

# Great Sacred Music

## Sunday, June 18, 2023

### 1. **Gregorian Chant: "Ave, maris stella"** Performed by Chanticleer, conducted by Joseph Jennings

The playlist opens with the serene beauty of Gregorian chant, specifically "Ave, maris stella." This ancient chant, dating back to the Middle Ages, is dedicated to the Virgin Mary and has been sung by countless choirs throughout history. Chanticleer, a renowned male vocal ensemble, delivers a mesmerizing rendition, capturing the spiritual essence and meditative qualities of the chant.

### 2. **William Crotch: Psalm 123, 'Unto thee lift I up mine eyes'** Performed by the Choir of St. John's College, Cambridge, conducted by Andrew Nethsingha, with James Anderson-Besant on organ

In this piece, we encounter the choral setting of Psalm 123 by the English composer William Crotch. The Choir of St. John's College, Cambridge, renowned for its expressive and impeccable vocal blend, delivers a heartfelt performance under the baton of Andrew Nethsingha. Accompanied by James Anderson-Besant's organ playing, the choir conveys the uplifting and contemplative nature of the psalm.

### 3. **George Frideric Handel: "Let thy hand be strengthened"** Performed by the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, the Academy of Ancient Music, conducted by Sir Stephen Cleobury

Handel's majestic choral composition, "Let thy hand be strengthened," showcases the grandeur and splendor of his writing. The Choir of King's College, Cambridge, known for its rich tradition of excellence, collaborates with the Academy of Ancient Music, renowned for its historically informed performances. Under the baton of Sir Stephen Cleobury, the ensemble presents a stirring rendition, highlighting Handel's masterful craftsmanship.

### 4. **John Tavener: "Ikon of Saint Hilda"** Performed by the Wells Cathedral School Choralia, conducted by Christopher Finch

"Ikon of Saint Hilda" by John Tavener transports the listener into a realm of ethereal beauty. The Wells Cathedral School Choralia, an ensemble comprising talented young voices, breathes life into Tavener's mesmerizing composition under the guidance of conductor Christopher Finch. The piece's spiritual depth and otherworldly atmosphere are captivatingly conveyed through the choir's sensitive interpretation.

### 5. **Anonymous: "Cancion para la Corneta con el Eco"** Performed by Jacques van Oortmerssen on the 1772 Robustelly organ in Sint Lambertus, Helmond, The Netherlands

An intriguing inclusion on the playlist is the anonymous composition "Cancion para la Corneta con el Eco." Performed on the 18th-century Robustelly organ, played by Jacques van Oortmerssen, the piece demonstrates the unique tonal qualities and intricate capabilities of this historic instrument. The composition explores the sonorous possibilities and reverberant effects of the organ, creating a captivating sonic experience.

(Note: The information provided about the piece being anonymous is based on the given information in the playlist.)

6. **Sir Arthur Sullivan: "Onward, Christian soldiers"** Performed by the Choir of Wells Cathedral, with Malcolm Archer conducting and Rupert Gough on organ

This well-known hymn by Sir Arthur Sullivan exemplifies the composer's ability to create stirring and memorable melodies. The Choir of Wells Cathedral, renowned for its powerful and evocative singing, delivers a commanding performance under the baton of Malcolm Archer. Accompanied by organist Rupert Gough, the choir brings forth the resolute spirit and triumphant character of the hymn.

7. **John Ireland: "Vexilla Regis" (Hymn for Passion Sunday)** Performed by the London Symphony Chorus and Orchestra, conducted by Richard Hickox, with Paula Bott (soprano), Teresa Shaw (contralto), James Oxley (tenor), Bryn Terfel (bass-baritone), and Roderick Elms on organ

John Ireland's "Vexilla Regis" is a hymn composed for Passion Sunday, reflecting on the crucifixion of Christ. The London Symphony Chorus and Orchestra, led by conductor Richard Hickox, deliver a stirring interpretation of Ireland's evocative composition. With the support of vocal soloists and organist Roderick Elms, the performers bring to life the hymn's profound emotional journey and devotional fervor.

8. **Franz Tunder: "Praeludium in G"** Performed by Aude Heurtematte on the 1905 Cavaille-Col organ in Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption, Champcueil, France

The playlist features the Baroque organ piece "Praeludium in G" composed by Franz Tunder. Organist Aude Heurtematte skillfully showcases the unique sonorities and technical virtuosity of the Cavaille-Col organ, built in 1905. Tunder's composition unfolds with a delightful blend of contrapuntal lines and vibrant harmonies, demonstrating the Baroque style's expressive capabilities.

