

St. Martin's Chamber Choir has announced its 27th Anniversary Season, and mailed out season brochures (if you aren't on our mailing list but would like to be, let me know, and which address [US Mail or Email] you would like things to come to).

We envision that the 3 autumn concerts will be one-night, exclusively live-streamed events (i.e. no in-person audiences). After the first of the year, it remains to be determined what the 3 spring concerts will look like, whether they will be exclusively live-streamed, or a combination of in-person audience and live-streamed. This obviously depends on the state of the pandemic, the extent of restrictions in place, etc.

But here are the six concert titles and the dates of each live-stream:

High Praise: Music for Trebles and Organ

Sat. Sept. 26, 7:30pm (broadcast from St. Paul Community of Faith)

7 treble voices (sopranos and altos) with organist Joseph O'Berry, assistant organist-choirmaster of St. John's Cathedral, performing works for treble chorus and organ by Brahms, Mendelssohn, Hailstork, and Kössler.

In a Dark Chapel: The Byrd Mass for Four Voices

Fri. Oct. 30, 7:30pm (broadcast from St. Elizabeth's Church, Auraria Campus)

10 singers rendering by candlelight one of the greatest and most evocative masterpieces of the Renaissance, along with accompanying shorter works.

An Olde English Christmas: The Britten Ceremony of Carols

Sat. Dec. 19, 7:30pm (broadcast from St. Paul Community of Faith)

12 singers singing seasonal works, both familiar and obscure, culminating in Britten's atmospheric setting of seven Medieval English Christmas lyrics, accompanied by harp.

Aurora Borealis: Music of the Baltic

Fri. Feb. 26, 7:30pm

Gorgeous choral music from Estonia, Latvia, Sweden, Finland, and Russia; performed with up to 24 singers (TBD). If permissible by this time, we may add in-person concerts on Sat. and/or Sun. of the same weekend.

The Voice of Nature

Fri. April 23, 7:30pm

16 singers singing works reflective of the importance of preserving and protecting our natural world at a time of potential natural crisis. If permissible by this time, we may add in-person concerts on Sat. and/or Sun. of the same weekend.

Brahms Requiem

Fri. June 4, 7:30pm

The Festival Singers (or as many singers as can be fit, given restrictions) render one of classical music's greatest and most recognizable masterpieces, using the composer's own 4-hand piano arrangement of the accompaniment. If permissible by then, we may add in-person concerts on Sat. and/or Sun. of the same weekend.

Each of the live-streamed concerts will be preceded by a lecture, approximately from 7:00-7:25. Each concert will be viewable with the concert ticket for one week following the concert, after which it will be tweaked to remove live elements, and will be accessible as a concert video by those with a membership (i.e. season ticket) at any time thereafter.

You can purchase a ticket singly to each concert, or a season ticket/membership that will include access to all live-streamed events as well as, potentially, in-person concerts after the first of the year. A membership/season ticket will also allow access to the pre-concert lectures, the conductor's circle (a private coffee with me a week preceding each concert), and access to our

archive of all concert recordings from this and certain preceding seasons.

In all cases, ticket-holders will receive a private e-mailed link to the online event the day of the event itself. We have no way of policing how many people watch the event with you, but we are relying on your honesty and goodwill in purchasing as many tickets as you have viewers. Small organizations like St. Martin's have loyal followings, so we do not anticipate too much wholesale free-loading. :-)

Here's a link where single and season tickets can be purchased: <https://www.stmartinchamberchoir.org/concerts/>

Choral evensong this Thursday marks the life of Alexander Crummell (1819-1898), American Anglican Priest whose ministry spanned more than half a century and three continents (North America, Europe, and Africa). In the U.S. he is principally remembered as starting The Union of Black Episcopalians, which formed in opposition to proposals by certain southern bishops after the Civil War to create separate missionary districts for black congregations. Evensong will be rendered by a quartet of voices and organ, offering the following music:

Thursday, September 10, 2020, 5:45pm, Choral Evensong: Alexander Crummell

Organ voluntary: *Arioso* by J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Responses: William Byrd (1543-1623)

Canticle of Light: "Let my prayer come up" by John Blow (1649-1708)

Psalm: 19 – plainchant

Service: A. Herbert Brewer (1865-1928) in E flat

Anthem: "The Lord is my strength" by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912)

Office Hymn: 24 (*St. Clement*)

Organ voluntary: The Heavens Declare, by Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

Brewer was a choirboy and then organist-choirmaster at Gloucester Cathedral for a combined almost 40 years (interrupted by his time at Oxford and the Royal College of Music [RCM]). His service in D is a standby in the cathedral repertory, and deservedly so; but I don't understand why his services in E flat and F are not just as popular.

I chose the anthem by Coleridge-Taylor as he, like Crummell, would have experienced much institutional racism in his life, albeit of a different kind and intensity in England than the U.S. Coleridge-Taylor also studied at the RCM under C. V. Stanford, in the 1890's.

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.

Parishes are allowed to move their patronal feast (in our case, that of St. Andrew, normally Nov. 30...invariably (and inconveniently) located between Thanksgiving Day and the First Sunday of Advent). We have chosen for at least three or four years past now to move it to the first Sunday after Labor Day, as a way to kick off the fall season. We do so again this year, on this coming Sunday, Sept. 13. If you count our cameraman -- who is technically a bass in the choir, and will be joining us once he refocusses the camera -- we will have six singers this Sunday -- more than we've had since Eastertide, I'm sure. This is due to the fact that all singers now wear masks while singing (we use a special kind of mask designed for singers that minimizes the impediment of sound), so we are thus allowed to reduce the distance between singers slightly, from 30' to 15'. Here's the music I've planned for this festive occasion:

Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020, 11:00am: The Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle

Organ voluntary: Prelude in C by Charles Callahan (b. 1951)

Opening Hymn: 382 (*General Seminary*)

Responses: Herbert Sumsion

Psalm: 19, Anglican chant by Stephen Darlington (b. 1952)

Te Deum & Jubilate: Charles V. Stanford (1852-1924) in B flat

Anthem: "Dear Lord and Father" by C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918)

Closing Hymn: 234 (*Gonfalon Royal*)

Stanford's Te Deum in B flat, written when he was a youth of 27, was played at the coronation of Edward VII in 1902, and has been heard at every coronation since then (my hope is that Prince Charles will keep up this tradition!). I chose it as the introit (if you can credit having an introit that long!!) in 2009 to be the first piece of choral music performed in St. Andrew's at the dedicatory service after the church had undergone extensive construction to be enlarged/extended. It's the most singable and lyrical of all Te Deums, in my opinion, especially those written for the Anglican liturgy; yet it manages to be fittingly stirring and celebratory. I think you'll agree, and be entirely unaware of its length! ;-)

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.

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