

Great Sacred Music

June 11, 2023

E.J. Monk, arr. by Stephen Cleobury: Angel-voices ever singing

- Composer: Edwin George Monk (1819-1900)
- Arranger: Stephen Cleobury (1948-2019)
- Performers: Choir of King's College, Cambridge; Sir Stephen Cleobury (conductor); Richard Gowers (organ)
- "Angel-voices ever singing" is a beautiful choral work based on a hymn tune composed by Edwin George Monk. Stephen Cleobury's arrangement enhances the expressive qualities of the piece, which is performed here by the renowned Choir of King's College, Cambridge, under the direction of Sir Stephen Cleobury, accompanied by organist Richard Gowers.

Sir Hubert Parry: O day of peace

- Composer: Sir Hubert Parry (1848-1918)
- Performers: Choir of All Saints' Episcopal Church, Beverly Hills, California; Thomas Foster (conductor)
- "O day of peace" is a choral composition by the celebrated English composer Sir Hubert Parry. This uplifting work, performed by the Choir of All Saints' Episcopal Church, Beverly Hills, California, under the direction of Thomas Foster, beautifully captures the spirit of hope and harmony.

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina: Alma redemptoris mater

- Composer: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)
- Performers: Tallis Scholars; Peter Phillips (conductor)
- "Alma redemptoris mater" is a sacred choral piece composed by the Renaissance master Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina. The Tallis Scholars, renowned for their exquisite performances of Renaissance music, present a sublime interpretation of this beautiful work, under the direction of Peter Phillips.

Guillaume Dufay: Ecclesiae militantis

- Composer: Guillaume Dufay (1397-1474)
- Performers: Pomerium; Alexander Blachly (conductor)
- "Ecclesiae militantis" is a magnificent composition by the Franco-Flemish composer Guillaume Dufay. Pomerium, an acclaimed vocal ensemble specializing in early music, brings this sacred work to life under the skilled direction of Alexander Blachly.

Felix Mendelssohn: Laudate pueri dominum, Op. 39 No. 2

- Composer: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
- Performers: St. Albans Abbey Girls Choir; Tom Winpenny (conductor); Peter Holder (organ)
- "Laudate pueri dominum" is a joyful choral piece composed by Felix Mendelssohn. The St. Albans Abbey Girls Choir, led by conductor Tom Winpenny and accompanied by organist Peter Holder, delivers a spirited rendition of this uplifting composition.

• **Sir William Harris: Prelude in E flat**

- Composer: Sir William Harris (1883-1973)
- Performer: Todd Wilson (organ)
- Organ: 1962 Aeolian-Skinner organ, Ous 1399 in the Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta
- Todd Wilson, an accomplished organist, presents the majestic "Prelude in E flat" by Sir William Harris. This composition, performed on the Aeolian-Skinner organ in the Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta, showcases the rich timbres and grandeur of the instrument.

• **Wilhelm Wurfel: Adon Olam**

- Composer: Wilhelm Wurfel (1906-1975)
- Performers: Siegen Philharmonic Choir; Herbert Ermert (conductor); Estrongo Nachama (cantor); Harry Foss (organ)
- "Adon Olam" is a sacred composition by Wilhelm Wurfel. The Siegen Philharmonic Choir, led by conductor Herbert Ermert, with cantor Estrongo Nachama and organist Harry Foss, beautifully interprets this Jewish prayer, capturing its spiritual essence.

• **Sir Edward Elgar: Te Deum**

- Composer: Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934)
- Performers: Choir of Westminster Abbey; James O'Donnell (conductor); Robert Quinney (organ)
- "Te Deum" is a magnificent choral work composed by Sir Edward Elgar. The Choir of Westminster Abbey, conducted by James O'Donnell, together with organist Robert Quinney, presents a powerful and reverent performance of this grand composition.

