

# Great Sacred Music

## Sunday, July 23, 2023

### **John Roberts: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"**

A timeless hymn praising the attributes of God as invisible yet all-wise. The choir's harmonious rendition, accompanied by the English Brass Ensemble and John Scott's skillful direction, creates a majestic atmosphere. Christopher Dearnley's organ adds depth to this cherished hymn.

### **Felix Mendelssohn: "Thanks be to God!" from Elijah**

Part of the oratorio "Elijah," this triumphant chorus expresses gratitude to God. The Edinburgh Festival Chorus, led by Paul Daniel, delivers Mendelssohn's masterpiece with powerful emotion. Bryn Terfel's resonant bass-baritone adds gravitas to the rendition.

### **Sydney Campbell: "Sing we Merrily unto God our Strength"**

A joyful and uplifting choral composition celebrating God's strength. The Choir of St. John's, Elora, under Noel Edison's direction, presents a spirited performance, accompanied by the delightful organ playing of Paul Halley.

### **Josquin Despres: "Ave Maria"**

A stunning Renaissance motet featuring the Hilliard Ensemble's impeccable vocal blend. Josquin's masterful polyphonic writing shines through, making this prayerful piece a captivating listening experience.

### **Henry Purcell: "Blow up the trumpet in Sion"**

An exuberant anthem by Purcell, filled with celebratory trumpet fanfares and choral exhortations. The Oxford Camerata, directed by Jeremy Summerly, captures the festive spirit, complemented by Laurence Cummings' vibrant organ accompaniment.

### **Gerre Hancock: "Improvisation on the hymn tune 'St. Denio'"**

Gerre Hancock's brilliant improvisation showcases the versatility of the organ at St. Thomas' Church, New York City. Drawing inspiration from the hymn tune "St. Denio," he weaves a unique and enchanting musical tapestry.

### **Orlando de Lassus: "Aurora lucis rutilat" and "Magnificat octavi toni super 'Aurora lucis'"**

This double composition by Lassus combines a jubilant motet with a Magnificat setting. The Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, conducted by Graham Ross, delivers Lassus' rich polyphony and expressive contrasts with artistry and devotion.

### **Paul Mealor: "Lux Benigna"**

A serene and meditative choral piece by Paul Mealor, evoking a sense of peace and tranquility. The

Wells Cathedral School Choralia, led by Christopher Finch, showcases their harmonious singing, accompanied by Eliot Launn's graceful piano.

**George Frederic Handel: "Angels, ever bright and fair" from Theodora**

A captivating aria from Handel's oratorio "Theodora," featuring the mesmerizing voice of Lorraine Hunt Lieberson. With the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra conducted by Nicholas McGegan, the piece unfolds with beauty and emotional depth.

**Antonio de Cabezón: "Tiento I"**

An organ masterpiece by Cabezón, skillfully interpreted by Robert Parkins on the Flentrop Organ in Duke University Chapel. The piece showcases Cabezón's flair for improvisation and virtuosic keyboard writing.

**J. S. Bach: Cantata 187, "Es wartet alles auf dich"**

Bach's Cantata 187, a delightful work, expresses the theme of trust in divine providence. The Holland Boys' Choir and Netherlands Bach Collegium, led by Pieter Jan Leusink, present a lively performance, with the soloists' voices beautifully intertwining.

**Michael Praetorius: "O Lord, rebuke me not" from Hymns of Praise and Peace**

Praetorius' choral gem, skillfully rendered by La Capella Ducale and Musica Fiata Köln under Roland Wilson's direction. The piece exhibits Praetorius' mastery of harmony and melody, creating a soothing and contemplative atmosphere.

**Josef Haydn: Organ Concerto No. 1 in C**

Haydn's delightful organ concerto, performed by the Bournemouth Sinfonietta under Theodor Guschlbauer, features the exceptional organist Marie-Claire Alain. The concerto brims with elegance, showcasing Haydn's ingenuity and the organ's rich timbres.

**Anton Diabelli: "Pastoral Mass in F, Op. 147"**

Diabelli's uplifting choral mass, led by Ernst Ehret with the Choir and Orchestra of St. Michael, Munich. The ensemble performs with enthusiasm, and the soloists, including Christa Degler, Sylvia Linden, Sunhild Rauschkolb, Desmond Clayton, and Hartmut Müller, shine in their roles.

**J. S. Bach: "Tocatta and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565"**

One of Bach's most famous works, the Tocatta and Fugue showcases the grandeur of the organ. Michael Murray skillfully performs on the Skinner-Schlicker Organ, captivating listeners with its dramatic flair and virtuosic passages.

**Camille Saint-Saëns: "Le déluge"**

Saint-Saëns' evocative choral piece, conducted by Alexander Burda, depicts the biblical flood with vivid orchestral colors and emotive singing. Isabelle Müller-Cant, Carolin Strecker, Daniel Schreiber,

and Philip Niederberger contribute expressive solo performances.

**Sir Charles Villiers Stanford: "Andante tranquillo" from Six Short Preludes and Postludes, Op. 101**

Jennifer Bate's organ performance of Stanford's "Andante tranquillo" is serene and contemplative. The piece's tranquil mood and charming melodies are gracefully brought to life on the Harrison & Harrison organ in St. James' Church, Muswell Hill.

Source: ChatGPT 3.5