

June 10, 2020

In early May, Ralph Valentine and I recorded the organ part of Philip Wilby's 1992 anthem "If ye love me." I was conducting Ralph, but mainly I was conducting to a camera, knowing that St. Andrew's choir members would be watching me while they each recorded their own part on a "virtual choir" project. Ralph and I did three takes. The best of these (it's always take 3, isn't it?) was then sent to Tony Domenick, one of my staff basses, and sent as a "guide track" to the choir members. 22 of them (a little over half) recorded and filmed themselves on their phones while listening to the guide track on headphones (not an easy thing to do -- some of them told me they did it 15 times before they had one they were half-way satisfied with!). Tony took all these audio submissions, synched them up, and added a little electronic reverb and "touching up," while Will Stowe, another bass in the choir, edited together all the videos. The final product was then broadcast as the anthem during our live-streamed service this last Sunday. I don't mind saying that there were many a moistened eye as we watched, recalling the things we used to do together and took for granted. It was both sweetly sad and edifyingly joyful. I could not be more pleased with the product, and I offer my heartfelt thanks to Tony and Will for all the time and exacting effort they put into this project. We uploaded it to YouTube, and I am moved to offer it here for your viewing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rYog2KQGoY&feature=youtu.be>

We are already making the initial plans for our second project, perhaps ready in July sometime...and this time we'll remember to film the organist, too!

Save this date on your calendar: **Saturday, June 27, 7:30pm**, for the next St. Martin's Chamber Choir event. That's all I'll say for now. More next week. :-)

Evensong this week falls on the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle. One of the original twelve disciples called by Jesus, these are what I would term the "greater" of the "lesser" feasts. The service will feature 4 women of the choir, with organ, singing the following music:

June 11, 2020, 5:45pm, Choral Evensong: St. Barnabas the Apostle

Organ voluntary: *Reverie* by Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Responses: TJK for SSAA (2010)

Canticle of Light: "O gracious Light" by Thomas Tallis (c.1510-1585)

Psalm: 112 – plainchant

Service: Sydney Watson (1903-1991) for Trebles, in F

Anthem: "I will magnify thee, O Lord" by Joseph Corfe (1740-1820)

Office Hymn: 234 (*GONFALON ROYAL*)

Organ voluntary: The Fifers, by François Dandrieu (1682-1739)

Sydney Watson was organist successively at New College, Oxford, Winchester School, Eton College, and Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. He wrote this particular service in 1952 for the boys at Eton College. As I was playing through it the other day on the piano, MB asked if it was Vaughan Williams, so this is about as high a compliment as one can get, in my book. ;-)

Joseph Corfe was a boy chorister at Salisbury Cathedral, an adult lay clerk (singer) at the Chapel Royal, then returned to Salisbury as organist in 1792. This is a tuneful bauble (SA duet) of the kind of which I am so fond, coming from the much-maligned and overlooked "Georgian" Anglican Church of the 18th century.

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

<http://www.standrewdenver.org/online-worship#leaflets>

Then go to the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/standrewdenver/>. We will go live at 5:40; the organ voluntary will begin at 5:45. The service will likely last about 40-45 minutes. Let me know if you watched.

This Sunday features a duo of singers with organ, rather than our more usual quartet+ -- and it may be like this for a few weeks, as an unusual interim period has begun in Denver as restrictions are eased at houses of worship. Some churches will be opening back up to socially-distanced congregations; but St. Andrew's is too small to make this feasible. Nevertheless, the new restrictions for in-person worship affect us the opposite way to most places, and we will be distancing singers now by 25-30' rather than our previous 12'. This results in a situation where we can only fit 2 singers (plus organist, camera person, priest, and -- if one of the singers is MB -- me [as we don't need to social distance from each other]). So Amanda C. (soprano) and MB (alto) will be rendering Sunday's music as follows:

June 14, 2020, Proper 6

Organ voluntary: *Berceuse* by Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Opening Hymn: 535 PADERBORN

Responses: TJK for ATB

Psalm: 116 Anglican chant

Mag & Nunc: Sir George Dyson (1888-1964) in C minor (unison)

Anthem: "Non nobis Domine" by Roger Quilter (1877-1953)

Closing Hymn: 376 HYMN TO JOY

We will transpose my ATB setting of the Preces & Responses up a third to make it (vaguely) SAT, and I'll provide the third voice.

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.

Tim

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