

FOR A HEAVENLY KINGDOM:
The Music of All Souls



THE CHOIR OF THE
BASILICA *of the* NATIONAL SHRINE
of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Crypt Church

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

November 2, 2022

7:00 PM

*This concert is made possible through the generous support of
Mrs. M. Frances Weiner in memory of her husband,
Benjamin “Ben” Weiner (1927–2021).*

*Ben, a long-time friend and benefactor of Mary’s Shrine,
especially loved the Shrine Choir.*

Welcome to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for our annual All Souls Day Concert. Our passing from life to everlasting life has inspired countless composers to write some of the most profound and moving music in sacred choral literature. Presenting this concert each year allows the Musicians of the Basilica to share this sublime music while offering an opportunity to remember and honor those who have gone before us.

This year's concert takes as its point of departure the music for a royal funeral. As the body of Queen Elizabeth was carried into Westminster Abbey, the resident choir sang the funeral sentences composed by William Croft and Henry Purcell, just as they have done for nearly every royal and state funeral for the past two centuries. The austerity of this music and the solemnity of that moment stand in stark contrast to the elaborate pageantry and regalia surrounding the funeral of a monarch.

The directness and simplicity of these compositions befits their straightforward message, that Christ is our Redeemer; that the Lord knows the depths of our hearts and spares us by his merciful love; that we bring nothing into this world and it is certain that we carry nothing out; and that those who die in the Lord shall be forever blessed.

For this evening's concert, I have selected funeral sentences by Croft, Tomkins, Purcell and Morley. Each funeral sentence is paired with a contrasting work which evokes a similar theme but with a different musical expression.

Jakob Meiland's *Ego sum resurrection* pre-dates Croft's *I am the Resurrection* by a century and uses a polyphonic texture favoring individual lines rather than the hymn-like texture of Croft's setting. Cecilia McDowall's *I Know That My Redeemer Lives* uses rhythmic and harmonic colors to produce a work that is both atmospheric and expressive.

Our program also honors the 25th anniversary of another significant passing, that of Saint Teresa of Calcutta, whose life of service and "seeing Christ in all" is beautifully reflected in *Prayer* by Rene Clausen. This piece takes as its text a poem by Saint John Henry Newman, a favorite of Mother Teresa's, and prayed daily by the Missionaries of Charity as part of their Thanksgiving after Mass. The text of Tomkins' third funeral sentence: "We brought nothing into this world, neither may we carry anything out" underscores the life of Saint Teresa and the Missionaries of Charity, whose earthly possessions consist of little more than a few saris, sandals, a crucifix, a prayerbook and a few utensils.

Royal funeral music is fitting for all who believe. The words of John Donne, as set to music in *Bring Us, O Lord God* by William H. Harris, express that the habitation of God's glory and dominion is a place of "one equal light, one equal music, one equal possession and one equal eternity." (Ps. 84) The courts of the Lord are for young and old, rich and poor, sovereign and servant, saint and sinner. And as the psalmists remind us, "one day in the courts of the Lord is better than a thousand elsewhere." These words were set by Herbert Howells for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1953 in the anthem *Behold Our God and Defender*.

The lives of the saints are honored in a particularly stunning composition, *Vox in Rama*, by Renaissance composer Giaches deWert. DeWert's skills as a madrigalist serve this dramatic text taken from the communion antiphon for the Feast of the Holy Innocents. This day commemorates the death of all first-born male children under the age of two when King Herod futilely attempted to slay the Christ Child, as foretold by the prophets. The slain children are venerated as the first martyrs of the Church. *Gaudent in caelis*, by another well known madrigalist, Luca Marenzio, is a text specifically for the Feast of Martyrs.

O King of Heaven is a Ukrainian hymn offered in memory of those who have lost their lives in the war in the Ukraine. The Choir of the Basilica offers up *A Gaelic Blessing* to a dear friend and benefactor, Frances Weiner, in memory of her late husband Benjamin "Ben" Weiner.

Despite life's hardships, our hope in the Lord and trust in God's providence brings us comfort and solace, expressed beautifully in a text by Paul Flemming as set by Johannes Brahms in *Laß dich nur nichts nicht dauren mit Trauren* ("Let nothing ever grieve thee"). Our program concludes with one of our favorite settings of the *Nunc dimittis*, that by Gustav Holst, composed for eight-part choir. May we, like Simeon, have confidence in God's mercy and providence.

We hope you enjoy this evening's program as much as we enjoy presenting it for you.

Peter Latona
Director of Music

FOR A HEAVENLY KINGDOM

THE MUSIC OF ALL SOULS

The Choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine
of the Immaculate Conception

Peter Latona, *conductor*
Andrew Vu, *organist*

Please hold applause until the end of the program

I Am the Resurrection and the Life

William Croft
(1678–1727)

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord:
he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

(Funeral Sentence, Book of Common Prayer)

Ego sum resurrectio

Jakob Meiland
(1542–1577)

*Ego sum resurrectio et vita.
Qui credit in me, non morietur in aeternum.*

I am the resurrection and the life.
Whoever believes in me shall never die.



