

Great Sacred Music

Sunday, August 15, 2021

Alexander Ewing: Jerusalem the Golden
Choir of Wells Cathedral, Malcolm Archer
Rupert Gough, organ

Gregorian chant: Salve Regina
Benedictine Monks of Santo Domingo De Silos

Camille Saint-Saëns: Panis Angelicus
Orchestra of the Toulouse Capitole, Michel Plasson
Roberto Alagna, tenor

In 2000 the Choir of Wells Cathedral under Malcolm Archer recorded a five CD set of hymns entitled The English Hymn. The Benedictine Monks of Santo Domingo De Silos gained fame with an album entitled Chant which went double platinum and made it to third place on Billboard. While French composer Camille Saint-Saens is highly regarded as a composer of symphonic music, he was for many years organist of Paris' Eglise de la Madeleine.

T. Tertius Noble: Grieve Not the Holy Spirit of God
Choir of St. John's Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C., Samuel Carabetta

David Grant: The Lord's my shepherd
Choir of Westminster Abbey, Martin Neary
Martin Baker, organ

Samuel Wesley: A Scrap for Organ
Jennifer Bate, organ
1955 Harrison & Harrison organ in St. James' Church, Muswell Hill

Dr. Noble, Organist of Saint Thomas Church, New York City from 1913-1943 wrote his anthem "Grieve Not The Holy Spirit Of God" in 1915. The Choir of Westminster Abbey was founded in the 14th-century. Samuel Wesley, son of Charles Wesley, styled several of his organ pieces "scraps."

Commentary: The Reverend Richard Pfaff

John Ireland: My song is love unknown
Choir of King's College, Cambridge, Sir Stephen Cleobury
Thomas Williamson, organ

Francis Jackson: Domine Ihesu Christe
Choir of York Minster, Philip Moore

English composer John Ireland wrote the tune for "My Song Is Love Unknown" in 1919 whilst organist of St. Luke's, Chelsea. The text was written by Samuel Crossman (1623-1683). English organist Dr. Francis Jackson (1917-) was Organist of York Minster from 1946-1982).

Thomas Tomkins: When David heard
Stile Antico

Sir William Harris: Strengthen ye the weak hands
Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, John Scott
Andrew Lucas, organ

Morten Lauridsen: O magnum mysterium
Voces 8

“The repertoire performed by Stile Antico focuses on the rich legacy of sixteenth and seventeenth-century polyphonic composition.” This British group records on Harmonia Mundi, always a good sign in my opinion. Sir William Harris (1883-1973) was Organist and Master of the Choristers at St. George’s Chapel, Windsor from 1933 until 1961. He wrote many fine anthems of which “Strengthen Ye the Weak Hands” is considered one of his best. American composer Morten Lauridsen (1943-) has been Professor of Composition at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music since 1967.

J.S. Bach: Cantata 199, "Mein Herze schwimmt im Blut"
Orchestra of Emmanuel Music, Craig Smith
Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, mezzo-soprano

BWV 199 was first performed three hundred and eight years ago on August 27, 1713. The German translates as “My heart swims in blood” and reflects the penitential mood of this solo cantata for soprano. American mezzo-soprano [Lorraine Hunt Lieberson](#) (1954-2006) was highly-regarded for her interpretation of Baroque music.

Andre Caplet: Messe a trois voix
BBC Singers, Stephen Jackson

French composer and conductor André Caplet (1878-1925) was Director of the Boston Opera from 1910-1914.

Antonio Salieri: La Passione di Gesu Cristo
Cappella Musicale della Cattedrale di Verona, Alberto Turco
Daniela Citino, soprano; Maria Teresa Toso, mezzo-soprano
Nikola Yovanovitch, tenor; Mario Scardoni, bass

From the publisher Carus: "Pietro Metastasio’s libretto to “azione sacra“ La Passione di Gesù Cristo (1730) is a prototype for the Italian Catholic oratorio of the 18th century, in which the Biblical text is entirely transformed into free verse. Originally written for Antonio Caldara, the text has been set to music many times. However, the famous poet wrote in a letter to the 26-year-old composer that the setting, in the style of Italian Opera seria, was 'the most expressive music that has ever been written for this poem.'"

Giovanni Felice Sances: Missa Sancta Maria Magdalenae
Duke Vespers Ensemble; Mallarme Chamber Players; Washington Cornett and Sackbutt
Ensemble, Brian Schmidt

Italian composer Giovanni Felice Sances (ca. 1600–1679) composed his *Missa Sancta Maria Magdalena* for 6 wind instruments, 6 string instruments, 7 voices, and organ. This is a world premiere recording of this mass.