

Great Sacred Music

Sunday, June 12, 2022

J.B. Dykes: Holy! Holy! Holy!
Choir of King's College, Cambridge, Sir Stephen Cleobury
Richard Gowers, organ

Gabriel Jackson: Hymn to the Trinity
Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, Graham Ross

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

John Bacchus Dykes wrote over fifty-seven hymn tunes, most of which are still in use today. His tune "Nicaea" for Reginald Heber's text "Holy! Holy! Holy!" is published in approximately 1,400 hymnals. Gabriel Jackson's motet takes its text from the Sixth Respond at Matins, Trinity Sunday. The Benedicite Dominum, or the Canticle of the Three Young Men, takes its text from the Book of Daniel Chapter 3:57-88 and Chapter 3:56.

Sir Hubert Parry: I was glad when they said unto me
Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, John Scott
Andrew Lucas, organ

Louis Vierne: Toccata
John Rose, organ
1962 Austin Organ Pous 2332 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Hartford, Connecticut

Sir Hubert Parry's grand setting of Psalm 122 was first performed at the coronation of King Edward VII in 1902. Louis Vierne's Pièces de Fantaisie pour Grande Orgue date from 1926-27.

Commentary: The Rt. Rev. Samuel Rodman

Sir Charles Villiers Stanford: St. Patrick's Breastplate
Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge; Trinity Brass Ensemble, Stephen Layton
Owain Park, organ

Felix Mendelssohn: Te Deum a 4
Chamber Choir of Europe, Nicol Matt
Alice Duskova, organ

Healey Willan: Epilogue
Patrick Wedd, organ
1914/1995 Casavant Organ of the Eglise Saint-Jean-Baptiste, Montreal

St. Patrick's Breastplate is attributed to the Patron Saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick. It dates from 433 A.D. and is commonly sung at ordinations. Mendelssohn was 17 years old when he wrote this Te Deum for

the Berliner Singakademie in 1826. Canadian organist Patrick Wedd (1948-2019) was Organist and Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal, Quebec from 1996-2018.

J.S. Bach: Cantata 129, "Gelobet sei der Herr, mein Gott"
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 "Praised be the Lord, my God". This cantata was first performed on Trinity Sunday in either 1726 or 1727. The work has five movements, the first of which is a very grand choral fantasia. The text was adapted from Johannes Olearius 1665 hymn text.

Jean-Baptiste Lully: Te Deum
Le Concert Spirituel, Herve Niquet

Jean-Baptiste Lully was actually born as Giovanni Battista Lulli, a native of Florence. He spent most of his life and career in the employ of King Louis XIV of France.

Sigfrid Karg-Elert: Marche triomphale: Nun danket alle Gott
Peter Hurford, organ
1978 Rieger organ in Ratzeburg Cathedral, Germany.

The Austrian organ-builder Rieger completed the magnificent instrument in Ratzeburg Dom, Germany in 1977. British organist Peter Hurford (1930-2019) plays Karg-Elert's Triumphal March based on the hymn tune "Now thank we all our God."

Stephen Paulus: To Be Certain of the Dawn
Minnesota Chorale; Minnesota Boychoir; Basilica Cathedral Choir; Cathedral Choristers;
Minnesota Orchestra, Osmo Vanska
Barry Abelson, cantor; Elizabeth Futral, soprano
Christina Baldwin, mezzo-soprano; John Tessier, tenor; Philip Cokorinos, bass-baritone

American composer Stephen Paulus (1949-2014) was commissioned by the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis to compose this holocaust oratorio as a gift to Temple Israel Synagogue, also in Minneapolis. "The first of the three sections of the libretto by Michael Dennis Browne deals with Christian repentance for the church's role in the Holocaust. The second section focuses on the experience of Jews during the Holocaust, and the third on the present time and the vision of true reconciliation and cooperation between people of all faiths." <http://www.allmusic.com/album/stephen-paulus-to-be-certain-of-the-dawn-mw0001426100>

Franz Schubert: Mass No. 4 in C, D. 452
Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra; Bavarian Radio Choir, Wolfgang Sawallisch
Lucia Popp, soprano; Brigitte Fassbaender, mezzo-soprano
Adolf Dallapozza, tenor; Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, baritone

Schubert wrote his Mass in C major in 1816 at the age of 19. It is scored for SATB choir and soloists accompanied by strings and organ.

Anton Bruckner: Te Deum

BBC Symphony Chorus and Orchestra, Otto Klemperer
Heather Harper, soprano; Dame Janet Baker, mezzo-soprano;
Richard Lewis, tenor; Marian Nowakowski, bass

Austrian composer Anton Bruckner began composing this work in 1881, about the same time as he was completing his Symphony No. 6 and starting on Symphony No. 7. This recording was made from a December 1961 BBC radio broadcast.