

GRCMB's Greatest Hits The First 25 Years!



The Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys

Dr Martin Neary – Associate Director

Former Director of Music of the Choirs of
Winchester Cathedral (1972-1987)
Westminster Abbey (1987-1998)

Kenneth Bos – Organist

(Scott Bosscher – GRCMB Director of Music)



Mayflower Congregational Church – East Grand Rapids
Thursday, June 5 at 7 PM

St. Andrew's Cathedral – Grand Rapids
Friday & Saturday, June 6 & 7 at 7:00 PM

Third Christian Reformed Church - Kalamazoo
Sunday, June 8 at 5 PM

~ Concert Opening ~

Kyrie (from Mass in G)

Words: Greek from the Roman Mass

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Kyrie eleison.

God have mercy.

Christe eleison.

Christ have mercy.

~ Part One ~

Celebrating 25 Years of Royal Occasions



O Lord, Make Thy Servant Elizabeth

Words: Psalm 21: 2 & 4 (*adapted*)

William Byrd (c 1540-1623)

O Lord, make thy servant, Elisabeth our Queen, to rejoice in thy strength; give her her heart's desire, and deny not the request of her lips; but prevent her with thine everlasting blessing, and give her a long life, ev'n for ever and ever. Amen.

O God, Thou Art My God

Words: Psalm 63:1-5 & 8

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

O God, thou art my God: early will I seek thee.
My soul thirsteth for thee; my flesh also longeth after thee
in a barren and dry land where no water is.
Thus have I look'd for thee in holiness
that I might behold thy power and glory.
For thy loving kindness is better than life itself:
my lips shall praise thee.
As long as I live will I magnify thee on this manner,
and lift up my hands in thy name.
Because thou hast been my helper,
therefore under the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.
Alleluia.

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This is the Day

Words: Psalms 118, 148, 91, 121 & 27

John Rutter (b. 1945)

This is the day which the Lord hath made:
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
O praise the Lord of heav'n: praise him in the height.
Praise him, all ye angels of his: praise him, all his host.
Praise him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars and light.
Let them praise the Name of the Lord.
For he shall give his angels charge over thee:
to keep thee in all thy ways.
The Lord himself is thy keeper:
the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;
so that the sun shall not burn thee by day: neither the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil:
yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in:
from this time forth for evermore.
He shall defend thee under his wings.
Be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart,
and put thou thy trust in the Lord.

Let the People Praise Thee, O God

Words: Psalm 67

William Mathias (1934-1992)

Let the people praise Thee, O God: yea let all the people praise Thee.
O let the nations rejoice and be glad:
for thou shalt judge the folk righteously,
and govern the nations upon earth.

Let the people praise thee, O God: Let all the people praise thee.
Then shall the earth bring forth her increase;
and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.
God shall bless us: and all the ends of the world shall fear him.

God be merciful unto us, and bless us;
and shew us the light of his countenance and be merciful unto us;
That thy way may be known upon the earth,
Thy saving health among all nations.

Let the people praise thee, O God: yea, let all the people praise thee.
O let the nations rejoice and be glad:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son; and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen.

~ Part Two ~

Celebrating 25 Years of Christmas



In the Bleak Midwinter

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) Harold Darke (1888-1976)

In the bleak mid-winter, Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away, When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter, A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk, And a manger-full of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels, Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel, Which adore.

What can I give Him, Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him, Give my heart.

Shepherd's Pipe Carol

Words: John Rutter

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Going through the hills on a night all starry
On the way to Bethlehem,
Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping
On the way to Bethlehem.
Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King
Is come to bring us peace on earth and he's lying
Cradled there at Bethlehem.

Tell me shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily
On the way to Bethlehem,
Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem.
Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King
Is come to bring us peace on Earth and he's lying
Cradled there at Bethlehem.

None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem;
But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies When I get to Bethlehem.
Angels in the sky came down from on high
Hovered o'er the manger where the Babe was lying
Cradled in the arms of His mother Mary
Sleeping now at Bethlehem.

Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily,
Is He there at Bethlehem?
I will find him soon by the star shining brightly
In the sky o'er Bethlehem.
Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King
Is come to bring us peace on Earth and he's lying
Cradled there at Bethlehem.

