel's oratorio Joshua is a magnificent display of his compositional prowess. The Choir of New College, Oxford, under the baton of conductor Robert King, joins forces with the renowned period-instrument ensemble, the King's Consort, to bring this stirring work to life. With a stellar lineup of soloists including Dame Emma Kirkby, James Bowman, John Mark Ainsley, Michael George, and Aidan Oliver, Joshua unfolds with gripping drama and majestic choral and orchestral textures. Handel's powerful music, combined with the exceptional performances, illuminates the triumphs and struggles of the biblical narrative, leaving a lasting impression on the audience.

In this captivating musical journey, each piece on the program showcases the richness and diversity of the classical choral repertoire. From the heartfelt expressions of faith in traditional American folk tunes to the intricate harmonies of Renaissance works, from the spiritual depth of sacred compositions to the vibrant compositions of the Baroque era, these musical gems invite listeners to embark on an emotional and spiritual voyage. Through the artistry of the performers and the mastery of the composers, this concert promises to captivate and inspire audiences, leaving them with a renewed appreciation for the power of music to touch the soul.

Source: ChatGPT