• **J.S. Bach: Chorale Prelude "Dearest Jesus, we are here"**

- Composer: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
- Performer: Christopher Herrick (organ)
- Organ: 1975 Metzler organ, St. Michael's Church, Kaisten, Switzerland
- Christopher Herrick, an esteemed organist, performs Bach's exquisite "Chorale Prelude" titled "Dearest Jesus, we are here." Demonstrating his virtuosity on the Metzler organ in St. Michael's Church, Kaisten, Switzerland, Herrick delivers a masterful interpretation of this sacred piece.

• **J.S. Bach: Cantata 75, "Die Elenden sollen essen"**

- Composer: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
- Performers: Bach Collegium Japan; Masaaki Suzuki (conductor); Midori Suzuki (soprano); Yoshikazu Mera (countertenor); Gerd Turk (tenor); Peter Kooy (bass-baritone)
- "Die Elenden sollen essen" is a captivating cantata composed by J.S. Bach. The Bach Collegium Japan, led by Masaaki Suzuki, and featuring soloists Midori Suzuki, Yoshikazu Mera, Gerd Turk, and Peter Kooy, presents a compelling performance of this masterwork.

• **Gregorio Allegri: Miserere mei, Deus**

- Composer: Gregorio Allegri (1582-1652)
- Performers: Tallis Scholars; Peter Phillips (conductor); Deborah Roberts (soprano)
- The hauntingly beautiful "Miserere mei, Deus" by Gregorio Allegri is an iconic choral

composition. The Tallis Scholars, under the direction of Peter Phillips, with soprano Deborah Roberts, offer a breathtaking rendition of this timeless masterpiece.

• **Max Reger: Prelude and Fugue in E minor, Op. 85 No. 4**

- Composer: Max Reger (1873-1916)
- Performer: Martin Welzel (organ)
- Organ: 1974 Johannes Klais organ, Trier Cathedral
- Martin Welzel, an accomplished organist, performs Max Reger's dynamic "Prelude and Fugue in E minor" on the magnificent Johannes Klais organ in Trier Cathedral. This piece showcases Reger's mastery of counterpoint and the organ's vast tonal possibilities.

• **Alessandro Striggio: Missa sopra Ecco si beato giorno**

- Composer: Alessandro Striggio (c. 1536-1592)
- Performers: Le Concert Spirituel; Herve Niquet (conductor)
- Alessandro Striggio's "Missa sopra Ecco si beato giorno" is a monumental work of Renaissance choral music. Le Concert Spirituel, conducted by Herve Niquet, presents a richly textured and emotionally charged interpretation of this masterful composition.

• **Mathurin Forestier: Missa Baises moy**

- Composer: Mathurin Forestier (fl. 1470s-1490s)
- Performers: Chicago a cappella; Jonathan Miller (conductor)
- "Missa Baises moy" by Mathurin Forestier is a delightful example of late medieval choral music. Chicago a cappella, led by conductor Jonathan Miller, showcases their exceptional vocal talents in this charming and intricate polyphonic work.

• **Anton Bruckner: Mass No. 2 in E minor for choir and winds**

- Composer: Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)
- Performers: Schutz Choir of London; Philip Jones Wind Ensemble; Sir Roger Norrington (conductor); Peter Hall (tenor)
- Anton Bruckner's Mass No. 2 in E minor is a grand choral composition featuring a wind ensemble. The Schutz Choir of London, joined by the Philip Jones Wind Ensemble, under the baton of Sir Roger Norrington, delivers a powerful and dynamic performance, with tenor Peter Hall adding his expressive vocal contribution.

• **Benjamin Britten: Festival Te Deum, Op. 32**

- Composer: Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)
- Performers: Choir of St. John's College, Cambridge; George Guest (conductor)
- Benjamin Britten's Festival Te Deum is a celebratory choral work with a distinctive and vibrant character. The Choir of St. John's College, Cambridge, directed by George Guest, brings forth the joy and exuberance of this composition in their spirited performance.