

Great Sacred Music

Sunday, January 10, 2021

Conrad Kocher, arr. by David Willcocks: As with gladness men of old
Choir of King's College, Cambridge, Sir David Willcocks
Ian Hare, organ

Thomas Tallis: O salutaris hostia
Magnificat, Philip Cave

John Rutter: Open thou mine eyes
Atlanta Sacred Chorale, Eric Nelson

The text for the hymn “As with gladness men of old” was written by William Chatterton Dix (1837-1998). From Linnrecords.com: “Magnificat was formed in 1991 by its conductor, Philip Cave, to explore the rich diversity of choral music from the last five centuries. The ensemble specialises in the restoration and performance of neglected choral masterpieces of the 16th and 17th centuries.” John Rutter was commissioned by the Texas Choral Directors Association to write Open thou mine eyes. The text was written by Lancelot Andrews (1555-1626).

Pierre Villette: O sacrum convivium
The Rodolfus Choir, Ralph Allwood

Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov: O Gentle Light of Holy Glory
Chamber Choir "Lege Artis", Boris Abalyan

Herbert Howells: Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks
Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral, John Scott
Christopher Dearnley, organ

French composer Pierre Villette (1926-1998) was a student of Maurice Durufle. Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov (1859-1939) was a student of Rimsky-Korsakov. Herbert Howells wrote his ravishing setting of Psalm 42 “Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks” in one day on January 8, 1941.

Commentary: Alan McClellan

Peter Cornelius: The Three Kings
Voces 8

Josef Haydn: The Heavens are Telling the Glory of God~The Creation
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Chorus, Robert Shaw
Jeanne Brown, soprano; Oliver Sueing, tenor; Wayne Baughmann, bass

Guillaume Dufay: Letabundus
Pomerium, Alexander Blachly

German composer Peter Cornelius published Weihnachtslieder, Op.8 in 1856. It consist of six songs of which “Die Konig” or “The Three Kings” is the most popular. The inspiration for The Creation was

Handel's oratorio "Israel in Egypt." Bernard of Clairvaux wrote the text for Guillaume Dufay's anthem "Laetabundus exsultet fidelis chorus" which translates as "Joyfully the faithful chorus rejoices."

Eriks Esenvalds: O Salutaris Hostia
Wartburg College Choir, Lee Nelson

Felix Mendelssohn: Jesu, meine Freude
Chamber Choir of Europe; Wurtemberg Philharmonic, Nicol Matt

Charles John Stanley: Voluntary in F
Jennifer Bate, organ
1955 Harrison & Harrison organ in St. James' Church, Muswell Hill

Latvian composer Ēriks Ešenvalds (1979-) was Fellow Commoner in Creative Arts at Trinity College, Cambridge. Ryan Turner notes in Emmanuel Music: "Mendelssohn deliberately chose Bach as his model for his eight chorale cantatas, and Jesu meine Freude follows closely Bachian prototypes." English organist Jennifer Bate (1944-2020) is the daughter of another distinguished organist, H.A. Bate.

J.S. Bach: Cantata 124, "Meinen Jesum lass ich nicht"
Bach Collegium Japan, Masaaki Suzuki
Yukari Nonoshita, soprano; Robin Blaze, countertenor
Andreas Weller, tenor; Peter Kooy, bass-baritone

The German translates as "My Jesus leave me not" and was first performed on January 7, 1725 in Leipzig. It takes as its theme the story of Jesus in the temple. Of particular interest is the sprightly *sinfonia* which precedes the opening chorus.

Gerald Finzi: Dies Natalis, Op. 8
Britten Sinfonia, Jacqueline Shave
Mark Padmore, tenor

English composer Gerald Finzi (1901–1956) wrote Dies Natali (Day of the Birth) in 1938-39) using texts by seventeenth-century author Thomas Traherne.

Felix Mendelssohn: Sonata in B flat, Op. 65 No. 4
John Stansell, organ
1988 Kuhn organ in Justinuskirche, Frankfurt

German composer Felix Mendelssohn wrote six sonatas for organ which have become staples of an organist's repertoire.

Joseph Martin Kraus: Funeral Music for Gustav III
Uppsala University Chamber Choir; Drottningholm Baroque Ensemble, Stefan Parkman

Swedish composer Joseph Martin Kraus wrote his Funeral Music in 1792.

Walter Frye: Missa Flos regalis
The Binchois Consort, Andrew Kirkman

Little is known about English composer Walter Frye other than he probably died in 1474.

Antonio Vivaldi: Magnificat in G minor, RV 610

Choir of King's College, Cambridge; Academy of Ancient Music, Sir Stephen Cleobury

Sarah Fox and Deborah Norman, soprano; Michael Chance, counter-tenor

James Gilchrist, tenor; Jonathan Lemalu, bass

Italian composer Antonio Vivaldi composed several settings of the Magnificat. RV 610 is the original setting for SATB choir, 2 soprano soloists, alto and tenor soloists.