May I come with you shepherd boy piping merrily,
Come with you to Bethlehem,
Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle,
Is it far to Bethlehem
Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
Dance and sing for joy that Christ the infant King
Is come this night and born in a stable lowly
born for you at Bethlehem.

My Dancing Day

Words: Traditional

John Gardner (1917-2011)

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day; I would my true love did so chance.
To see the legend of my play, To call my true love to my dance.

(Refrain): Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
This have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure, Of her I took fleshly substance;
Thus was I knit to man's nature, To call my true love to my dance.

(Refrain)

In a manger laid and wrapped I was, So very poor, this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, To call my true love to my dance.

(Refrain)

~ Part Three ~
Celebrating 25 Years of Lent & Easter



Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace

Words: Isaiah 26:3

Samuel S. Wesley (1766-1837)

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee.
The darkness is no darkness with Thee,
but the night is as clear as the day.
The darkness and the light to Thee are both alike.
God is light and with Him is no darkness at all.
Oh let my soul live and it shall praise Thee.
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for evermore.

Nolo Mortem Peccatoris

Words: John Redford (c. 1500-1547)

Thomas Morley (1557-1603)

Nolo mortem peccatoris; Haec sunt verba Salvatoris.

[I do not wish the death of a sinner. These are the words of the Savior.]

Father I am thine only Son, sent down from heav'n mankind to save.
Father, all things fulfilled and done according to thy will, I have.
Father, my will now all is this: Nolo mortem peccatoris.
Father, behold my painful smart, taken for man on ev'ry side;
Ev'n from my birth to death most tart, no kind of pain I have denied,
but suffered all, and all for this: Nolo mortem peccatoris.

There is a Green Hill Far Away

Words: Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-1895) Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

There is a green hill far away, Without a city wall,
Where our dear Lord was crucified, who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell, What pains he had to bear,
But we believe it was for us He hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven, He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to heaven, Saved by his precious blood.

Like as the Hart Desireth the Waterbrooks

Words: Psalm 42:1-3

Herbert Howells (1892-1993)

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks,
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.

My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

My tears have been my meat day and night :
while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?

~ Part Four ~

Celebrating 25 Years of Choral Evensong



Preces & Responses Set One

Words: Book of Common Prayer

Martin Neary (b.1940)

Cantor: O Lord, open thou our lips:

Choir: And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Cantor: O God, make speed to save us:

Choir: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Cantor: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Choir: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Cantor: Praise ye the Lord.

Choir: The Lord's name be praised

Magnificat in G

Words: Luke 1 - Song of Mary

C.V. Stanford (1852-1924)

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm.
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things.
And the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel
as he promised to our forefathers Abraham, and his seed forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis in G

Words: Luke 22 - Song of Simeon

C.V. Stanford (1852-1924)

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Greater Love Hath No Man

Words: The Bible

John Ireland (1879-1962)

Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can the floods drown it. Love is strong as death.
Many waters cannot quench Love. Greater Love hath no man than this,
that a man lay down his life for his friends.
Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,
That we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness.

Ye are washed, ye are sanctified,
ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus.
Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation;
That ye should show forth the praises of him
who hath call'd you out of darkness into his marvellous light.
I beseech you brethren, by the mercies of God,
that you present your bodies, a living sacrifice, holy,
acceptable unto to God, which is your reasonable service.

~ Organ Offertory ~

Dr. Martin Neary – Organ

Toccata (5th Symphony) Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

Thank you for letting us share our music with you this evening.
What greater joy is there than this:

- ❖ O Lord, open Thou our lips.
- ❖ And our mouth shall show forth Thy praise!

~ Concert Closing ~

Foundling Hospital Anthem

Words: The Bible

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Movt. 6: The People Will Tell of Their Wisdom (SS Duet)

The People will tell of their wisdom,
and the congregation will shew forth their praise.
Their reward also is with the Lord,
And the care of them is with the Most High.

Movt. 7: Hallelujah Chorus

Hallelujah!
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth,
The kingdom of this world is become
The kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ;
And He shall reign forever and ever.
King of kings, and Lord of lords,
Hallelujah!