Great Sacred Music Sunday, August 13, 2023

Program Notes

1. Abide with me

William Henry Monk (1823 - 1889)

A hymn of solace and faith written by Henry F. Lyte in 1847. Reflects enduring hope amid life's challenges.

Choir of King's College, Cambridge Sir Stephen Cleobury, conductor Richad Gowers, organ

2. All Creatures of Our God and King arr. Mack Wilberg

A joyful Christian hymn attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, celebrating nature's beauty and praising God for His creation.

Utah State University Chamber Singers Cory Evans, conductor Lynn Thomas, organ

3. Agnus Dei from A Little Jazz Mass

Bob Chilcott (1955 -)

A fusion of liturgical text and jazz elements, offering a contemporary and dynamic take on a traditional prayer.

Utah State University Chamber Singers Cory Evans, conductor

4. The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte (1895 - 1964)

Text: Matthew 6:9-13 / Luke 11:2-4

A timeless musical setting of the Christian prayer, evoking reverence and solace through its expressive melodies and harmonies.

Ambrosian Singers
Wyn Morris, conductor
Stuart Burrows, tenor
Martin Neary, organ

5. Hear My Prayer

Felix Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847)

A poignant choral work featuring soprano solo, expressing supplication and hope with lush orchestration and heartfelt melodies. Notable for the serene "O for the Wings of a Dove" aria, combining innocence and elegance in harmonious beauty.

Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge Richard Marlow, conductor Andrea Cockerton, soprano

6. Fugue in G

Johann Pachelbel (1653 - 1706)

A Baroque gem showcasing contrapuntal mastery, featuring intricate interplay of voices in a structured and captivating composition.

7. Chorale No. 2 in B minor

César Franck (1822 - 1890)

An organ masterpiece, rich with lush harmonies and emotional depth, displaying Franck's Romantic style and grandeur.

Frank Speller, organ

8. O Salutaris hostia

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835 - 1921)

A devotional choral piece with organ, blending reverence and melodious beauty in a sacred musical offering.

Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge
Richard Marlow. conductor

9. BWV 101: Nimm von uns, Herr, du treuer Gott

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

A profound choral work of lament and supplication. Reflects Bach's genius. A solemn plea for mercy, woven with intricate Baroque textures and expressive arias, showcasing Bach's mastery of sacred composition.

Bach Collegium Japan; Concerto Palatino Masaaki Suzuki, conductor Yukari Nonoshita, soprano Robin Blaze, countertenor Gerd Turk, tenor Peter Kooy, bass-baritone

10. Miserere mei, Deus

Gregorio Allegri (1582 - 1652)

A hauntingly beautiful choral masterpiece, famous for its soaring soprano solo and rich harmonies, evoking deep spiritual contemplation.

Tallis Scholars

Peter Phillips, conductor

Deborah Roberts, soprano

11. Responsorio 8o de los maitines de San Pedro

Juan Bautista del Águila (late 16th century)

A liturgical choral piece embodying reverence and devotion, reflecting the sacred essence of San Pedro's matins. A resonant tapestry of medieval devotion, transporting listeners through time with its Gregorian chant-inspired melodies and spiritual aura.

(ad hoc group of musicians)

Juan Ignacio Corpus, conductor

Martha Molinar, soprano

12. Missa sacra in C minor, Op. 147

Robert Schumann (1810 - 1856)

A heartfelt exploration of faith, blending Romantic expressiveness with sacred reverence. Its choral richness and orchestral textures create a powerful, introspective journey of devotion and contemplation, bridging the sacred and artistic realms with profound emotional resonance.

Cologne Chamber Choir
Peter Neumann, conductor
Sigrid Carstanjen, soprano
Andreas Fischer, tenor
Stefan Meier, bass
Christoph Anselm Noll, organ

13. Rodomontade

Dan Gawthrop (1949 -)

A work by an American composer known for creating expressive and diverse works, spanning choral, orchestral, and organ music. Gawthrop's compositions often reflect vibrant melodies and emotional depth.

William J. Weisser, organ

14. Mass in E flat, Op.80

Johann Nepomuk Hummel (1778 - 1837)

A testament to Hummel's melodic craftsmanship and Classical sensibilities, blending elegance with religious devotion. The mass radiates a tranquil yet profound spiritual aura.

Czech Philharmonic Chorus; Vienna Academy Martin Haselbock, conductor Amanda Halgrimson, soprano Susan McAdoo, alto Helmut Wildhaber, tenor Petr Mikulas, bass

15. Prelude in G

Orlando Gibbons (1583 - 1625)

A short but exquisite keyboard piece, showcasing Renaissance elegance and harmonic beauty in a delicate musical statement.

Laurence Cummings, organ

16. Nunc dimittis (Short Service)

Orlando Gibbons (1583 - 1625)

A serene choral setting of Simeon's words, intertwining simplicity and emotional depth, capturing the essence of peaceful release.

Oxford Camerata

Jeremy Summerly, conductor

Each composition in this program invites us on a musical journey through time and space, with each piece standing as a testimony to the timeless power and beauty of sacred music.