

# Great Sacred Music

## Sunday, May 28, 2023

1. **Richard Proulx: Jesus, Lead the Way** Performed by the Choirs of St. John's Cathedral, Denver, conducted by Donald Pearson, with Eric Plutz on organ

Richard Proulx (1937-2010) was an esteemed American composer, conductor, and organist. "Jesus, Lead the Way" is a choral composition that showcases Proulx's skillful harmonies and expressive melodies. The piece, performed here by the Choirs of St. John's Cathedral, Denver, under the direction of Donald Pearson, is accompanied by the talented organist Eric Plutz.

2. **Daniel E. Gawthrop: Return Unto Thy Rest** Performed by the Utah State University Chamber Singers, conducted by Cory Evans

Daniel E. Gawthrop is a contemporary American composer known for his exquisite choral works. "Return Unto Thy Rest" is a beautiful composition that exemplifies Gawthrop's sensitive and emotive writing. The piece is performed here by the Utah State University Chamber Singers, led by conductor Cory Evans, who brings out the rich textures and emotional depth of the music.

3. **T. Tertius Noble: Souls of the Righteous** Performed by the Washington Memorial Chapel Choir, conducted by Peter Richard Conte

T. Tertius Noble (1867-1953) was an English-born American organist and composer. "Souls of the Righteous" is a choral anthem that reflects Noble's mastery of sacred music. The Washington Memorial Chapel Choir, under the baton of Peter Richard Conte, delivers a moving interpretation of this piece, showcasing the choir's precision and expressive power.

4. **Ron Nelson: Behold Man** Performed by the Turtle Creek Chorale, conducted by Timothy Seelig

Ron Nelson (1929-2019) was an influential American composer known for his diverse musical output. "Behold Man" is a powerful choral work that captures Nelson's dramatic and evocative style. The Turtle Creek Chorale, led by conductor Timothy Seelig, delivers a commanding performance, capturing the intensity and emotional depth of the composition.

5. **Edwin Fissinger: Lux aeterna** Performed by the Woodley Ensemble, conducted by Robert Lehman

Edwin Fissinger (1920-1990) was an American composer known for his contributions to choral music. "Lux aeterna" is a contemplative and ethereal composition that showcases Fissinger's skillful use of harmonies and counterpoint. The Woodley Ensemble, under the direction of Robert Lehman, delivers a sensitive and captivating rendition of this beautiful piece.

6. **Gerre Hancock: Improvisation on the hymn tune "St. Denio"** Performed by Gerre Hancock on organ, on the Ahrents Memorial Organ of St. Thomas' Church, Fifth Avenue, New York

Gerre Hancock (1934-2012) was an esteemed American organist, improviser, and composer. This performance features Hancock's improvisation on the hymn tune "St. Denio." Demonstrating his exceptional improvisational skills, Hancock creates a unique and engaging interpretation on the majestic Ahrents Memorial Organ of St. Thomas' Church in New York.

7. **Samuel Barber: Agnus Dei** Performed by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys,

conducted by John Scott, with Joshua Ross as the treble soloist

Samuel Barber (1910-1981) was an American composer known for his expressive and lyrical compositions. "Agnus Dei" is a choral adaptation of Barber's renowned "Adagio for Strings," which has become one of his most beloved works. The Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys, led by conductor John Scott, presents a poignant and heartfelt rendition of this deeply moving piece. Treble soloist Joshua Ross brings a tender and angelic quality to the performance.

8. **Traditional American spiritual, arr. by Norman Luboff: Deep River** Performed by the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, conducted by Timothy Brown, with Reuben Thomas as the bass soloist

Norman Luboff (1917-1987) was an American music arranger and conductor known for his choral arrangements of folk songs and spirituals. "Deep River" is a classic African-American spiritual, arranged by Luboff for choir. The Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, under the direction of Timothy Brown, delivers a soulful and expressive rendition of this beloved spiritual. Bass soloist Reuben Thomas adds depth and richness to the performance.

9. **Anton Bruckner: Os justi** Performed by the Voices of Ascension, conducted by Dennis Keene

Anton Bruckner (1824-1896) was an Austrian composer known for his monumental symphonies and sacred choral works. "Os justi" is a motet composed by Bruckner, displaying his signature lush harmonies and expansive musical architecture. The Voices of Ascension, led by conductor Dennis Keene, bring out the grandeur and spirituality of this composition with their precise and resonant vocal blend.

10. **Gerald Near: My Song Shall Be Alway of the Loving-Kindness of the Lord** Performed by Gloriam Dei Cantores, conducted by Elizabeth C. Patterson, with James E. Jordan on organ

Gerald Near (b. 1942) is an American composer and organist renowned for his sacred choral music. "My Song Shall Be Alway of the Loving-Kindness of the Lord" is a captivating composition that showcases Near's sensitive text setting and intricate harmonies. Gloriam Dei Cantores, conducted by Elizabeth C. Patterson, delivers a passionate and expressive performance of this work. Organist James E. Jordan provides a rich and supportive accompaniment.

