

Great Sacred Music

Sunday, July 16, 2023

1. **William Henry Monk: "Abide with me"** Performed by Choir of Westminster Abbey, Martin Neary; Martin Baker, organ

"Abide with me" is a beloved hymn composed by William Henry Monk. This rendition, performed by the Choir of Westminster Abbey, exudes a sense of solemnity and introspection. The choir's rich harmonies and Martin Baker's skillful organ accompaniment create a meditative atmosphere, inviting listeners to find solace and strength in the enduring message of the hymn.

2. **Martin Luther: Psalm 46** Performed by Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, John Scott, director; Andrew Lucas, organ

Martin Luther's Psalm 46 is a powerful expression of faith and trust in God's protection and guidance. The Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral, under the direction of John Scott, delivers a stirring performance of this choral masterpiece. Supported by Andrew Lucas' organ accompaniment, the choir's voices soar, capturing the essence of the psalm's affirming and uplifting message.

3. **John Rutter: "Look to the day"** Performed by Cambridge Singers; Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, John Rutter

"Look to the day" by John Rutter is a radiant and uplifting composition that celebrates the joy of living in the present moment. The Cambridge Singers, accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, deliver a performance that brims with energy and optimism. Rutter's lush harmonies, melodic grace, and dynamic orchestration create a buoyant and inspirational musical experience.

4. **Traditional American spiritual: "Steal Away"** Performed by Voces8; Matthew Sharp, cello

"Steal Away" is a poignant and soul-stirring traditional American spiritual. The a cappella ensemble Voces8 presents a heartfelt rendition of this beloved song. Their flawless vocal blend and expressiveness, combined with Matthew Sharp's soulful cello accompaniment, create a deeply moving interpretation that resonates with the spiritual journey and resilience of the human spirit.

5. **George Frederic Handel: "Envy, eldest born of hell"** from Saul Performed by Howard University Choir; Handel Festival Orchestra of Washington, Stephen Simon

George Frederic Handel's oratorio Saul contains powerful and dramatic music. The Howard University Choir, accompanied by the Handel Festival Orchestra of Washington, delivers a captivating performance of "Envy, eldest born of hell." With its vigorous choral passages and expressive orchestration, this piece showcases Handel's ability to evoke intense emotions and vivid storytelling.

6. **Max Reger: Romanze in A minor** Performed by Martin Welzel, organ; Johannes Klais Organ, Trier Cathedral

Max Reger's Romanze in A minor for organ is a lyrical and introspective composition. Martin Welzel's masterful interpretation on the organ of the Johannes Klais Organ in Trier Cathedral brings out the piece's rich harmonies and intricate textures, allowing the listener to appreciate Reger's compositional depth and his ability to create evocative and contemplative musical landscapes.

7. **Gregorian Chant: "Ave maris stella"** Performed by Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist

The Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist present a serene and reverential rendition of the Gregorian Chant "Ave maris stella." With their pure and ethereal voices, they capture the timeless beauty and devotional quality of this ancient chant, invoking a sense of calm and reverence.

8. Pavel Alexandrovich Chesnokov: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent," Op. 27 No. 1
Performed by St. Petersburg Chamber Choir, Nikolai Korniev

Pavel Chesnokov's "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent" is a mesmerizing choral work that reflects the awe and reverence associated with sacred music. The St. Petersburg Chamber Choir, under the direction of Nikolai Korniev, performs with precision and emotional depth, weaving rich vocal harmonies that evoke a sense of wonder and spirituality.

9. Franz Biebl: "Ave Maria" Performed by Turtle Creek Chorale, Timothy Seelig

Franz Biebl's "Ave Maria" is a beloved composition that embodies both the reverence and the serenity of the prayer. The Turtle Creek Chorale, conducted by Timothy Seelig, delivers a heartfelt and poignant rendition, blending their voices in perfect harmony. The piece unfolds with a sense of grace and tranquility, creating a deeply moving musical experience.

10. William Byrd: "Omni tempore benedic Deum" Performed by The Cardinal's Musick,
Andrew Carwood

"Omni tempore benedic Deum" by William Byrd is a sublime choral work characterized by its intricate polyphony and expressive text setting. The Cardinal's Musick, led by Andrew Carwood, presents a nuanced and sensitive performance, capturing the spiritual essence and rich musical tapestry of Byrd's composition.

