

Great Sacred Music

Sunday, February 19, 2023

Cyril Taylor: *Glorious things of Thee are spoken*
Choir of King's College, Cambridge, Sir Stephen Cleobury
Benjamin Bayl, organ

Henry Purcell: *Te Deum*
Taverner Consort, Choir & Players, Andrew Parrott

Josef Haydn: *Te Deum for the Empress Marie Therese*
Monteverdi Choir; English Baroque Soloists, Sir John Eliot Gardiner

English priest Cyril Taylor wrote his marvelous hymn tune Abbot's Leigh whilst in the army stationed at Abbot's Leigh. Dating from 1694, Henry Purcell's setting of the Te Deum Laudamus was the first English setting of that ancient hymn with orchestral accompaniment. Haydn wrote his Te Deum in 1800 on a commission from Empress Marie Therese.

Commentary Christopher Jacobson

Herbert Howells: *Te Deum (Collegium Regale)*
Choir of King's College, Cambridge; King's Voices; Britten Sinfonia, Sir Stephen Cleobury

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

Jean Langlais: *Hymne d'Action de Grace "Te Deum"*
James Lancelot, organ
Harrison & Harrison organ in Durham Cathedral, England

English composer Herbert Howells wrote his setting of the morning canticles entitled Collegium Regale for King's College, Cambridge in 1945 for his friend Boris Ord. Mendelssohn was 17 years old when he wrote this Te Deum for the Berliner Singakademie in 1826. Jean Langlais' "Hymne d'Action de Grace 'Te Deum'" is one of three Gregorian Paraphrases that date from 1933-34.

J.S. Bach: *Cantata 127, "Herr Jesu christ, wahr' Mensch und Gott"*
Bach Collegium Japan, Masaaki Suzuki
Carolyn Sampson, soprano; Robin Blaze, countertenor
Gerd Turk, tenor; Peter Kooy, bass-baritone

This cantata, considered by many scholars to be Bach's very finest, was written for Quinquagesima Sunday which is the last Sunday before Lent. It was first performed on February 11, 1725 in Leipzig. The German translates as "Lord Jesus Christ, true Man and God."

Jules Van Nuffel: *Te Deum*
Choir of St. Rombaux Cathedral, Malines, Belgium; Art of Brass, Johan van Bouwelen
Peter Pieters, organ

Jules Van Nuffel (1883-1953) was a Belgian priest and composer.

Giuseppe Verdi: *Te Deum from Four Sacred Pieces*

Philharmonia Chorus and Orchestra, Carlo Maria Giulini
Dame Janet Baker, mezzo-soprano

Italian opera composer Giuseppe Verdi wrote four sacred motets in the last decades of his life. “Te Deum” dates from 1886-1889.

Franz Schubert: *Mass No. 1 in F, D. 105*

Bavarian Radio Symphony and Choir, Wolfgang Sawallisch
Lucia Popp, soprano; Helen Donath, soprano
Brigitte Fassbaender, mezzo-soprano; Adolf Dallapozza, tenor
Peter Schreier, tenor; Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, baritone

Franz Schubert was commissioned to compose his Mass No. 1 in F major for the 100th anniversary of the Lichtental Parish Church in May 1814.

Charles Tournemire: *Improvisation on Te Deum Laudamus*

David Arcus, organ
Aeolian organ in Duke University Chapel, Durham, North Carolina

Music by the extraordinary French organist and improvisateur Charles Tournemire, in a stunning performance by renowned American organist Dr. David Arcus on the 1932 Aeolian organ in Duke University Chapel – who could ask for anything more?

Anton Bruckner: *Te Deum*

Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Daniel Barenboim
Jessye Norman, soprano; Yvonne Minton, mezzo-soprano
David Rendall, tenor; Samuel Ramey, 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.

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.