

We have realized that St. Martin's Chamber Choir's next season, 2020-'21, will almost certainly not include in-person audiences for at least the first half (Sept.-Dec. ... and who can predict about the second half?). So we have decided to explore the idea of live-streaming performances online for people to watch. Plans are afoot for three live-streamed concerts in the fall (and if by some miracle we *can* have in-person audiences, it's easier to switch in that direction at the last minute, than the other!). More details about next season will be coming soon.

But sooner than the Fall, we thought we would explore doing such an event this month, with an eye to educating ourselves (and doubtless learning much from our mistakes!) such that the events in the Fall can be more seamless, confident, and professional.

Hence, on **Saturday, June 27 at 7:30pm**, an octet of singers from St. Martin's Chamber Choir will perform nine choral pieces and live-stream the event online. Taking our original June concert as its inspiration, the music of Ralph Vaughan Williams will still be the focus. It's called "**A Mystical Visionary: Ralph Vaughan Williams,**" and will include three pieces by RVW's teachers, three pieces by RVW himself, and three pieces by RVW's students (and their students). *For any curious about the safety of such an undertaking, see paragraph beginning with an asterisk below.*

All who possessed tickets to the original concerts on June 4-6 (either single tickets or season tickets) will have automatic access to the event. And anyone else who wishes to purchase a single ticket to the performance will be able to do so (I'll provide those details, including price, in my next *Weekly*). All ticket-holders will be provided with a private link to the performance on the day of the performance itself (likely in an e-mail). Clicking on that link will take you to the live-feed of the concert (or can be watched after-the-fact at your convenience). You will also be given a link to a printed program which you can download, and then either view on screen, or print it out.

Here's the full program:

RVW's Teachers

"Sweet Day, So Cool" by C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918)

"Beati quorum via" by Charles V. Stanford (1852-1924)

"Hail, Gladdening Light" by Charles Wood (1866-1926)

RVW Himself

The Turtle Dove

Kyrie from the Mass in G minor

"The Cloud-Capp'd Tow'rs"

RVW's Legacy

"Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day" arr. by Clifford Harker (1910-1992)

Wisdom, by Lionel Pike (b. 1941)

Simple Gifts, arr. by Timothy Krueger (b. 1964)

This is something of an experiment -- to test the efficacy of tickets sold in this way to a private online event, as well as the logistics of the performance itself. But I think it will nevertheless be an extraordinary and enjoyable concert-like event that I hope you will consider "attending."

***For any** interested in the safety of this event for the singers, here are a few observations: The performance will take place at St. Paul Community of Faith, which is a large, acoustically reverberant room. I will be standing in the center of the church, and the eight singers will be standing in a large circle around me, each about 32' away from me, like the numbers on a clock face. Each singer will be 25' away from the nearest other singer (distances estimated). Colorado guidelines now allow for up to 50 people in a large space, distanced by at least 6 feet, so the 8 singers, conductor, and 2-3 person tech crew (camera operator, sound

technicians, etc.) will easily conform to these guideline. For simplicity's sake, in this first event there will be a single camera in the rear gallery of the church looking down on the configuration. The camera will occasionally zoom in on soloists or small groups, as well as the conductor. There has been much speculated about the potential dangers of singing in terms of virus transmission through the aerosolization of droplets from breath. However, a very recently released comprehensive study done by the University of Vienna Medical School, in Austria, concluded that singing was no more risky than speech, which is at least partly reassuring. Further, the eight SMCC singers participating were approached with the understanding that they were completely free to say "no thanks," without judgement or recriminations. Each is aware of the speculated risks and the safety measures we will be employing, and has accepted them as part of their participation.

Choral evensong this Thursday marks the lives of two British bishop-theologians of the 18th century, Joseph Butler (1692-1752) and George Berkeley (1684-1753). Rendering the service will be four men and organ (as a corollary to last week's all-treble lineup). It is our next-to-last evensong of the season, with one more coming up on June 25. Here's the music I've planned:

June 18, 2020, 5:45pm, Choral Evensong: George Berkeley and Joseph Butler

Organ voluntary: *Adagio* (Modale Suite) by Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

Responses: Alan Polacek (TTBB)

Canticle of Light: "O gracious Light" by Thomas Tallis

Psalm: 119:89-96 – plainchant

Service: Herbert Howells for Men's Voices (1941)

Anthem: *Ecce sacerdos magnus* by Samuel Webbe (1740-1816)

Office Hymn: 34 (*Innisfree Farm*)

Organ voluntary: *Koraal* (Modale Suite) by Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

A world premiere this week, of Alan Polacek's recently composed Preces & Responses. Alan, a St. Martin's singer, is normally a staff singer at St. John's Cathedral, Denver; but I have been taking advantage of his being mostly available during this period to sing at St. Andrew's more often. He took up my suggestion that he compose a setting of the Preces & Responses for us.

During WWII, when British children were sent to the countryside for safety, cathedral choirs suddenly found themselves bereft of their sopranos, so there arose a great need for music for men's voices. Herbert Howells obliged with this evening service in 1941 (written, I seem to recall, for Westminster Abbey -- but I may be mistaken), which is mostly in two parts (TB), but occasionally expands to four.

Samuel Webbe was unique in that he wrote some of the only music for the Roman Catholic liturgy in Britain between the Reformation and the Emancipation of Catholics in 1830. This is owing to his being the organist for the Portuguese Embassy in London -- the only church in England where Roman Catholic services were legally permitted! This one's a TB duet with organ.

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.

This Sunday features a duo of singers (tenor and bass) with organ.

June 14, 2020, Proper 6

Organ voluntary: Gentle Spirit, by Charles Callahan (b. 1951)

Opening Hymn: 372 (*Leoni*)

Responses: TJK for ATB

Psalm: 69 Anglican chant by Jonathan Battishill

Mag & Nunc: C. Hylton Stewart (1884-1932) in C major (unison)

Anthem: "O bone Jesu" by Richard Dering (1580-1630)

Closing Hymn: 296 (*Engelberg*)

Organ voluntary: Maccabaeus (Festival March) by Aaron David Miller (b. 1972)

C. Hylton Stewart was the organist at Rochester Cathedral, Chester Cathedral, and, briefly just before he died, St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. I've never programmed a piece by him before, his pieces never having held much appeal to me; but this unison setting of the Mag and Nunc is quite tuneful and boisterous, and will fill the bill nicely.

Richard Dering was an English Roman Catholic who refused to convert to the Anglican Church at the Reformation, and thus took refuge in the Spanish Netherlands. He was a pioneer in the use of the continuo as accompaniment (a precursor to the Baroque era), as this piece will demonstrate.

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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