

# Great Sacred Music

## Sunday, January 2, 2022

Joseph Gabriel Rheinberger: Omnes de Saba  
St. Clement's Choir, Philadelphia, Peter Richard Conte

Peter Cornelius: The Three Kings  
Polyphony, Stephen Layton  
Robert Rice, baritone

Peter Warlock: Bethlehem Down  
Voces8

The Latin of the Rheinberger anthem translates as "All they from Saba came." German composer Peter Cornelius published Weihnachtslieder, Op.8 in 1856. It consists of six songs of which Die König or The Three Kings is the most popular. Bethlehem Down won the Daily Telegraph's annual Christmas Carol Contest in 1927. Peter Warlock was a pseudonym used by music critic Philip Heseltine.

Traditional, arr. Graham Ross: Hail to the Lord's Anointed!  
Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, Graham Ross  
Michael Papadopoulos, organ

Orlande de Lassus: Omnes de Saba venient  
The Studio of Ancient Music of Montreal, Christopher Jackson

Max Reger: Melodia, Op. 129 No. 4  
Robert Burns King, organ  
1967 Schantz organ in First Presbyterian Church, Burlington, North Carolina

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed!" can be found on Mater ora filium: Music for Epiphany, a CD released in 2016 by Clare College. Christopher Jackson (1948-2015) was one of Canada's top early music specialists. Robert Burns King (1938-2016) served for 45 years as organist-choirmaster at Burlington, North Carolina's First Presbyterian Church.

Commentary: The Reverend Bob Innskeep

Phoebe P. Knapp: Blessed Assurance  
St. Olaf Choir, Anton Armstrong

Conrad Kocher, arr. W.H. Monk: As with gladness men of old  
Choir of King's College, Cambridge, Sir Stephen Cleobury  
Tom Etheridge, organ

John Goss, arr. by David Willcocks: See amid the winter's snow  
Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys, Gerre Hancock  
Gerre Hancock, organ

American composer and organist Phoebe P. Knapp (1839-1908) wrote over 500 hymns during her

lifetime.

William C. Dix wrote the text of "As with gladness men of old." Organist of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Sir John Goss (1800-1880) is best known for the music he wrote for "Praise, my soul, the King of heaven" and "See, amid the winter's snow."

John Rutter: All bells in paradise  
St. Paul's Cathedral Choir, Andrew Carwood

Juan Cabanilles: Pasacalles I  
Robert Parkins, organ  
1976 Flentrop Organ in Duke University Chapel

English composer John Rutter wrote "All bells in paradise" for the 2012 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge. The text was inspired by a fifteenth-century text for the Feast of Corpus Christi. Spanish organist Juan Bautista José Cabanilles (1644-1712) was Organist of the cathedral in Valencia.

J.S. Bach: Christmas Oratorio, BWV 248 Part Five  
Bach Choir of Bethlehem; Bach Festival Orchestra, Greg Funfgeld  
Tamara Matthews, soprano; Marietta Simpson, mezzo-soprano  
Benjamin Butterfield, tenor; Christopheren Nomura, baritone

Bach's Christmas Oratorio is actually six free-standing cantatas. Part Five is intended to be sung on the first Sunday of the New Year. The German translates as "Let honour be sung to You, O God." If some of the music sounds familiar, that's because Bach recycled movements from other cantatas.

Johann Adolf Hasse: Chori angelici laetantes  
Musica Antiqua of Cologne, Reinhard Goebel  
Bernarda Fink, mezzo-soprano

A friend of Johann Sebastian Bach, German composer Johann Adolph Hasse (1699-1783) composed over 70 operas.

J.S. Bach: Canonic Variations on "Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her", BWV 769  
Masaaki Suzuki, organ  
1692 Schnitger/Hinz organ in the Martinikerk, Groningen

This set of variations shows Bach at his most virtuosic. Listen for the tune which will be followed by its canon or imitation.

George Frideric Handel: The Dettingen Te Deum  
English Concert; Choir of Westminster Abbey, Simon Preston  
Stephen Varcoe, bass; Christopher Tipping, alto  
Harry Christophers, tenor; Michael Pearce, bass

The Dettingen Te Deum was written by Handel to celebrate the victory of King George II and his army over the French in 1743.

Giuseppe Verdi: Te Deum from Four Sacred Pieces

Philharmonia Chorus and Orchestra, Carlo Maria Giulini  
Dame Janet Baker, mezzo-soprano

Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi wrote four sacred motets in the last decades of his life. "Ave Maria" dates from 1886-1889.

Josquin Despres: Missa Hercules Dux Ferrarie  
Tallis Scholars, Peter Phillips

From Wikipedia: "The Missa Hercules dux Ferrariae is a setting of the Ordinary of the Mass composed by Josquin des Prez, and dedicated to Ercole d'Este I, Duke of Ferrara."

W.A. Mozart: Exsultate, jubilate, K. 165  
Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, Pinchas Zukerman  
Judith Blegen, soprano

American soprano Judith Blegen (1943-) has had a distinguished career performing on concert and opera stages worldwide.