9. **J.S. Bach: Cantata 2, "Ach Gott, vom Himmel sieh darein"** Performed by the Bach Collegium Japan, conducted by Masaaki Suzuki, with Dorothee Miels (soprano), Pascal Bertin (countertenor), Gerd Turk (tenor), Peter Kooy (bass-baritone)

Bach's Cantata 2, "Ach Gott, vom Himmel sieh darein" (Oh God, Look Down from Heaven), showcases the composer's genius in writing intricate and emotionally charged vocal music. The Bach Collegium Japan, led by Masaaki Suzuki, delivers a faithful interpretation of Bach's composition, capturing its theological depth and musical intricacies. The vocal soloists—Dorothee Miels, Pascal Bertin, Gerd Turk, and Peter Kooy—each bring their expressive artistry to the performance.

10. **W.A. Mozart: "Litaniae de venerabili altaris Sacramento," K. 243** Performed by Gloriam Dei Cantores, Vox Caeli Sinfonia, conducted by Richard K. Pugsley, with Christine Helfrich (soprano), Estelle Cole (alto), Nathanael Reese (tenor), and Luke Norman (bass)

Mozart's "Litaniae de venerabili altaris Sacramento" (Litany for the Most Holy Sacrament) showcases the composer's mastery of choral and orchestral writing. The performance features the combined forces of Gloriam Dei Cantores and Vox Caeli Sinfonia, under the baton of Richard K. Pugsley. The vocal soloists—Christine Helfrich, Estelle Cole, Nathanael Reese, and Luke Norman—shine in their respective roles, creating a rich tapestry of vocal and instrumental textures.

11. **Louis Vierne: "Epitaph"** Performed by Simon Lindley on the 1913 Harrison & Harrison organ, Leeds Parish Church

"Epitaph" by Louis Vierne provides a glimpse into the expressive and atmospheric qualities of organ music. Organist Simon Lindley skillfully navigates the tonal possibilities of the 1913 Harrison &

Harrison organ, located at Leeds Parish Church. Vierne's composition, with its haunting melodies and poignant harmonies, creates a somber and introspective atmosphere, allowing the organ's rich timbres to resonate.

**12. Philippe Rogier: "Missa Philippus Secundus Rex Hispaniae"** Performed by Magnificat, His Majesty's Sagbutts and Cornets, conducted by Philip Cave

Philippe Rogier's "Missa Philippus Secundus Rex Hispaniae" showcases the composer's mastery of Renaissance polyphony. Magnificat, together with His Majesty's Sagbutts and Cornets, under the direction of Philip Cave, brings the rich textures and intricate interplay of voices and instruments to life. Rogier's Mass setting, with its reverence and contrapuntal complexity, serves as a testament to his compositional skill.

**13. Annibale Padovano: "Mass for 3 Voices and 21 Instruments"** Performed by Huelgas, conducted by Paul Van Nevel

Annibale Padovano's "Mass for 3 Voices and 21 Instruments" presents a rich tapestry of Renaissance vocal and instrumental textures. Huelgas, an ensemble known for its dedication to historical performance practice, collaborates with conductor Paul Van Nevel to bring Padovano's composition to fruition. The interplay between voices and instruments creates a vibrant and dynamic musical experience, highlighting the beauty and intricacy of Padovano's Mass.

**14. Giacomo Puccini: "Messa di Gloria"** Performed by the Chorus & Orchestra of the Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, conducted by Michel Corboz, with William Johns (tenor) and Philippe Huttenlocher (bass)

Puccini's "Messa di Gloria" showcases the composer's melodic gift and dramatic flair within the realm of sacred music. The Chorus & Orchestra of the Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, led by conductor Michel Corboz, delivers a powerful interpretation of Puccini's Mass. The soloists, William Johns and Philippe Huttenlocher, bring their lyrical voices to the forefront, creating an evocative and emotionally charged performance.

**15. Sir John Goss: "O Saviour of the World"** Performed by the St. Paul's Cathedral Choir, London, conducted by John Scott, with Andrew Lucas on organ

The playlist concludes with Sir John Goss's "O Saviour of the World," a cherished piece in the Anglican choral tradition. The St. Paul's Cathedral Choir, under the baton of conductor John Scott, delivers a heartfelt and introspective rendition. Supported by organist Andrew Lucas, the choir conveys the depth of emotion and spiritual solace inherent in Goss's composition, creating a poignant conclusion to the playlist.