

Great Sacred Music

Sunday, June 6, 2021

William Byrd: Ave verum corpus
Chanticleer

Josef Haydn: The Heavens are Telling the Glory of God~The Creation
Vienna Chorus; Berlin Philharmonic, Herbert von Karajan

Henry Purcell: Sound the Trumpet! Sound the Drum!
English Concert and Choir, Trevor Pinnock

“Ave verum corpus” is a motet composed for the Feast of Corpus Christi. Josef Haydn (1732-1809) wrote his oratorio The Creation from 1779-1798. Purcell's countertenor duet comes from his Ode for Queen Mary's Birthday which dates from 1694.

Ildebrando Pizzetti: De profundis
Vasari Singers, Jeremy Backhouse

John Rutter: Open thou mine eyes
Cambridge Singers, John Rutter

Theodore Dubois: Grand Chorus
Frederick Swann, organ

The English chamber choir Vasari Singers was founded in 1981. 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). Théodore Dubois' Grand Choeur, from Douze Pièces, was published in 1886.

Commentary: The Right Reverend Samuel Rodman

Sir Charles Villiers Stanford: St. Patrick's Breastplate
Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge; Trinity Brass Ensemble, Stephen Layton
Owain Park, organ

William Byrd: Viri Galilaei
The King's Singers
Translation: "Ye men of Galilee, why stand you looking into heaven? Alleluia."

Anton Bruckner: Christus factus est pro nobis
Dresden Choir of the Cross, Martin Flamig

St. Patrick's Breastplate is attributed to the Patron Saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick. It dates from 433 A.D. and is commonly sung at ordinations. This setting of the Introit text from the Mass of the Ascension comes from Book 2 of English composer William Byrd's monumental Gradualia (1607). Anton Bruckner began his musical career as an organist and wrote many fine sacred compositions.

Traditional, arr. Mack Wilberg: Wayfarin' Stranger

Utah State University Chamber Singers. Cory Evans
Jeunee Roberts, soprano; Trevor Vincent, soprano saxophone

Herbert Howells: Saraband (in modo elegiaco)
Robert Benjamin Dobey, organ
1892 Roosevelt/1980 Schantz organ, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Syracuse, NY

Mack Wilberg (1955-) has been director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir since 2008. Herbert Howells (1892-1983) is best known for his exquisite sacred choral music. Fortunately, he wrote some fine works for organists of which this Sarabande is typical of his style.

J.S. Bach: Cantata 20, "O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort"
Bach Collegium Japan, Masaaki Suzuki
Yukari Nonoshita, soprano; Robin Blaze, countertenor
Jan Kobow, tenor; Peter Kooy, bass-baritone

The German translates as: "Eternity, thou thundrous word." This cantata was first performed in Leipzig in 1724. The text is taken from 1 John 4: 16-21 and Luke 16: 19-31.

Filipe da Madre de Deus: Antonya Flaciquia Gasipa
Huelgas Ensemble, Paul van Nevel
Filipe da Madre de Deus (c.1630-c.1690)

Portugese composer Filipe da Madre de Deus (c.1630–c.1688 or 1690). This villancico negro imitates African rhythms.

Jaak Nikolaas Lemmens: Fanfare;Cantabile
Stanislaus Deriemaeker
The 1891 Pierre Schyven organ in Antwerp Cathdral

Belgian composer and organist Jacques-Nicolas (Jaak-Nicolaas) Lemmens (1823-1881) won the coveted Prix de Rome in 1847.

Franz Schubert: Mass No. 6 in E flat, D. 950
Vienna Philharmonic & State Opera Chorus, Claudio Abbado
Karita Mattila, soprano; Marjana Lipovsek, alto
Jerry Hadley, tenor I; Jorge Antonio Pita, tenor II; Robert Holl, bass

The Mass in E flat was Schubert's last mass setting. It dates from the summer of 1828. This mass and the one in A flat are considered to be the acme of Schubert's religious compositions.

Lili Boulanger: Du fond de l'abime
Orchestra Lamoureux of Paris; Elisabeth Brasseur Chorus, Igor Markevitch

French composer Lili Boulanger (1893-1918) was a child prodigy and sister of Nadia Boulanger.

Domenico Zipoli: Mass in F
Cantoria of the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Jesus Gabriel Segade
Nami Landau, soprano; Angeles Abad, contralto;

Roberto Britos, tenor; Lee Viola, cello; Mario Videla, organ

Italian composer Domenico Zipoli (1688–1726) was a Jesuit missionary who worked in what is now Paraguay teaching music to the native peoples.