

Great Sacred Music

Sunday, January 30, 2022

Thomas Weelkes: Give the King Thy judgements
Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, Stephen Darlington
Laurence Cummings, organ

Andrew Carter: Psalm 6
Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, John Scott
Andrew Lucas, organ

Dan Locklair: Pater Noster
Sospiri, Christopher Watson

English composer Thomas Weelkes (1575-1623) composed about 50 anthems of which this five-part anthem is one. The text uses an adaptation of Psalms 72: 1-2, 84: 9, and 19: 14-15. English composer Andrew Carter (1939-) has an impressive output of over fifty works for choir and other instruments. The Latin "Pater Noster" translates as "Our Father" This is the familiar Lord's Prayer which Professor Locklair has scored for SSAATTBB choir a capella.

John Rutter: I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes
Cambridge Singers; City of London Sinfonia, John Rutter

Pavel Chesnokov: Why Hast Thou Rejected Me
Chamber Choir "Lege Artis", Boris Abalyan

Franz Liszt: Andante religioso
Robert Parkins, organ
1932 Aeolian organ, Opus 1785 in Duke University Chapel

John Rutter's "I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes" dates from 1974 and is scored for SATB chorus and organ or orchestra. The Chamber Choir Lege Artis hails from St. Petersburg, Russia. Dr. Robert Parkins has been the University Organist of Duke University since 1985.

GSM Commentary: The Rev. Richard Pfaff

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

Orlando Gibbons: O clap your hands
Chanticleer, Joseph Jennings

Gerald Near: Holy is the true light
Cathedral Schola of St. Philip, Atlanta, Dale Adelman

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 composer

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625) was a chorister at King's College, Cambridge. American composer Gerald Near (1942-) studied with Leo Sowerby.

Wilfred Josephs: Baruch Shenatan Torah
The Zemel Choir, Robert Max

Marcel Dupré: Angelus, Op. 34 No. 2
Maxine Thevenot, organ
1930/1993 Casavant organ Opus 1409, Holy Rosary Cathedral, Regina, Saskatchewan

The Hebrew translates as "Blessed is he who gave the Torah Law." Wilfred Josephs (1927-1997) born in Gosforth, Newcastle on Tyne. Canadian organist Maxine Thévenot is Director of Cathedral Music and Organist at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

J.S. Bach: Cantata 14, "War Gott nicht mit uns diese Zeit"
Holland Boys' Choir; Netherlands Bach Collegium, Pieter Jan Leusink
Marjon Strijk, soprano; Sytse Buwalde, alto
Knut Schoch, tenor; Bas Ramselaar, bass

The German translates as "If God were not with us at this time". Dating from 1735 this is one of the last cantatas which Bach wrote.

W.A. Mozart: Mass No. 14 in C, K. 317 "Coronation"
Gachinger Kantorei & Bach Collegium Stuttgart, Helmuth Rilling
Donna Brown, soprano; Claudia Schubert, alto
Marcus Ullman, tenor; Klaus Hager, bass

Mozart's Coronation Mass was first performed in Salzburg Cathedral on Easter Day in 1779. The sub-title probably comes from the use of this mass at the coronation of Emperor Leopold II or his successor Emperor Franz.

Felix Mendelssohn: Sonata in A, Op. 65 No. 3
Peter Hurford, organ
Rieger Organ in Ratzeburg Cathedral, Germany

English organist Peter Hurford (1930-2019) founded the St. Albans International Organ Festival in 1963.

Josef Haydn: Missa Solemnis
Collegium Cantorum St. Gallen; Southwest German Philharmonic, Constance Mario Schwarz
Judith Graf, soprano; Ingrid Alexandre, alto;
Lukas Albrecht, tenor; Michael Haag, bass

Apparently Josef Haydn composed the fifth of his six Missae Solemnae in 1801 in six weeks.

Leo Sowerby: Requiescat in pace
Larry King, organ
1923/68 Aeolian-Skinner Organ Opus 408-D in trinity Church, Wall Street, New York

This organ was severely damaged by the collapse of the World Trade Center towers on September 11, 2001. It was subsequently removed from Trinity Church in 2003, refurbished by Casavant Freres and installed in John's Creek United Methodist Church in Johns Creek, Georgia in 2016.

Jacob Obrecht: Missa Maria zart
Tallis Scholars, Peter Phillips

Flemish composer Jacob Obrecht (1457/8–1505) was a prominent composer of the latter part of the 15th-century. The Tallis Scholars perform the Credo, Sanctus & Benedictus, and Agnus Dei from Obrecht's "Mass for Gentle Mary."

Max Reger: Chorale Prelude on Sleepers, Awake!, Op. 67, No. 41
Martin Welzel, organ
1974 Johannes Klais organ, Trier Cathedral

Max Reger's Opus 67 consists of fifty-two chorale preludes based on popular Protestant hymns of the day.