

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL CONCERTS

National Gallery of Art

1724th Concert



AMERICAN VOCAL ENSEMBLE
DOUGLAS MAJOR, *DIRECTOR*

Sunday Evening, January 22, 1984 at Seven
West Building, East Garden Court

PROGRAM

John Taverner Missa "Gloria tibi Trinitas"
(1495-1545)
Gloria in excelsis
Credo
Sanctus
Benedictus
Agnus Dei

INTERMISSION

Leo Sowerby Tu es vas electionis (1933)
(1895-1968)

Aaron Copland Have mercy on us, O my Lord (1923)
(b. 1900)

Ned Rorem Ecce Deus (1977)
(b. 1923)

Norman Dinerstein When David heard (1970)
(1937-82)

Richard Dirksen Six Choral Exercises (1983)
(b. 1921)
*Composed for this concert and dedicated to
my friends Douglas Major, Richard Bales and
the members of the AVE chorus. RWD.*

First Performance

THE AMERICAN VOCAL ENSEMBLE
Douglas Major, *Director*

Soprano: Gisele Becker, Pamela Berkeley, Lisa Shumate,
Jeanne Smith

Counter-tenor: Robert Betts, Richard Falk, Barbara Hollinshead,
John Uhrig

Tenor: Michael Henry, Randy Nelson, Robert Petillo, Gene Tucker

Bass: Charles Baker, John Becker, Thaddeus Cavuoti, Richard S.
Dirksen

This concert is broadcast by Station WGMS 570 AM and 103.5 FM.

The Signal

Why do they ring that bell
Twelve times in the steeple?
To say the hill has swung —
Houses and church and people,
All of them fast asleep —
To this place in time where the bell
Tilts to its iron tongue
Twelve times in the steeple.

Houses and hill don't care
Nor sleepers fast asleep.

But the steeple says to the star:
Here in the night we are,
Hill and houses and men.
Andromeda's shivering light,
Orion's distant flare,
Here we are in the night,
Here we go by again.
We go by you again says the bell,
Again says the bell, again . . .

A Poem of Gerard Manley Hopkins

Thee, God I come from, to thee go,
All day long I like fountain flow
From thy hand out, swayed about
Mote-like in thy mighty glow.

What I know of thee I bless,
As acknowledging thy stress
On my being and as seeing
Something of thy holiness.

Once I turned from thee and hid,
Bound on what thou hast forbid;
Sow the wind I would; I sinned:
I repent of what I did.

Bad I am, but yet thy child.
Father, be thou reconciled.
Spare thou me, since I see
With thy might that thou art mild.

I have life before me still
And thy purpose to fulfill;
Yea a debt to pay thee yet:
Help me, sir, and so I will.

But thou bidst, and just thou art,
Me shew mercy from my heart
Towards my brother, every other
Man my mate and counterpart.

The Performers

The American Vocal Ensemble, founded by Douglas Major in 1982, exists to perform unaccompanied choral masterworks from the Renaissance and the present century. AVE, which is supported primarily by private individuals in the Washington area, is composed of sixteen singers, all professional musicians, who create a unique non-vibrato sound which is especially effective in resonant spaces. Their ensemble work has been hailed as masterful and their straight-toned style as innovative. This is the American Vocal Ensemble's first appearance at the National Gallery of Art.

Missa "Gloria Tibi Trinitas"

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra
pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam
gloriam tuam, Domine Deus, Rex
coelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christi.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius
Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis. Qui tollis peccata
mundi, suscipe deprecationem
nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram
Patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam
tu solus sanctus, tu solus
altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum
Sanctu Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.

Credo

Credo in unum Deum
Patrem omnipotentem, factorem
coeli et terrae, visibilium
omnium et invisibilium:
Et in unum Dominum Jesum Chris-
tum, Filium Dei unigenitum, Et ex
patre natum ante omnia saecula,
Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine,
Deum verum de Deo vero, genitum,
non factum, consubstantialem
Patri, per quem omnia facta sunt.
Qui propter nos homines et
propter nostram salutem descendit
de coelis,
Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto
ex Maria Virgine, et homo factus est:
Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub
Pontio Pilato, passus et sepultus est:
Et resurrexit tertia die secundum
Scripturas, et ascendit in coelum:
sedet ad dexteram Dei Patris.
Et iterum venturus est cum gloria,
judicare vivos et mortuos;
cujus regni non erit finis.
Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum.
Et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen.

