

Great Sacred Music

Sunday, May 7, 2023

Thomas Haweis: *Praise to the Holiest*

Choir of King's College, Cambridge; Philip Jones Brass Ensemble, Sir David Willcocks
Ian Hare, organ

William Crotch: *Psalm 123, 'Unto thee lift I up mine eyes'*

Choir of St. John's College, Cambridge, Andrew Nethsingha
James Anderson-Besant, organ

Philip Jones Brass Ensemble was a British chamber ensemble formed in 1951, renowned for their virtuosic performances and recordings of brass music. Dr. William Crotch (1775-1847) was an English composer, organist, and music theorist. He was a professor of music at Oxford University and composed choral music, instrumental works, and music for theater productions.

John Rutter: *Lord, thou hast been our refuge*

Cambridge Singers, John Rutter
John Birch, organ; Brian Thomson, trumpet

Franz Schubert: *Offertorium "Salve Regina", D. 676*

Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Wolfgang Sawallisch
Helen Donath, soprano

"*Lord, thou hast been our refuge*" is a choral anthem composed by John Rutter in 1978. It is based on Psalm 90 and has been performed widely in sacred and secular settings. The piece features lush harmonies, soaring melodies, and a sense of calm assurance in the text. Schubert's "*Salve Regina*" is a vocal piece for solo soprano, chorus, and orchestra, composed in 1816. It is a setting of the Latin hymn and features a rich, expressive melody.

Commentary: Dr. Cory Evans

Ola Gjeilo: *Ubi caritas*

Utah State University Chamber Singers, Cory Evans
Kevin Olson, piano

Anonymous: *Speciosus forma*

Anonymous 4

Ola Gjeilo is a Norwegian composer and pianist known for his choral and orchestral works that blend classical and contemporary styles with a strong sense of melody and atmosphere. Anonymous 4 was a female *a cappella* vocal quartet known for their performances of medieval and Renaissance music, particularly sacred chants and polyphonic works, with an emphasis on historical authenticity.

Henry Purcell: *Jubilate in D*

Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford; English Concert, Simon Preston

Andre Campra: *Rigaudon from Idomenee*

Empire Brass with Michael Murray, organ

Henry Purcell's *Jubilate in D* is a sacred choral work written in 1694, featuring jubilant melodies and lively rhythms, with a Baroque-style setting of a Psalm text.

J.S. Bach: Cantata 108, "Es ist euch gut, dass ich hingehe ... "

Bach Collegium Japan, Masaaki Suzuki

Yukari Nonoshita, soprano; Robin Blaze,

countertenor; James Gilchrist, tenor; Dominik Worner, bass

Bach's *Cantata 108, "Es ist euch gut, dass ich hingehe,"* was composed for the third Sunday after Easter. It features a bass soloist, choir, and orchestra, and explores themes of consolation and hope in the face of loss and separation, drawing on biblical texts. It was first performed on April 22, 1725, which was the third Sunday after Easter, at the St. Nicholas Church in Leipzig, Germany.

Charles Gounod: *Messe Chorale*

Vocal Ensemble of Lausanne, Michel Corboz

Marie-Claire Alain, grand organ of the Cathedral of Lausanne; Daniel Fuchs, choir organ

Charles Gounod's *Messe Chorale* is a setting of the Catholic Ordinary of the Mass for unaccompanied four-part choir. It was composed in 1882 and is known for its simplicity and elegant melodies.

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck: *Erbarm dich mein, o Herre Gott*

James David Christie, organ

C.B. Fisk Organ, Opus 72, in Houghton Chapel, Wellesley College, Massachusetts

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621) was a Dutch composer and organist of the late Renaissance and early Baroque periods. He was known for his keyboard works and choral music.

Johannes Brahms: *A German Requiem, Op. 45*

Boston Symphony Orchestra; Tanglewood Festival Chorus, James Levine
Christine Schafer, soprano; Michael Volle, baritone

Johannes Brahms' *A German Requiem, Op. 45*, is a large-scale choral work for orchestra, chorus, and soloists. It was composed between 1865 and 1868 and premiered in Leipzig in 1869. The piece is notable for its use of texts from the Lutheran Bible rather than traditional Latin requiem texts, and its emphasis on comforting the living rather than praying for the dead. The music features rich harmonies, soaring melodies, and intricate counterpoint. The work is widely regarded as one of Brahms' greatest achievements and has become a beloved masterpiece of the choral repertoire.

W.A. Mozart: *Missa brevis in C, K. 258 "Spaur-Messe"*

Dresden Philharmonic; Leipzig Radio Chorus, Herbert Kegel
Mitsuko Shirai, soprano; Marga Schiml, alto;
Armin Ude, tenor; Hermann Christian Polster, bass

W.A. Mozart's *Missa brevis in C, K. 258 "Spaur-Messe"* is a short mass composed in 1775 for the court of Count Spaur in Salzburg. It features a choir, orchestra, and soloists.

George Frideric Handel: *Chandos Anthem No. 01, "O be joyful in the Lord" (Psalm 100)*

The Sixteen Choir and Orchestra, Harry Christophers
Lynne Dawson, soprano; Ian Partridge, tenor; Michael George, bass

Handel's *Chandos Anthem No. 1, "O be joyful in the Lord,"* was composed in 1717 for the Duke of Chandos. It features a choir, soloists, and orchestra, and is characterized by its lively and celebratory tone.

Source: ChatGPT