I Know That My Redeemer Liveth

Thomas Tomkins
(1572–1656)

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shalt stand
at the latter day upon the earth.
And though after my skin worms destroy this body,
yet in my flesh shall I see God:
whom I shall see for myself,
and mine eyes shall behold, and not another.

(Funeral Sentence, Book of Common Prayer)

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth

Cecilia McDowall
(b. 1951)

I know that my Redeemer liveth,
and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:
And though worms destroy this body,
yet in my flesh shall I see God.
For now is Christ risen from the dead,
and become the first fruits of them that sleep.
I know that my redeemer liveth, I know.



We Brought Nothing Into This World

Thomas Tomkins
(1572–1656)

We brought nothing into this world,
neither may we carry anything out of this world.
The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away,
ev'n as it pleaseth the Lord,
so cometh things to pass,
blessed be the name of the Lord.

(Funeral Sentence, Book of Common Prayer)

Help me spread your fragrance wherever I go.
Flood my soul with your spirit and life.
Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly
that my life may be only a radiance of yours.

Shine through me and be so in me
that every soul will feel your presence in my soul.
Let them look up and see,
see no longer me, but only you.

(St. John Henry Newman)



Thou Knowest, Lord, the Secrets of Our Hearts

Henry Purcell
(1659–1695)

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts;
shut not thy merciful ears unto our pray'rs;
but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty.

(Funeral Sentence, Book of Common Prayer)

Laß dich nur nichts nicht dauren mit Trauren

Johannes Brahms
(1833–1897)

*Laß dich nur nichts nicht dauren mit Trauren,
sei stille, wie Gott es fügt,
so sei vergnügt mein Wille!*

*Was willst du heute sorgen auf morgen?
Der Eine steht allem für,
der gibt auch dir das Deine.*

*Sei nur in allem Handel ohn Wandel,
steh feste, was Gott beschleußt,
das ist und heißt das Beste.
Amen.*

Do not be sorrowful or regretful;
Be calm, as God has ordained,
and thus my will shall be content.

What do you want to worry about from day to day?
There is One who stands above all
who gives you, too, what is yours.

Only be steadfast in all you do,
stand firm; what God has decided,
that is and must be the best.
Amen.

(Paul Flemming)

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I Heard a Voice From Heaven

Thomas Morley
(c. 1557–1602)

I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me,
Write,
From henceforth blessed are the dead which die in the Lord:
even so saith the Spirit:
for they rest from their labours.
Amen.

(Funeral Sentence, Book of Common Prayer)

Bring Us, O Lord God

William H. Harris
(1883–1974)

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening
into the house and gate of heav'n
to enter into that gate and dwell in that house,
where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light;
no noise or silence, but one equal music,
no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession,
no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity;
in the habitation of thy glory and domain, world without end. Amen.

(John Donne)

Behold Our God and Defender

Herbert Howells
(1892–1983)

Behold, O God our defender;
and look upon the face of thine anointed.
For one day in thy courts is better than a thousand.

(Psalm 84:9-10)



Gaudent in caelis

Luca Marenzio
(1553–1559)

*Gaudent in caelis
animae sanctorum
qui Christi vestigia secuti sunt:*

They rejoice in the heavens,
the souls of the holy ones
who follow the footsteps of Christ:

*et quia pro eius amore
sanguinem suum funderunt
ideo cum Christo
exsultant sine fine.*

and since for love of him
they poured out their blood,
therefore with Christ
they rejoice without end.

(Antiphon at the Magnificat, Common of Several Martyrs)

Vox in Rama

Giaches de Wert
(1535–1596)

*Vox in Rama audita est
ploratus et ululatus multus,
Rachel plorans filios suos,
et noluit consolari, quia non sunt.*

A voice is heard in Ramah
of weeping and great lamentation.
Rachel is weeping for her children,
and will not be comforted because they are no more.

(Communion motet for the feast of Holy Innocents)

O King of Heaven

Ostap Nyzhankivsky
(1863–1919)

O King of heaven, Spirit almighty,
giver of truth and comfort and love,
fill hearts with graces and every bounty
that we may glow with fire from above.

O King of heaven, human consoler,
come dwell within us, O life-bestower.
You are the good one, treasure of graces,
Spirit of justice, filling all places.

O King of heaven, treasure of graces,
Mighty life-giver, come with your aid
and dwell among us, be in all places,
sanctify people whom you have made.

(Ukrainian hymn)



There Is An Old Belief

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry
(1848–1918)

There is an old belief,
That on some solemn shore,
Beyond the sphere of grief
Dear friends shall meet once more.
Beyond the sphere of Time and Sin
And Fate's control,
Serene in changeless prime
Of body and of soul.
That creed I fain would keep
That hope I'll ne'er forgo,
Eternal be the sleep,
If not to waken so.

(John Gibson Lockhart)

A Gaelic Blessing

John Rutter
(b. 1945)

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the gentle night to you,
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you,
Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world to you.