John Taverner
(1495-1545)

Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace
to men of good will.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee.
We give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly king,
God the Father Almighty.
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.
Thou that takest away the sins
of the world, have mercy upon us;
receive our prayer. Thou that sittest
at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy,
thou only art the most high,
O Jesus Christ, with the Holy Ghost in
the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

I believe in one God
The Father Almighty, Maker of
heaven and earth, And of all things
visible and invisible:
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
Begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
Very God of very God, begotten,
not made, being of one substance with
the Father, by whom all things were made.
Who for us men and
for our salvation came down
from heaven,
And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost
of the Virgin Mary, And was made man:
And was crucified also for us under
Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried:
And the third day he rose again according
to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand of the Father.
And he shall come again with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
Whose kingdom will have no end.
And I look for the Resurrection of the dead,
And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

Sanctus
Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni
sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.

Holy, Holy, Holy
Lord God of hosts. Heaven
and earth are full of thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus
Benedictus qui venit in nomine
Domini.
Osanna in excelsis.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name
of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Agnus Dei
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata
mundi, miserere nobis. Agnus
Dei, dona nobis pacem.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins
of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb
of God, grant us peace.

Tu es vas electionis
Leo Sowerby
(1895-1968)

Tu es vas electionis, sancte Paule Apostole,
praedicator veritatis. Intercede pro nobis ad
Deum, qui te elegit, ut digni efficiamur gratia Dei.
Thou art the chosen vessel, O holy Paul, the Apostle,
preacher of truth:
Pray for us to God who chose thee, that we may be
made worthy of the grace of God.

(from the Tract for the Conversion
of St. Paul the Apostle)

Have mercy on us, o my Lord
Aaron Copland
(b. 1900)

Have mercy on us, O my Lord.
Be not far from us, O my God.
Give ear unto our humble prayer.
Attend and judge us in Thy might.
Uphold us with Thy guiding hand,
Restore us to Thy kindly light,
Have mercy on us, O my Lord.
Be not far from us, O my God.
O my heart is sorely pained.
Cast me not away from Thee.
Then we shall trust in Thee,
Then we shall bear our place.

Ecce Deus (Behold, God is our salvation)
Ned Rorem
(b. 1923)

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for
the Lord is my strength and my song: he is also become my
salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the
wells of salvation. And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord,
call upon his Name, declare his deeds among the people, make
mention that his Name is exalted. Sing unto the Lord, for he
hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. Cry
out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One
of Israel in the midst of thee. Amen.

(Isaiah 12:2-6)

When David heard
Norman Dinerstein
(1937-1982)

When David heard that Absalom was slain,
he went up to his chamber over the gate, and wept
and thus he said:
Oh my son Absalom, my son, my son, Absalom!
would God I had died for thee,
Oh Absalom, my son, my son.

(II Samuel 18:33)

[world premiere of composition by
text & title not available a/o 11/28/83, but
will be forwarded a.s.a.p.]

Richard Dirksen
(b. 1921)

Six Choral Exercises (1983)
Richard Dirksen
(b. 1921)

(composed for this concert, and dedicated to my friends Douglas Major, Richard
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Five Poems of Archibald MacLeish
Theory of Poetry

Know the world by heart
Or never know it!
Let the pedant stand apart —
Nothing he can name will show it:
Also him of intellectual art.
None know it
Till they know the world by heart.
Take heart then, poet!

Words in Time
Bewildered with the broken tongue
Of wakened angels in our sleep —
Then, lost the music that was sung
And lost the light time cannot keep!

There is a moment when we lie
Bewildered, wakened out of sleep,
When light and sound and all reply:
That moment time must tame and keep.

That moment, like a flight of birds
Flung from the branches where thy sleep,
The poet with a beat of words
Flings into time for time to keep.

Crossing

At five precisely in the afternoon
The dining car cook on the Boston and Albany
Through train to somewhere leaned and waved
At the little girl on the crossing at Ghent, New York —
The one with the doll carriage.

Who understood it best?

She, going home to her supper, telling her Pa?
The Negro cook, shutting the vestibule window,
Thinking: She waved right back she did? Or I,
Writing it down and wondering as I write it
Why a forgotten touch of human grace
is more alive forgotten than its memory
Pressed between two pages in this place?

The Linden Branch

Strophe of green leaves
In the inevitable spiral,
Versical of God,
Of what green sound the body?
Silence of what lyre?
O linden bough, O leaves,
Teach us your intervals:
Our strings are strung so false
We make no music be.
Could we as you be strung
For wind to blow on, we
Might be that song.