

Great Sacred Music

Sunday, June 25, 2023

- **Sir Joseph Barnby: When morning gilds the skies** Choir of Wells Cathedral, Malcolm Archer Rupert Gough, organ

Sir Joseph Barnby's hymn "When morning gilds the skies" is a joyful and uplifting piece that celebrates the beauty of the morning and the wonders of creation. The Choir of Wells Cathedral, led by Malcolm Archer, delivers a stirring performance, accompanied by the skilled organ playing of Rupert Gough. The combination of the choir's harmonies and the organ's majestic sound creates a captivating atmosphere of praise and devotion.

- **Traditional, arr. Gerre Hancock: Deep River** Saint Thomas Choir, Jeremy Filsell

"Deep River" is a beloved spiritual that expresses a longing for peace and freedom in the afterlife. In this arrangement by Gerre Hancock, the Saint Thomas Choir, under the direction of Jeremy Filsell, offers a soulful rendition of the song. The rich, resonant voices of the choir, accompanied by subtle organ accompaniment, convey a deep sense of yearning and hope, inviting listeners to reflect on the spiritual journey.

- **Sir Charles Villiers Stanford: The Lord is my Shepherd** Worcester Cathedral Choir, Donald Hunt Paul Trepte, organ

"The Lord is my Shepherd" is a beautiful setting of Psalm 23 by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford. The Worcester Cathedral Choir, conducted by Donald Hunt, delivers a heartfelt performance, supported by the expressive organ playing of Paul Trepte. The piece captures the comforting and reassuring nature of the psalm, with the choir's harmonies and the organ's gentle melodies intertwining to create a serene and peaceful atmosphere.

- **William McKie: We wait for thy loving kindness** Cambridge Singers, John Rutter Andrew Lucas, organ

"We wait for thy loving kindness" by William McKie is a contemplative anthem that expresses a patient longing for God's grace and mercy. John Rutter leads the Cambridge Singers in a poignant interpretation of the piece, accompanied by the sensitive organ playing of Andrew Lucas. The delicate interplay between the choir and the organ evokes a sense of anticipation and spiritual yearning, making this performance a profound and introspective experience.

- **Henry Purcell: Remember not, Lord, our offences** Cambridge Singers, John Rutter

"Remember not, Lord, our offences" by Henry Purcell is a deeply expressive and introspective anthem that seeks forgiveness and redemption. Under the direction of John Rutter, the Cambridge Singers deliver a poignant rendition of this hauntingly beautiful composition. The choir's impeccable phrasing and emotive delivery convey the remorseful spirit of the text, creating a powerful musical prayer of repentance.

- **Georg Böhm: Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ** Gustav Leonhardt, organ 1693 Arp Schnitger Organ at St. Jacobi Kirche, Hamburg

"Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ" by Georg Böhm is a chorale prelude that exalts the name of Jesus

Christ. Played by renowned organist Gustav Leonhardt on the historic Arp Schnitger Organ at St. Jacobi Kirche in Hamburg, this performance showcases the beauty and grandeur of Baroque organ music. Leonhardt's skillful execution and interpretation bring out the intricate textures and vibrant harmonies of Böhm's composition, offering a captivating musical tribute.

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

"Glorious things of Thee are spoken" is a hymn that celebrates the greatness of God and His divine providence. The Choir of King's College, Cambridge, conducted by the late Sir Stephen Cleobury, delivers a majestic performance of this anthem. The choir's impeccable blend and dynamic control, coupled with their profound musicality, illuminate the grandeur and reverence of the text, evoking a sense of awe and admiration.

- **Sergei Rachmaninoff: Gladsome Light from Vespers, Op. 37** Phoenix Chorale; Kansas City Chorale, Charles Bruffy

"Gladsome Light" is a luminous and ethereal movement from Sergei Rachmaninoff's Vespers, Op. 37. Conducted by Charles Bruffy, the combined forces of the Phoenix Chorale and the Kansas City Chorale create a transcendent performance. The delicate interplay between the voices, the intricate harmonies, and the profound spirituality of Rachmaninoff's composition combine to transport listeners to a realm of serene beauty and profound contemplation.

- **Manuel Arenzana: Salve Regina 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

Manuel Arenzana's "Salve Regina" is a reverent and devotional setting of the Marian hymn. The Mexico City Chorus and Chamber Orchestra, led by Benjamin Jaurez Echenique, present a sublime interpretation of this piece. The intertwining voices of the soloists and the ensemble, supported by the delicate orchestral accompaniment, create a deeply moving and spiritually uplifting performance.