(William Sharp)

Nunc Dimittis

Gustav Holst
(1874–1934)

*Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine, secundum verbum tuum in pace:
Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum
Quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum:
Lumen ad revelationem gentium, et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.*

*Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto:
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.*

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace: according to your word.
For my eyes have seen: your salvation,
Which you have prepared: before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of your 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.

(Luke 2:29-31)

THE CHOIR OF THE BASILICA is the resident choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (Washington, DC). The choir is comprised of sixteen professional singers from the greater Washington metropolitan area and is dedicated to providing excellence in sacred choral music in the context of Liturgy throughout the Liturgical Year. The choir is engaged in almost one hundred performances each year, and prepares approximately three hundred works each season drawn from the wealth of the Roman Catholic sacred music tradition. In addition to performing choral literature from the vast treasury of sacred music, the choir champions newly composed works and has given numerous premiers including Henryk Gorecki's *Pod twoja obrone* (North American premiere) and James MacMillan *Tota pulchra es* (world premiere).

The choir maintains an active recording schedule and their performances have been broadcast throughout the world on the Eternal Word Television Network, NPR, WAOB Radio, Salt and Light, and the Catholic Channel on Sirius XM. The choir has been featured at numerous festivals and conferences including the International Festival of Sacred Music and Art in Rome, the National Conventions of the American Guild of Organists, the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians, and the American Choral Directors Association.

The choir has performed for dignitaries and heads of states including during the apostolic visits of Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis in 2008 and 2015 respectively.

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Soprano

Mira Huang
Katelyn Grace Jackson
Sara MacKimmie
Genevieve McGahey

Alto

Hannah Baslee
Aryssa Burrs
Janna Critz
Kate Jackman

Tenor

Samuel T. Allen
Dennys Moura
Jacob Perry, Jr.
John Logan Wood

Bass

Christopher Jackson
Shreyas Patel
Corbin Phillips
Carter Sligh

PETER LATONA (b. 1968) is the Music Director for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (Washington, D.C.), the pre-eminent Marian shrine of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. Recognized as a conductor, composer, organist, improviser and teacher, he is dedicated to providing the highest standard in sacred music within the context of the Roman Catholic Liturgy.

An award-winning organist, Dr. Latona has performed throughout the United States, Europe and the Holy Land, has presented workshops on improvisation, and has released a recording, *An Organ Pilgrimage*, on the Raven label, featuring all four pipe organs at the Basilica. In 2012 he performed to an audience of one thousand having been invited as a featured artist for the *Festspiele Europäische Wochen* in Passau, Germany. As the conductor of the Choir of the Basilica, he has released numerous recordings of sacred choral music, presented concerts in the United States and abroad, performed nationally for the American Guild of Organists, National Pastoral Musicians Association, Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedrals, Church Music Association of America and internationally as a featured conductor in the *Festival Internazionale di Musica e Arte Sacra*. Among his recently completed recording projects are *Tu es Petrus: A Papal Tribute in Music* which commemorates the Papacy of Pope Benedict XVI and celebrates the Petrine ministry of Pope Francis and *Te Deum: The Sacred Music of Peter Latona* which was commissioned by the Knights of Columbus and features many of the works composed by Dr. Latona for the National Shrine. Active as a composer, Dr. Latona is published by Morningstar Music Publishers as well as Canticanova Publications and G.I.A. His music has been featured in various media productions including Bishop Barron's well-known series *Catholicism*. He recently won first prize in a composition competition sponsored by the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians for his *Priests of God/Servants of God* and *Go into All the World*. He has received commissions from the Knights of Columbus, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, the Diocese of Helena, as well as the Archdioceses of Washington, New York and Philadelphia. His music was performed during the Apostolic visit of His Holiness Benedict XVI to the United States in 2008 and in each city visited by Pope Francis during his 2015 Apostolic visit to the United States. In recognition of this, Dr. Latona was awarded the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* medal by Pope Francis. Dr. Latona also serves on the composition faculty of The Catholic University of America Benjamin T. Rome School of Music. Dr. Latona is a graduate of Bucknell University (B. Mus.), the Yale School of Music (M. Mus.), and the Manhattan School of Music (D.M.A.).

ANDREW VU, a native of Vietnam, came to the U.S. at the age of thirteen, to study piano and musicianship with Molly and Charles Stier. He completed the Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from the Catholic University of America, where he studied under James Litzelman. His organ instructors include Jeffrey Pannebaker, Ed Moore, and Ronald Stolk. He also studied choral conducting with Leo Nestor, and voice with Rick Christman.

An award-winning pianist, Andrew received the Honor Prize of the 2007 Maryland MCMTA Competition, the 2012 Benjamin T. Rome School of Music Performance Award from the Catholic University of America, and Second Place in the 2012 Stravinsky Award Bach Competition. He has served as a student assistant for the annual Washington International Piano Festival at the Catholic University of America.

Andrew has served as assistant director of music at St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish in Bethesda, Maryland and St. Peter's Parish in Olney, Maryland for ten years. In addition, Andrew was the Music Director at the American University Catholic Chaplaincy. He is currently the Assistant Director of Music at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

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