

Great Sacred Music

Sunday, May 22, 2022

Basil Harwood: Thy hand, O God, has guided
Choir of Wells Cathedral, Malcolm Archer
Rupert Gough, organ

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina: Litanae de Beata Virgine Maria
The Studio of Ancient Music of Montreal, Christopher Jackson

George Frideric Handel: May no rash intruder from Solomon
Howard University Choir; Handel Festival Orchestra of Washington, Stephen Simon

English priest Edward Hayes Plumptre wrote the text of the hymn "Thy hand, O God, has guided" in 1864. Palestrina's compositions were published in 32 volumes by Breitkopf and Hartel. The chorus "May no rash intruder" comes from the oratorio "Solomon" which Handel wrote in 1748.

Herbert Sumsion: Benedicite
Choir of Gloucester Cathedral, John Sanders
Mark Blatchly, organ

John Rutter: Look at the world
Cambridge Singers; City of London Sinfonia, John Rutter

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

Herbert Sumsion and Herbert Howells share something else besides their Christian names. They both earned their Fellow of the Royal College of Organists diploma in 1916. John Rutter notes that "Look at the World, composed in 1996, is a simple anthem with a text on the theme of the environment. It was written to mark the 70th anniversary of the Council for the Protection of Rural England. Dr. Robert Parkins has been the University Organist of Duke University since 1985.

Commentary: Lee Nelson

Jake Runestad: Let My Love Be Heard
Wartburg College Choir, Lee Nelson

Paul Mealor: Locus iste
Wartburg College Choir, Lee Nelson

This morning's commentary by Lee Nelson discusses American composer Jake Runestad (b. 1986) and Welsh composer Paul Mealor (b. 1975).

Sergei Rachmaninoff: Bogoroditse Devo
Cambridge Chorale, Michael Kibblewhite

Antonio Vivaldi: Deus tuorum militum, RV 612
Concertgebouw Chamber Orchestra, Vittorio Negri
Jochen Kowalski, alto; Nico van der Meel, tenor
John Constable, organ

Max Reger: Basso ostinato in E minor, Op. 69 No. 3
Bernard Haas, organ
Link organ in Evangelical Church, Giengen an der Brenz, Germany

“Bogoroditse Devo” translates as “Rejoice, O Virgin Mother of God” and is part of Rachmaninoff’s All-Night Vigil, Op. 37. "deus tuorum militum" translates as "God of your Soldier" and is a setting of the ancient hymn commonly chanted in earlier liturgies. Reger's Basso ostinato comes from a collection of ten pieces for organ that was published in 1903.

J.S. Bach: Cantata 87, "Bisher habt ihr nichts gebeten in meinem Namen"
Bach Collegium Japan, Masaaki Suzuki
Yukari Nonoshita, soprano; Robin Blaze, countertenor
Makoto Sakurada, tenor; Peter Kooy, bass-baritone

The German translates as “Hitherto have ye asked nothing for in my name.” The cantata was first performed in Leipzig on May 6, 1725. It is scored for bass, alto and tenor soloists, chorus, oboes, oboe de caccia, strings, and basso continuo.

W.A. Mozart: Exsultate, jubilate, K. 165
Philharmonia Orchestra, Claus Peter Flor
Yvonne Kenny, soprano

Austrian composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart wrote his Exsultate while visiting Milan in 1773.

Josef Gabriel Rheinberger: Requiem in E flat, Op. 84
Saarbrücken Chamber Choir, Georg Grun

Rheinberger composed 4 Requiems. This one in the key of E flat dates from 1867.

François-Joseph Gossec: Te Deum for Grand Orchestra
National Choir; Choir and Orchestra of the Sorbonne, Paris, Jacques Grimbert
Jill Feldman, soprano; Brigitte LaFon, mezzo-soprano
Gerard Lesne, alto; Howard Milner, tenor; Glenn Chambers, baritone

French composer François-Joseph Gossec bridged the period from Jean-Philippe Rameau to Hector Berlioz.

Valentin Schumann, arr. Barbara Harbach: Reverie on Vater unser
Barbara Harbach, organ
1965 Aeolian-Skinner organ at Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis, Missouri

German composer and publisher Valentin Schumann flourished in Leipzig in the 1830s.

J.S. Bach: Gloria from Mass in B minor, BWV 232
Monteverdi Choir; English Baroque Soloists, Sir John Eliot Gardiner

The Gloria of Bach's Mass in B minor dates from 1733. While we tend to think of Bach's mass as one grand work, he actually composed it over a period of some 25 years, culminating in the year before his death in 1749.

Joao Lourenco Rebelo: Magnificat a 13
The Sixteen; His Majesties Sagbutts and Cornetts, Harry Christophers

Joao Lourenco Rebelo (1610-1661) was the most pre-eminent Renaissance composer of Portugal.