- **Theodore Dubois: Toccata from Twelve Pieces** Andrew Lucas, organ Mander/Willis organ in St. Paul's Cathedral, London

Theodore Dubois' Toccata is a brilliant and virtuosic organ composition that showcases the power and versatility of the instrument. Andrew Lucas demonstrates exceptional technical prowess and musicality as he performs this lively and energetic piece on the magnificent Mander/Willis organ in St. Paul's Cathedral, London. The Toccata's triumphant melodies and intricate pedal work make it a thrilling and exhilarating addition to this sacred music playlist.

- **J.S. Bach: Cantata 21, "Ich hatte viel Bekummernis"** Choir of St. Thomas Church, Leipzig; New Bach Collegium, Hans-Joachim Rotz Arleen Auger, soprano; Peter Schreier, tenor; Siegfried Lorenz, bass

J.S. Bach's Cantata 21, "Ich hatte viel Bekummernis," is a deeply introspective and spiritually profound work. Conducted by Hans-Joachim Rotz, the Choir of St. Thomas Church, Leipzig, delivers a heartfelt performance, accompanied by the exquisite solo voices of Arleen Auger, Peter Schreier, and Siegfried Lorenz. Bach's masterful composition, with its rich harmonies and intricate counterpoint, conveys the journey from anguish to consolation, leaving a lasting impression on the listener.

- **Jacob Obrecht: O beate Basili** Brabant Ensemble, Stephen Rice

"O beate Basili" by Jacob Obrecht is a Renaissance choral work that pays homage to St. Basil the Great. The Brabant Ensemble, under the direction of Stephen Rice, presents a beautifully balanced and expressive performance of this polyphonic gem. The ensemble's seamless blending of voices and meticulous attention to detail bring out the intricate beauty of Obrecht's composition, highlighting the text's reverence and praise.

- **John Stanley: Trumpet Tune** J. David Williams, organ 1953 Aeolian-Skinner organ, Opus 1118, in Riverside Church, New York

John Stanley's Trumpet Tune is a jubilant and exuberant organ piece that showcases the brilliance of the trumpet stop. J. David Williams performs this joyful composition on the magnificent 1953 Aeolian-Skinner organ at Riverside Church in New York. The combination of the organ's majestic sound and Williams' masterful technique creates a festive and celebratory atmosphere, making this piece a delightful addition to the playlist.

- **Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco: Sacred Service for Sabbath Eve, Op. 122** London Chorus, Ronald Corp Ted Christopher, baritone; Jeremy Cohen, tenor; Rabbi Rodney Mariner, speaker; Hugh Potton, organ

Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco's Sacred Service for Sabbath Eve, Op. 122, is a unique and deeply moving composition that combines Jewish liturgical texts with Western classical music. The London Chorus, led by Ronald Corp, presents a stirring performance, accompanied by the expressive voices of Ted Christopher and Jeremy Cohen. With Rabbi Rodney Mariner's spoken word and Hugh Potton's skillful organ accompaniment, this work offers a profound and inclusive musical experience.

- **Costanzo Festa: Magnificat septimi toni a 4** Huelgas Ensemble, Paul van Nevel

Costanzo Festa's Magnificat septimi toni a 4 is a vibrant and polyphonic Renaissance composition. The Huelgas Ensemble, conducted by Paul van Nevel, showcases their expertise in Renaissance vocal music with this richly textured performance. The ensemble's precise and expressive singing, combined with Festa's intricate harmonies, brings to life the exultation and praise found in the text of the Magnificat.

- **Franz Schubert: Stabat Mater, D. 383** Bavarian Radio Choir and Symphony Orchestra, Wolfgang Sawallisch Helen Donath, soprano; Josef Protschka, tenor; Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, baritone

Franz Schubert's Stabat Mater, D. 383, is a profound and contemplative setting of the medieval hymn depicting Mary's sorrow at the crucifixion of Jesus. Conducted by Wolfgang Sawallisch, the Bavarian Radio Choir and Symphony Orchestra deliver a deeply emotional and poignant performance. The exceptional soloists, Helen Donath, Josef Protschka, and Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, bring depth and sensitivity to their respective roles, creating a powerful and evocative rendition of this sacred masterpiece.

- **William Byrd: Ne irascaris, Domine** Gesualdo Six, Owain Park

"Ne irascaris, Domine" by William Byrd is a hauntingly beautiful motet that reflects the lamentations of the prophet Jeremiah. The Gesualdo Six, led by Owain Park, captivate the listener with their impeccable vocal blend and sensitive interpretation of Byrd's intricate polyphony. The piece's shifting harmonies and expressive dissonances convey a sense of sorrow and supplication, making it a fitting conclusion to this sacred music playlist.