11. **David Briggs: Sortie from Messe pour Notre-Dame** Performed by David Briggs on organ, on the Nicholson/Hill, Norman and Beard organ in Gloucester Cathedral

David Briggs (b. 1962) is a British organist and composer known for his virtuosic organ performances and compositions. The "Sortie" from Messe pour Notre-Dame is a thrilling and energetic piece that highlights Briggs' command of the organ and his ability to create powerful and dynamic musical effects. This performance features David Briggs himself on the magnificent Nicholson/Hill, Norman and Beard organ in Gloucester Cathedral.

12. **J.S. Bach: Cantata 34, "O ewiges Feuer, o Ursprung der Liebe"** Performed by the Tolzer Knabenchor and Baroque Orchestra, conducted by Gustav Leonhardt, with Markus Schafer as the tenor soloist and Harry van der Kamp as the bass soloist

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) was a German composer and organist considered one of the greatest composers in Western classical music history. "O ewiges Feuer, o Ursprung der Liebe" is a cantata composed by Bach, featuring intricate vocal writing and masterful orchestration. The Tolzer Knabenchor and Baroque Orchestra, conducted by Gustav Leonhardt, present a historically informed

performance of this cantata. Tenor soloist Markus Schafer and bass soloist Harry van der Kamp exhibit their vocal prowess and interpretive depth.

**13. Randall Thompson: Mass of the Holy Spirit** Performed by the Schola Cantorum of Oxford, conducted by James Burton

Randall Thompson (1899-1984) was an American composer known for his choral music, including his widely performed "Alleluia." The Mass of the Holy Spirit is a sacred choral work that reflects Thompson's craftsmanship and expressive style. The Schola Cantorum of Oxford, led by conductor James Burton, delivers a polished and heartfelt performance, capturing the rich textures and spiritual essence of this Mass.

**14. Robert Schumann: Sketch in D flat from Four Sketches for Organ, Op. 58** Performed by Michael Farris on organ, on the Fisk organ Opus 101 in Caruth Auditorium, Southern Methodist University, Dallas

Robert Schumann (1810-1856) was a German Romantic composer renowned for his piano and chamber music, as well as his lieder. The Sketch in D flat is a delightful and lyrical organ piece from Schumann's Four Sketches for Organ. Organist Michael Farris brings out the expressive qualities of this piece with his sensitive interpretation on the Fisk organ Opus 101 in Caruth Auditorium at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

**15. Fredrik Sixten: Requiem** Performed by the Swedish Radio Choir and Nordic Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Ragnar Bohlin, with Karin Ingeback as the soprano soloist and Anders Larsson as the bass soloist

Fredrik Sixten (b. 1962) is a Swedish composer, conductor, and organist known for his diverse body of choral works. "Requiem" is a profound and introspective composition that blends traditional choral writing with contemporary influences. The Swedish Radio Choir and Nordic Chamber Orchestra, led by conductor Ragnar Bohlin, deliver a powerful and emotionally charged performance of this captivating Requiem. Soprano soloist Karin Ingeback and bass soloist Anders Larsson bring depth and nuance to their respective roles.

**16. William Grant Still: Reverie** Performed by Philip Brunnelle on organ, on the 1981 Holtkamp organ in Plymouth Congregational Church

William Grant Still (1895-1978) was an African-American composer known for his significant contributions to classical music. "Reverie" is a serene and introspective composition that reflects Still's lyrical and melodic style. Organist Philip Brunnelle presents a sensitive and evocative performance of this piece on the 1981 Holtkamp organ in Plymouth Congregational Church.

**17. Stephen Paulus: Prayers and Remembrances** Performed by True Concord Voices & Orchestra, conducted by Eric Holtan

Stephen Paulus (1949-2014) was an American composer known for his wide range of compositions, including choral, orchestral, and operatic works. "Prayers and Remembrances" is a poignant and introspective composition that captures the depth of human emotions. True Concord Voices & Orchestra, under the baton of conductor Eric Holtan, deliver a moving and heartfelt performance, beautifully expressing the spiritual and contemplative nature of Paulus's music.

**18. Amy Beach: Help Us, O God!, Op. 50** Performed by the Harvard University Choir, conducted by Murray Forbes Somerville

Amy Beach (1867-1944) was an American composer and pianist who made significant contributions to the late Romantic and early modern musical landscape. "Help Us, O God!" is a choral work that showcases Beach's rich harmonic language and expressive melodic writing. The Harvard University Choir, led by conductor Murray Forbes Somerville, brings out the emotional intensity and spiritual depth of this composition, offering a compelling interpretation of Beach's music.

Research provided by ChatGPT