

Great Sacred Music

Sunday, June 4, 2023

John Bacchus Dykes: Holy! Holy! Holy!

Choir of Wells Cathedral, Malcolm Archer
Rupert Gough, organ

Jacobus Gallus: O beata Trinitas

Huelgas Ensemble, Paul van Nevel

Carson Cooman: Be Present, Holy Trinity

Royal Holloway Choir, University of London, Rupert Gough
Samuel Rathbone, organ

Dykes is best known as a composer of hymn tunes. He wrote over three hundred hymn tunes including "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" (melody used for the United States Navy hymn), "Lead, Kindly Light", "Nicaea" (used for "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"), "Melita" (used for "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"), and "Dominus Regit Me" (used for "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"). The Huelgas Ensemble is a renowned choral ensemble specializing in the performance of early music. Founded in 1971 by Paul Van Nevel, a Belgian conductor and musicologist, the ensemble takes its name from the Cistercian monastery of Santa Maria de las Huelgas in Burgos, Spain. The phrase "Be Present, Holy Trinity" is a prayerful invocation addressed to the three persons of the Christian doctrine of the Trinity—God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. The text is typically used as an invocation or an invitation for God's presence and guidance in worship and spiritual gatherings.

Herbert Sumsion: Benedicite

Choir of Gloucester Cathedral, John Sanders
Mark Blatchly, organ

Antonio Vivaldi: Quoniam tu solus sanctus and Cum sancto spiritu from Gloria in D, RV 589

Bach Choir of Bethlehem, Greg Funfgeld
Julia Doyle, soprano; Rosa Lamoreaux, soprano; Daniel Taylor, countertenor

Louis Vierne: Toccata

John Rose, organ
1962 Austin organ Opus 2332 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Hartford, Connecticut

Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995), an English composer and organist, was renowned for his choral compositions and his association with Gloucester Cathedral. Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741), an Italian Baroque composer, is celebrated for his prolific output of concertos, operas, and sacred music. The two movements, "Quoniam tu solus sanctus" and "Cum sancto spiritu," are taken from Vivaldi's glorious choral masterpiece, Gloria in D, RV 589. Louis Vierne (1870-1937), a French organist and composer, is renowned for his significant contributions to organ music. The Toccata is one of Vierne's most famous and frequently performed compositions.

Commentary: The Right Reverend Samuel Rodman

Sir Charles Villiers Stanford: St. Patrick's Breastplate

Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge; Trinity Brass Ensemble, Stephen Layton
Owain Park, organ

John Rutter: Gloria in excelsis Deo from Gloria

Choir of King's College, Cambridge; Choir of Gonville and Caius College; City of Birmingham
Symphony Orchestra, Sir Stephen Cleobury

Sir Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924), an Irish composer and conductor, was a prominent figure in British musical life. "St. Patrick's Breastplate" is a choral anthem that showcases Stanford's skillful writing for voices. John Rutter (born 1945) is a contemporary English composer known for his engaging and accessible choral music. "Gloria in excelsis Deo" is the opening movement of Rutter's popular choral composition, Gloria.

George Frideric Handel: Sing, sing, O ye heavens from Belshazzar

Howard University Choir; Handel Festival, Orchestra of Washington, Stephen Simon

C.P.E. Bach: Prelude in D

Roland Munch, organ

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759), a German-born composer who settled in England, is renowned for his oratorios and operas. "Sing, sing, O ye heavens" is a captivating chorus from Handel's oratorio Belshazzar. Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (1714-1788), a German composer and son of Johann Sebastian Bach, was a key figure in the transition from the Baroque to Classical period. The Prelude in D is a solo organ composition that showcases C.P.E. Bach's expressive and inventive style.

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

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), a German composer and organist, is widely regarded as one of the greatest composers in Western music history. "Gelobet sei der Herr, mein Gott" is a cantata composed by Bach for solo voices, choir, and orchestra.

Georges Bizet: Te Deum

Choeur Regional Nord - Pas-de-Calais; Orchestre National de Lille, Jean-Claude Casadesus
Katarina Jovanovic, soprano; Philippe Do, tenor

Georges Bizet (1838-1875), a French composer known for his opera Carmen, also composed a magnificent choral work called Te Deum. It's a grand and dramatic composition, blending powerful choral sections with lyrical solos and thrilling orchestral accompaniment, creating a triumphant and awe-inspiring musical experience.

Alessandro Scarlatti: Nisi Dominus

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale, Nicholas McGegan
Susan Ryden, soprano; Ryland Angel, counter-tenor

Alessandro Scarlatti (1660-1725), an Italian Baroque composer, is known for his vocal compositions

and contributions to the development of the opera genre. "Nisi Dominus" is a sacred choral work composed by Scarlatti. This performance features the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale, conducted by Nicholas McGegan.

W.A. Mozart: Mass No. 14 in C, K. 317 "Coronation"

Chorus and Orchestra of the Hofmusikkapelle Vienna; Vienna Boys' Choir, Hans Gillesberger
Soprano / alto soloists from the Vienna Boys' Choir; Kurt Equiluz, tenor; Gerhard Eder, bass

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791), an Austrian composer, is one of the most renowned figures in classical music. The Mass No. 14 in C, K. 317, commonly known as the "Coronation Mass," is a brilliant example of Mozart's sacred choral music. This performance features the Chorus and Orchestra of the Hofmusikkapelle Vienna and the Vienna Boys' Choir, under the direction of Hans Gillesberger.

Charles Gounod: Mass No. 2 in G for Male Chorus and Organ

Chorale du Brassus, Andre Charlet
Francois Margot, organ

Charles Gounod (1818-1893), a French composer, is best known for his opera Faust. His Mass No. 2 in G for Male Chorus and Organ is a delightful and expressive choral composition. This performance features the Chorale du Brassus, conducted by Andre Charlet, with organist Francois Margot.

Ludwig van Beethoven: Mass in C, Op. 86

Slovak Philharmonic Choir and Orchestra, Anton Nanut
Magdalena Hajossyova, soprano; Jitka Zerhauova, alto; Peter Oswald, tenor; Peter Mikulas, bass

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), a German composer and pianist, is widely regarded as one of the greatest composers in Western music history. His Mass in C, Op. 86, is a monumental choral work. This performance features the Slovak Philharmonic Choir and Orchestra, conducted by Anton Nanut.

Alexander von Zemlinsky: Psalm 23

Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra; Ernst Senff Chamber Choir, Riccardo Chailly

Alexander von Zemlinsky (1871-1942), an Austrian composer and conductor, was a prominent figure in the late Romantic and early 20th-century music. His Psalm 23 is a deeply expressive and contemplative choral work. This performance features the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Ernst Senff Chamber Choir, conducted by Riccardo Chailly