11. John Cook: "Fanfare" Performed by Christian Lane, organ; C.B. Fisk organ, Opus 139 in
The Memorial Church, Harvard University

John Cook's "Fanfare" is a vibrant and triumphant organ piece. Christian Lane's virtuosic interpretation on the C.B. Fisk organ in The Memorial Church at Harvard University showcases the instrument's majestic qualities. The piece bursts with energy, filling the space with grandeur and exuberance.

12. J.S. Bach: Cantata 9, "Es ist das Heil uns kommen her" Performed by Holland Boys'
Choir; Netherlands Bach Collegium, Pieter Jan Leusink; Marjon Strijk, soprano; Sytse
Buwalde, alto; Nico van der Meel, tenor; Bas Ramselaar, bass

Johann Sebastian Bach's Cantata 9, "Es ist das Heil uns kommen her," is a masterful vocal work filled with intricate counterpoint and profound spirituality. The Holland Boys' Choir, accompanied by the Netherlands Bach Collegium, delivers a stirring performance under the direction of Pieter Jan Leusink. The soloists' expressive voices and the ensemble's precise and dynamic interpretation bring Bach's sacred music to life.

13. George Frederic Handel: Chandos Anthem No. 11, "Let God arise" Performed by The
Sixteen, Harry Christophers

Handel's Chandos Anthem No. 11, "Let God arise," is a majestic and celebratory choral work. The renowned ensemble The Sixteen, conducted by Harry Christophers, presents a commanding performance. With its vibrant choral textures, thrilling vocal solos, and exquisite orchestration, this anthem exemplifies Handel's compositional brilliance.

14. J.S. Bach: Prelude and Fugue in A minor, BWV 543 Performed by Nicholas Danby, organ;

1968 Kemper & Son organ in the Marienkirche, Lubeck, Germany

J.S. Bach's Prelude and Fugue in A minor, BWV 543, is a pinnacle of organ repertoire. Nicholas Danby's interpretation on the historic 1968 Kemper & Son organ in the Marienkirche, Lubeck, Germany, reveals the inherent grandeur and complexity of Bach's writing. The piece showcases Bach's mastery of counterpoint and his ability to create dramatic musical narratives.

15. Charles Gounod: St. Cecilia Mass Performed by New Philharmonic Orchestra & Choir of Radio France, Georges Prêtre; Barbara Hendricks, soprano; Laurence Dale, tenor; Jean-Philippe Lafont, bass; Jean-Louis Gil, organ

Charles Gounod's St. Cecilia Mass is a magnificent choral work that combines grandeur with moments of sublime beauty. The New Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir of Radio France, under the baton of Georges Prêtre, create a resplendent performance. With the powerful vocal solos, lush orchestration, and the rich tones of the organ, Gounod's mass becomes a captivating musical experience.

16. Charles-Marie Widor: Allegro from Symphony No. 6 in G minor for Organ, Op. 42 No. 2 Performed by Michael Farris, organ; The Casavant Organ in the Cathedral of St. Peter, Erie, Pennsylvania

The Allegro from Charles-Marie Widor's Symphony No. 6 is a thrilling and virtuosic piece for organ. Michael Farris' interpretation on the magnificent Casavant Organ in the Cathedral of St. Peter, Erie, Pennsylvania, displays the organ's immense power and versatility. The Allegro showcases Widor's grandiose style and demonstrates the organ's ability to create a symphonic soundscape.

17. Luigi Cherubini: Coronation Mass Performed by Philharmonia Orchestra and Chorus, Riccardo Muti; Barbara Hendricks, soprano; Laurence Dale, tenor; Jean-Philippe Lafont, bass; Jean-Louis Gil, organ

Luigi Cherubini's Coronation Mass is a monumental choral work that exudes grandeur and majesty. The Philharmonia Orchestra and Chorus, conducted by Riccardo Muti, deliver a magnificent performance. With its robust choral passages, rich orchestration, and the resounding tones of the organ, Cherubini's mass creates an awe-inspiring musical tapestry.