

# Great Sacred Music

## Sunday, July 2, 2023

### **Gerre Hancock: *Judge Eternal***

Performed by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys and Jeremy Filsell on organ, this piece captures the reverent and contemplative atmosphere of worship. Gerre Hancock's composition explores the themes of divine justice and eternal wisdom.

### **Richard Webster: *O God, Our Help in Ages Past***

Presented by the Advent Press Choir, brass and percussion, and Richard Webster on organ, this rendition of the well-known hymn evokes a sense of strength and hope. The powerful voices of the choir blend with the majestic organ and instrumental accompaniment.

### **Gerald Near: *Holy Is the True Light***

Performed by the Cathedral Schola of St. Philip, Atlanta, conducted by Dale Adelman, this composition illuminates the sacred text with exquisite harmonies and delicate melodic lines. Gerald Near's work captures the essence of divine illumination and spiritual enlightenment.

### **Jake Runestad: *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes***

Kantorei, conducted by Joel Rinsema, presents Jake Runestad's uplifting composition. The piece combines lush choral textures with moments of soaring melodies, conveying a sense of hope and trust in times of adversity.

### **Sholom Secunda: *Pis'chu Li***

The Zamir Chorale of Boston, under the direction of Joshua Jacobson, performs this beautiful Jewish liturgical piece. With Cantor Areyh Finkelstein's tenor voice soaring above the choir, the music captures the prayerful and introspective nature of the text.

### **Daniel E. Gawthrop: *Nocturne***

Mary Mozelle showcases the beauty of the Mander/Skinner organ in the Princeton University Chapel with Daniel E. Gawthrop's enchanting composition. The delicate interplay of organ tones creates a serene and contemplative atmosphere, reminiscent of a peaceful night.

### **Commentary: *The Reverend Andrew Cannon***

### **Benedict Sheehan: *Cherubic Hymn~Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom***

The Saint Tikhon Choir, conducted by Benedict Sheehan, presents a piece from the Orthodox liturgical tradition. This ancient hymn, sung in rich choral harmonies, transports listeners into the realm of divine worship.

### **Bruce Neswick: *I Will Set His Dominion in the Sea***

Performed by the Choir of St. John's Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C., under the direction of Samuel Carabatta, and featuring J. Dan Kiser on organ, this piece embodies the grandeur and power of the divine. The choir's voices soar above the majestic organ accompaniment, evoking awe and reverence.

### **Traditional Shaker, arr. John Bertalot: *Lord of the Dance***

The Choir of Saint Thomas Church, New York City, conducted by John Scott, presents this lively and

joyful arrangement of a traditional Shaker tune. The energetic vocals and spirited organ playing by Jeremy Bruns create a celebratory atmosphere.

**William Grant Still: *Elegy***

Philip Brunnelle performs this hauntingly beautiful composition on the 1981 Holtkamp organ in Plymouth Congregational Church. William Grant Still's elegy is a heartfelt reflection that conveys a sense of solemnity and introspection.

**J.S. Bach: *Cantata BWV 24, "Ein ungefärbt Gemüte"***

Holland Boys' Choir and the Netherlands Bach Collegium, conducted by Pieter Jan Leusink, present a movement from Bach's Cantata 24. This masterful composition features soloists Ruth Holton, Sytse Buwalde, Marcel Beekman, and Bas Ramselaar, with the choir and orchestra weaving intricate contrapuntal lines to express the depth of devotion.

**Randall Thompson: *The Peaceable Kingdom***

Performed by the Schola Cantorum of Oxford, conducted by James Burton, this choral work is inspired by the biblical passage of Isaiah's prophecy. Randall Thompson's composition captures the contrasting themes of turmoil and tranquility, culminating in a powerful musical depiction of peace.

**Stephen Paulus: *A Dream of Time***

The Bach Choir of Bethlehem, under the direction of Greg Funfgeld, presents Stephen Paulus's evocative composition. The music reflects on the passage of time, blending rich choral harmonies with poignant melodies and creating a sense of introspection and nostalgia.

**John Knowles Paine: *Mass in D***

The Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, conducted by Gunther Schuller, present John Knowles Paine's grand Mass in D. With soloists Carmen Balthrop, Joy Blackett, Vinson Cole, and John Cheek, the performance embodies the majesty and spiritual fervor of the Mass setting.

**Leo Sowerby: *Carillon***

Henry Batten on handbells and William J. Weisser on organ collaborate to perform Leo Sowerby's Carillon. The ringing of the handbells and the resonant organ create a vibrant and uplifting atmosphere, reminiscent of a joyful carillon pealing from a church tower.