

Wow, what an amazing three weeks it has been. In our personal lives, here's a little chronology:

First the University decided to migrate all classes to online presentations, so MB and I have been educating ourselves over the last three weeks about how to do this. This is still a work in progress, and I cannot conceive of a way to insure that online exams are fair and impossible to cheat on! And imagine MB's situation, having to move a class like her choirs, or choral conducting, to a completely different way of presentation. Luckily this week is Spring Break, and since classes were cancelled last week, it's like we've had a 2-week break, and an opportunity to try and figure things out.

Second, St. Martin's had to postpone our 26th Anniversary Gala scheduled for March 13. We will provide a special event later in August or September for those who held tickets.

Third, both the Episcopal bishop and the governor of Colorado limited in-person meetings to no more than 10 people. This obviously impacted worship. We decided to have a skeleton worship crew (6 musicians, priest, camera operator) and have so far live-streamed 4 services on Facebook and YouTube (both Sunday services on 3/15 [where the public was still allowed], Evensong on 3/19, and one service from Sunday morning 3/22 -- all of these are still accessible either from our website or our Facebook page). From the many very complimentary messages of gratitude we got from parishioners (as well as non-parishioners -- we had two people from the UK watch our Evensong last week, as well as someone from Africa), I feel gratified that we could offer consolation and beauty to a few people much in need of these things. We will continue to offer live-streamed services as long as allowed (see third bullet item).

Next, MB and I had to cancel our planned trip over Spring Break to Florida to see her parents, who had rented a condo on the beach on Marco Island. We got a partial refund on some of the expenses we had already incurred (like flights, and other reservations), but experienced some small losses. MB's parents decided to leave Florida early in order to be home before a "shelter-in-place" order might be issued. They are now safely home in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where there has only been one case reported so far!

Fifthly, yesterday the Mayor of Denver issued a universal shelter-in-place order, although it exempts "essential" services like grocery stores, pharmacies, etc. (we were glad to learn that places of worship were deemed exempt. So we will continue to be able to broadcast our services).

Lastly, to top it off, scheduled maintenance on the elevator in our building has our elevator down for four days this week!! Since we live on the 11th floor, we've been strategizing our trips out, including dog walking.

Other than the last item (adding insult to injury!), I'm sure a similar tale could be told by each of you in this global emergency.

My best wishes go out to all; and may you find something to comfort you during this time. For me, it was eating lunch on our balcony today (for it is 60 degrees), and noticing the entire absence of airplane contrails in the sky, and wondering whether Mother Nature was feeling a slight reprieve from humankind's sustained assaults and pollutions. It seemed that even the birds were chirping a little bit louder (or maybe that's just because traffic noise is down...either way, I felt a moment of joy amidst the myriad other anxieties).

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Like all arts organizations, St. Martin's Chamber Choir has come to an almost complete standstill. Postponed Gala, no rehearsals, lingering questions about how far out we should cancel events, etc.

At the moment, the St. Martin's concerts scheduled for April 23-25 (British Folksongs) might still happen in the form of a single live-streamed concert; but that might not even happen, should the ban on gatherings of over 10 persons remain in effect through April. The final concerts of the season (RVW Mass in G minor), scheduled for the first weekend in June, are still on . . . for the moment. Needless to say, if you hold season tickets, or were still planning to come, stay tuned to all announcements from SMCC over the next couple months.

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Evensong this week marks the Feast of the Annunciation -- you got it, a literal 9 months (i.e. three trimesters...) before Christmas Day. Given that last week we marked the feast of St. Joseph, it's like we're have a little reminder of Christmas joy amidst this season of uncertainty, stress, and anxiety.

This week there will be a quartet of male singers and organ, directed by one of my altos, as the original plan had been that I would be in Florida this Thursday. Since I am not away, I will attend, but I felt it would be cruel to take the service back from Lisa Wolff after all her preparation and expectation. I've not had the privilege of seeing Lisa at work as a conductor, but she has lots of conducting experience with both church choirs and choral societies, conducting large works for chorus and orchestra. Since her retirement to Denver, I am honored to have her sing alto in the choir as one of my volunteers! I may add myself to this week's quartet (making it a quintet), if it turns out I can help; otherwise I'll be the camera operator for this service. :-)

If you'd like to tune in, here's a link you can try:

<https://www.facebook.com/standrewdenver/>

You don't have to have a Facebook account to tune in. If you tune in live, it'll be right there; if you're going to watch a service that's already happened, then click on "Videos" from the menu and select from

the list that comes up. I'll post the service leaflet on our website under the "Online Services" tab. The opening voluntary will start right at 5:45p.m. (M.D.T.) Here's the music.

March 26, 2020, 5:45pm Choral Evensong: Annunciation (transferred)

Voluntary: Aria, by Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Responses: Timothy Krueger (for TTBB)

Canticle of Light: Plainchant Phos hilaron

Psalm: 40 – plainchant

Service: Healey Willan (1880-1968) Fauxbourdons for TTBB

Anthem: "Ave Maria" by Franz Xaver Witt (1834-1888)

Office Hymn: 265 (Gabriel's Message)

Voluntary: Fugue on the Kyrie, by Francois Couperin (1668-1733)

This coming Sunday is the Fifth Sunday of Lent (the last before Palm Sunday and Holy Week). We are doing Choral Matins for these live-streamed services, since a Eucharist is impractical without a congregation. There will be a vocal quartet and organ, and the voluntary will start right at 11:00am (Mountain Daylight Time). Here's the music that is planned:

March 29, 2020, 11:00am; the Fifth Sunday of Lent; Choral Matins

Voluntary: Adagio for Strings, by Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

Preces & Responses: Timothy Krueger, "De Profundis" (2020)

Venite and appointed psalm (plainchant?)

Service setting: William Byrd (1543-1623) Fauxbourdons

Anthem: Deus in adjutorum, by Giovanni Battiste Martini (1706-1784)

Hymns: 148 (Uffingham), 597 (Jerusalem)

Voluntary: Litanies, by Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

Last week, on Thursday and Friday, I wrote a new setting of the Preces and Responses. I called the setting "De Profundis" for a few of reasons: 1) it was written at this time of uncertainty and stress, hence the crying out "from the depths;" 2) it's mostly in the solemn key of B minor; and, 3) since the reciting tone for all the settings I know is G, A flat, or A, and because this area in the voice of Elizabeth our rector is not her best range for singing, I made the reciting tone D instead, in order that she might be more

comfortable as the officiant. We sang them for the first time this last Sunday (and fairly well, too, for their maiden outing), with MB as cantor. But Elizabeth is going to try them this week.

Those of you familiar with choral matins will know that the canticles from that service are usually the Te Deum and the Benedictus Deus Israel (or the Jubilate). In the American Book of Common Prayer, however, there are a number of canticle options in addition to the above (one of those options being the Magnificat and Nunc dimittis, like at Evensong). In fact, it being Lent, the Te Deum and Jubilate strike my rector and me as too joyous and celebratory. So, since my choir knows lots of settings of the Mag and Nunc, we decided to just go with that until Easter. Hence the Byrd Evening Service here. (I'm thinking of the Stanford Te Deum and Jubilate in B flat for Easter...)

I'm currently looking for an easy but tuneful setting of the Venite (which is the first seven verses of Ps. 95, "O come, let us sing to the Lord") for anyone who might know of one. Since I only have a quartet, due to the imposed restriction on numbers, I don't want to do something complex or with a too-difficult organ part that might cover up the voices. Something along the lines of Boyce or Attwood or Tallis. Or something modern... Anyway, I don't want to do plainchant every week, especially after Lent ends. Let me know!

Tim

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