

A couple weeks ago, St. Martin's launched a fund-raising campaign on behalf of our singers -- especially those who were to have sung the April concerts, and also for any who are under financial duress at the moment. After all, I think everyone would agree that St. Martin's greatest asset is its singers! I am so pleased to say that we raised \$3000 within 24 hours, and \$5000 total within a week! We were able to pay those singers who began to rehearse for, but never got to perform, the April concerts "Greensleeves was All My Joy." And we've put a little aside for future efforts geared towards relieving the stress of those musicians who rely on steady "gigs" for much of their income.

The fate of the June concert, "A Mystic Vision: RVW Mass in G minor," is still up in the air, although I personally doubt it will take place with a live audience. My hope is that restrictions are eased enough by mid-May that the singers can get together to rehearse, and then perform a live-streamed event in early June. But even that is in question.

And discussions are currently under way about whatever is possible to determine about next season (which isn't much yet!). As of February I had it all planned, and we were going to roll it out at the British folksongs concerts that were to have taken place this weekend. But we've put the plans on ice for a bit, until we know more. It appears that arts organizations will be among the last businesses re-opened, as their livelihood relies on large gatherings of people (audiences). So whether these will be possible come Fall is anyone's guess.

Until we know more, I want to thank our supporters for their generosity in our recent campaign; and to say that your continued support, even in the absence of live concerts, is profoundly needed and deeply appreciated. We have begun posting concert audio/visual recordings on YouTube of recent concerts (for the entire "Rachmaninov Vespers" concert of Fall, 2018, go to YouTube and search for "Rachmaninov Vespers St. Martin's Chamber Choir." Each of the 15 movements is a separate track; but start with No. 1 ["Priidite"], and the others should load up in order). In lieu of our concerts this weekend, take a half-hour and immerse yourself in the glory of these wonderful pieces!

St. Andrew's is one of a few churches yet live-streaming services (Evensong on Thursdays at 5:45, and Sunday mornings at 11:00). We are limited to no more than 10 people in the church (including camera/sound people), we practice 8' social distancing, we wear masks when not actually singing, we wipe down the choir area with sterile wipes both before the choir arrives and after they leave, etc. We have filed our safety plan, as required by our bishop, with the diocese (as well as posting it on our website, for anyone curious), and are doing everything we can to make the participants in these events as safe as possible.

From the many, MANY comments we have received (texts, e-mails, cards, as well as the live comments/reactions on Facebook), we are providing something of immense value to a growing number of people, and providing much-needed beauty, hope, and spiritual nourishment to countless hundreds

in this extraordinary time. If I needed any justification for the "essential" nature of this, in terms of stay-at-home guidelines, I have been strongly convinced of it, not to mention deeply moved.

I urge you to "attend" one of these services, whether live or watching it after-the-fact. To my friends abroad, although Evensong at 5:45pm (11:45pm in Britain) may be too late for live viewing (except for insomniacs), they can be viewed later; and Sunday mornings' 11:00am services (5:00pm in Britain) would be a good accompaniment to your 5:00 glass of wine (if I may be so profane...).

Even if you don't have a Facebook account, you can go to this link (<https://www.facebook.com/standrewdenver/> -- St. Andrew's, Denver's Facebook page), and, if tuning in for the live service, click on when it appears (which is about 5 minutes before the posted service time), or, if watching later, click on "Videos" in the menu and peruse past services (Easter was a good one, as well as Evensong in Lent 5, April 2). Here are some details about this week's coming services.

Today is the feast of St. George, patron saint of England (among other things). There was an actual 4th century Roman soldier who was the inspiration for this saint, but very little is known about him, and most of what one hears (and sees in art) is the accretion of pious legends that were added in subsequent centuries (including, most famously, the slaying of a dragon). I recall standing on top of a hill in England (Berkshire? Wiltshire?) that was once believed to be the spot where George slew the dragon, because grass would not grow there. Obviously it is not the factual nature of such legends that is the captivating part of them, as I remember feeling awed as I stood there, even though it was clearly a mythological story. Sometimes there seems to be a tangible presence of something stemming simply from the beliefs of previous ages. That so many people found meaning in something, and themselves may have believed it happened, is what moves the heart in this current age of enlightened scepticism.

Anyway, I digress. Here's the music that will be rendered in today's service:

April 23, 2020, 5:45pm Choral Evensong: St. George

Voluntaries: Two chorale preludes on "Christ lag in Todesbanden," by Samuel Scheidt and J. S. Bach

Responses: Michael Gibson (b. 1939) "Modal"

Canticle of Light: "O Lord, the maker of all thing" by William Mundy (d. 1591)

Psalm: 3 – plainchant

Service: Herbert Brewer (1865-1928) in F

Anthem: "Ye choirs of new Jerusalem" by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Office Hymn: 279 (St. George)

Voluntary: "Good Christians all, rejoice and sing" by Healey Willan (1880-1968)

If you tune in -- first, download the service leaflet here:

<http://www.standrewdenver.org/wp-content/uploads/200423-George.pdf>

Then go to the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/standrewdenver/>. We will go live at 5:40; the organ voluntary will begin precisely at 5:45. The service will likely last about 40-45 minutes. We have a septet of singers (plus me making the eighth, when I have the breath to join in!).

Let me know if you watched. We're lucky to have a member of the choir who is a professional sound technician, and he has borrowed equipment to make our sound quality really quite good for a low-tech live-stream service such as this. You won't see him -- he's the one off screen operating the sound and camera.

This coming Sunday is the Third Sunday of Easter. The gospel reading is a favorite of many -- the "Road to Emmaeus" story. During this pandemic, the Bishop of Colorado has required that any services that take place on Sunday mornings be Morning Prayer (called Matins in some circles), as there is no congregation present to receive the sacrament. Personally speaking, I've been enjoying having Choral Matins in place of a Eucharist, if only for the variety of music involved. And this week, we are premiering a new composition of mine!! I set the canticle Venite ("O come, let us sing unto the Lord," Ps. 95) over the last few weeks, finishing it about a week ago. It's not a profound piece, but it's tuneful, joyous, and I hope evocative of the text. We're also doing a set of Preces & Responses that I wrote a month or so ago for our rector, with the reciting tone at a lower pitch than usual, in order to suit her particular voice. We sang it in Lent, but this is the first time she will actually be the cantor. Here's all the music:

April 26, 11:00am, Choral Matins: Third Sunday of Easter

Organ Voluntaries: "Christ ist erstanden" Johann-Kasper-Ferdinand Fischer (1650-1746); and "On earth has dawned this day of days" by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Responses: TJK (2020)

Venite: Timothy J. Krueger (first performance!)

Psalm: 116 - Anglican chant by Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Jubilate: Charles Wood (1866-1926) in A flat (based on Old 110th)

Anthem: "Stay with us," by Egil Hovland (1925-2013)

Hymns: 205 (Gelobt sei Gott), 306 (Sursum corda), 208 (Victory)

Organ Voluntary: Sortie on "The Strife is O'er" by Noel Rawsthorne (1929-2019)

Again, if you tune in: First download the leaflet here (click on Sunday Morning):
<http://www.standrewdenver.org/online-worship#leaflets>

Then go to the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/standrewdenver/>. We will go live at 10:55, and the organ voluntary will begin at 11:00. The service will be slightly more than an hour. We will have a sextet of singers.

Let me know if you tuned in, and what you thought of my NEW PIECE! :-)

Tim

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