

Great Sacred Music

Sunday, April 24, 2022

John Roberts: Immortal, invisible, God only wise
Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, John Scott
Christopher Dearnley, organ

John Rutter: This is the day
Cambridge Singers; Aurora Orchestra, John Rutter

Benedict Sheehan: Cherubic Hymn~Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
The Saint Tikhon Choir, Benedict Sheehan
Timothy Parsons, counter-tenor; Michael Hawes, baritone; Jason Thoms, bass

According to Hymnary.org, “St. Denio is based on “Can mlynedd i nawr” (“A Hundred Years from Now”), a traditional Welsh ballad popular in the early nineteenth century. It was first published as a hymn tune in John Roberts’s *Caniadau y Cyssegr* (Hymns of the Sanctuary, 1839). The tune title refers to St. Denis, the patron saint of France.” John Rutter's "This is the day" was composed for the marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton at Westminster Abbey in 2011. American composer Benedict Sheehan released his setting of the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom in 2021

Gabriel Faure: Tantum ergo, Op. 65 No. 2
Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys, John Scott
Richard Pittsinger, Jack Keller and Samuel Schipps, treble; Kevin Kwan, organ

Joseph W. Jenkins: Two Hebraic Prayers
U.S. Army Chorus, Lt. Col. Gary F. Lamb
Master Sgt. Gene Tucker, tenor
Two Hebraic Prayers: Sim Shalom, Op.159 No. 1; Mah Tov, Op. 159 No. 2.
Joseph Willcox Jenkins (1928 – 2014) was an American composer and educator, and a chief arranger in the 1950s for the U.S. Army Chorus.

J.S. Bach: Chorale Prelude: Jesu, meine Freude, BWV 610
Wilhelm Krumbach, organ

The Tantum Ergo text comes from the ancient hymn *Pange lingua* written by Saint Thomas Aquinas. Joseph Willcox Jenkins (1928–2014) was an American composer and educator, and a chief arranger in the 1950s for the U.S. Army Chorus. The Bach chorale prelude comes from the *Arnstadt Organ Book* which was in an 18th century manuscript 'discovered' in the Yale Library in 1984.

Commentary: Mark Dirksen

Richard Dirksen: Hilariter
Choir of the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul, Washington, DC, Richard Dirksen
Douglas Major, organ

Michael Praetorius: Hallelujah: Christ is Risen from Hymns of Peace and Praise

La Capella Ducale; Musica Fiata Koln, Roland Wilson

James Whitbourn: Festival Alleluia
Wells Cathedral School Choralia, Christopher Finch
Elliot Launn, piano

Canon Richard Dirksen was the Organist and Choirmaster of the Washington National Cathedral in Washington from 1977 to 1988. Praetorius' Easter Anthem comes from his collection "Polyhymnia Caduceatrix & Panegyrica" of 1619. Early in his career English composer James Whitbourn (1963-) was a programme maker for BBC.

Herbert Howells: Behold, O God our defender
Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral, John Scott
Christopher Dearnley, organ

Jeremiah Clarke: Trumpet Voluntary
John Longhurst, organ
e Mormon Tabernacle Organ
1948 Aeolian-Skinner organ in the Mormon Tabernacle

Paul Andrews writes: "In November 1952, Howells was invited to compose a short Introit for the Coronation Service of Queen Elizabeth II. The text was to be verses from Psalm 84, beginning 'Behold, O God our defender'. He completed this quiet, reflective prelude to a great state occasion at the end of that year, on Christmas Day. For the Coronation itself the combined choirs were large and Howells provided a fully orchestrated score, but this sensitive anthem is more usually heard, as here, with smaller forces and organ accompaniment." Jeremiah Clarke's Trumpet Voluntary dates from 1700 and is one of the most familiar trumpet voluntaries.

J.S. Bach: Cantata 42, "Am Abend aber desselbigen Sabbats ... "
Bach Collegium Japan, Masaaki Suzuki
Yukari Nonoshita, soprano; Robin Blaze, countertenor
James Gilchrist, tenor; Dominik Worner, bass

The Sinfonia to Cantata 42 is a large-scale instrumental work. You can only imagine what kind of symphonies Bach might have written had he lived a couple of decades later. The German translates as "The evening, though, of the very same Sabbath, [the disciples assembled, and the doors had been fastened tightly for fear of the Jews when Jesus came and walked among them.]"

Sir Edward Elgar: Great is the Lord, Op. 67
Worcester Cathedral Choir, Donald Hunt
Adrian Partington, organ

Sir Frank Bridge conducted the first performance of Elgar's anthem "Great is the Lord" on July 12, 1916.

Antonio Vivaldi: Credo in E minor, RV 591
Ernst Senff Choir; Berlin Philharmonic, Carlo Maria Giulini

This is Vivaldi's only surviving setting of the Credo.

George Frideric Handel: La Resurrezione
Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Nicholas McGegan
Lisa Saffer, soprano; Michael George, baritone;
Judith Nelson, soprano; Patricia Spence, mezzo-soprano

John Allison writing in Gramophone notes: "Handel's early Resurrection oratorio, written in 1708 during the young composer's Roman sojourn, is characterised by a freshness and vitality that he seldom matched in more mature works."

Alexandre Guilmant: March on Handel's "Lift up your heads", Op. 15
Simon Preston, organ
Harrison & Harrison organ in Westminster Abbey, London

Alexandre Guilmant (1837–1911) was a French organist who taught Marcel Dupre among others.