Great Sacred Music
Sunday, May 23, 2021

Ralph Vaughan Williams: Come down, O Love divine
Choir of King's College, Cambridge, Sir Stephen Cleobury
Thomas Williamson, organ

Rene Clausen: Ubi caritas
Vocal Arts Ensemble of Durham, Rodney Wynkoop

Supply Belcher: An Anthem of Praise
Oregon State University Choir, Ron Jeffers

This Sunday in the church year is Pentecost. English composer Vaughan Williams named his hymn tune Down Ampney after the village in which he was born. The text is a translation of the 14th century Italian poet Bianco da Siena. Rene Clausen (1953-) is Professor of Music at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota. Supply Belcher (1751–1836) was one of the first American composers of sacred choral music.

Philippe Rogier: Peccavi quid faciam tibi
Magnificat, Philip Cave

John Rutter: Veni Sancte Spiritus
Choir of King's College, Cambridge, Sir Stephen Cleobury

Flemish composer Philippe Rogier (c1561-1596) spent most of his career working in the Spanish court. Rutter’s setting of the Whitsuntide hymn “Come, Holy Ghost” shows another side to this gifted composer’s writing style.

Commentary: Richard Webster

Samuel Sebastian Wesley: O Thou who camest from above
Choirs of Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston, Massachusetts, Richard Webster

Ralph Vaughan Williams: Hail Thee, Festival Day!
Choir of First Congregational Church, Los Angeles, Thomas Somerville
Fred Swann, organ

American organist, choral director and composer Richard Webster is Director of Music and Organist at Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston. Venantius Honorius Clementianus Fortunatus wrote the words of "Hail Thee Festival Day!" which incorporates verses for Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost. Ralph Vaughan Williams composed the tune "Salve festa dies" to which the hymn is commonly sung.

Daniel Elder: Ave Maria
East Carolina University Chamber Singers, Andrew Crane

Nicolas Gombert: Quam pulchra es
Stile Antico
Libby Larsen: Veni, Creator Spiritus
Douglas Cleveland, organ
Goulding & Wood organ, Saint Meinrad Archabbey, Indiana

As his website states, "Daniel Elder (b. 1986) delights in crossing the boundaries of these worlds to create music that speaks outside its niche." Franco-Flemish composer Nicolas Gombert (1495-1560) fits in historically between Josquin des Prez and Palestrina. Dr. Libby Larsen (1950-) studied with Dominick Argento.

J.S. Bach: Cantata 59, "Wer mich liebet"
Holland Boys' Choir; Netherlands Bach Collegium, Pieter Jan Leusink
Ruth Holton, soprano; Sytse Buwalde, alto
Knut Schoch, tenor; Bas Ramselaar, bass

The German translates as “If ye love me, keep my commandments”. The opening movement takes its text from John 14:23. This cantata was first performed on May 16, 1723.

George Frideric Handel: Chandos Anthem No. 01
The Sixteen Choir and Orchestra, Harry Christophers
Lynne Dawson, soprano; Ian Partridge, tenor; Michael George, bass

Handel composed the eleven Chandos Anthems whilst in the employ of James, Duke of Chandos. Scholars suggest that these anthems were sketches for the twenty plus oratorios which Handel wrote later in his life.

W.A. Mozart: Missa brevis in G, K. 49/47d
Leipzig Radio Chorus and Symphony Orchestra, Herbert Kegel
Edith Mathis, soprano; Rosemarie Lang, contralto
Uwe Heilmann, tenor; Jan-Hendrik Rootering, bass

Mozart composed this short mass in 1768 at age 12. It was the first full mass that he had composed although he had written K. 33 before this.

Marc-Antoine Charpentier: Te Deum, H.147
Le Concert Spirituel, Hervé Niquet

Marc-Antoine Charpentier’s Te Deum for Four Voices, H. 147 was written in 1693.

Leo Sowerby: The Throne of God
William Ferris Chorale; Composer Festival Orchestra, William Ferris
Thomas Weisflog, organ

Dr. Sowerby’s sacred cantata, The Throne of God, takes its text from the Book of Revelation. It dates from 1956.

Antoine de Fevin: Missa Salve sancta parens
The Brabant Ensemble, Stephen Rice
Franco-Flemish composer Antoine de Fevin (c.1470-c.1512) was one of those remarkable musicians who flourish between Josquin and Palestrina.

J.S. Bach: Trio Sonata in D minor, BWV 527
Marie-Claire Alain, organ

French organist Marie-Claire Alain (1926-2013) recorded the organ music of J.S. Bach three times.