

Great Sacred Music

Sunday, October 9, 2022

Alessandro Grandi: Cantemus Domino
La Capella Ducale; Musica Fiata Koln, Roland Wilson

Richard Webster: O God, our help in ages past
Advent Press Choir, brass and percussion, Richard Webster
Thomas G. Whittemore, organ

Henry Purcell: Jubilate
Taverner Consort, Choir & Players, Andrew Parrott

Italian composer Alessandro Grandi (1586-1630) published his setting of "Cantemus Domino" in 1628. From Hymnary.org: "The hymn "O God, Our Help In Ages Past" was written by Isaac Watts in 1714, shortly before the death of Queen Anne of England. This was a time of great crises and turmoil, as the successor of Queen Anne was as yet undetermined, and the fear of a monarch who would reinstate the persecution of Protestants was great. King George I prevented such persecution, but the fear before Anne's death was great. This was the context in which Watts wrote his powerful text, now lauded as "one of the grandest in the whole realm of English Hymnody" (Bailey, The Gospel in Hymns, 54). Purcell's Jubilate is scored for SSATB soloists, SSATB choir, two trumpets, strings and continuo and was written for the Saint Cecilia Festival in 1694.

Jules Van Nuffel: Laetatus sum
Choir of St. Rombaux Cathedral, Malines, Belgium, Johan van Bouwelen
Peter Pieters, organ

Graham Ross: Duo Seraphim
Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, Graham Ross

J.S. Bach: Herzliebster Jesu, was hast du verbrochen
Wilhelm Krumbach, organ
Translation: Jesus, most dear to my heart, what have you done wrong?

Jules Van Nuffel (1883-1953) was a Belgian priest and composer. The Latin translates as "I was glad" and is a setting of Psalm 121. English composer Graham Ross (1985-) is the Director of Music at Clare College, Cambridge. "Herzliebster Jesu, was hast du verbrochen" is an early work by J.S. Bach. It was only discovered by scholars in a collection contained in the Library at Yale University in 1985. The German translates as "Jesus, most dear to my heart, what have you done wrong?"

Commentary: Bob Chapman

Johannes Cruger: Now thank we all our God
Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral, London; English Brass Ensemble, John Scott
Christopher Dearnley, organ

Marc-Antoine Charpentier: Salve Regina
Le Concert Spirituel, Herve Niquet

The hymn "Now thank we all our God" was written by Martin Rinckhart (1586-1649), translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878) and is commonly paired with Johannes Cruger's tune "Nun danket".

Manuel Arenzana: Dixit Dominus a 4
Mexico City Chorus and Chamber Orchestra, Benjamin Jaurez Echenique
Irasema Terrazas, soprano; Gabriela Thierry, mezzo-soprano
Flavio Becerra, tenor; Jorge Cozatl, bass; Ivan Juarez, bass

Sigfrid Karg-Elert: Marche triomphale: Nun danket alle Gott
Thomas Brown, organ
1982 Laukhuff organ at University Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Manuel Arenzana (c. 1762 -1821) was Maestro de Capilla of the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Puebla, Mexico, from 1792 to 1821. German composer Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877–1933) composed hundreds of works for organ and harmonium. Sadly very few are played, this exuberant setting of "Now thank we all our God" being the exception.

J.S. Bach: Cantata 148, "Bringet dem Herrn Ehre seines Namens"
Holland Boys' Choir; Netherlands Bach Collegium, Pieter Jan Leusink
Sytse Buwalde, alto; Nico van der Meel, tenor; Bas Ramselaar, bass

The German translates as "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name." This cantata was first performed on September 19, 1723. The text is based on Ephesians 4: 1-6 and Luke 14:1-11.

W.A. Mozart: Mass in C, K. 257 "Credo"
John Alldis Choir; London Symphony Orchestra, Sir Colin Davis
Helen Donath, soprano; Gillian Knight, mezzo-soprano; Ryland Davies, tenor; Clifford Grant, bass

K. 257 is one of three masses which Mozart wrote in November and December of 1776.

J.S. Bach: Fantasia in G, BWV 572
Masaaki Suzuki, organ
1692 Schnitger/Hinz organ in the Martinikerk, Groningen

Bach's BWV 572 dates from his time at Weimar. The original manuscript has been lost. We have a copy made by one of Bach's students as the source material.

Juan Garcia de Salazar: Vespers of Our Lady
Ministriles de Marsias; Capilla Penaflores, Josep Cabre

Spanish baroque composer Juan Garcia de Salazar (1639–1710) was the musician at the Catedral del Santisimo Salvador in Zamora, Spain.

Sir George Dyson: St. Paul's Voyage to Melita
Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Vernon Handley
Neil Mackie, tenor

English composer Sir George Dyson's one movement cantata was first performed in Hereford

Cathedral in September 1933.

Ralph Vaughan Williams: Te Deum in G
Corydon Singers, Matthew Best
Thomas Trotter, organ

We celebrate the 150th anniversary of Ralph Vaughan Williams birth on October 12, 1872 with this setting of the Te Deum which Vaughan Williams composed for the enthronement of the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1928.