Harvard University Choir Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra



GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL *CORONATION ANTHEMS (1727)* HENRY PURCELL *HAIL! BRIGHT CECILIA (1692)*

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024 • 7:30 PM HARVARD MEMORIAL CHURCH



The Memorial Church



Music by George Frideric Handel and Henry Purcell

Harvard University Choir Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra Edward Elwyn Jones, conductor April 20, 2024, 7:30 pm

Zadok the Priest, HWV 258 (1727)

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Zadok, the Priest, and Nathan, the Prophet, anointed Solomon King; and all the people rejoic'd, and said: God save the King, long live the King, may the King live for ever! Amen! Alleluia!

after the Gregorian antiphon Unxerunt Salomonem (after I Kings 1:38-40)

Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened, HWV 259 (1727)

Let thy hand be strengthened and thy right hand be exalted. Let justice and judgment be the preparation of thy seat! Let mercy and truth go before thy face. Let justice, judgment, mercy and truth go before thy face. Alleluia!

Psalm 89:13–14

The King Shall Rejoice, HWV 260 (1727)

The King shall rejoice in thy strength, O Lord. Exceeding glad shall he be of thy salvation. Glory and worship hast thou laid upon him. Thou hast prevented him with the blessings of goodness and hast set a crown of pure gold upon his head Alleluia!

Psalm 21:1-3, 5

My Heart Is Inditing, HWV 261 (1727)

My heart is inditing of a good matter:

I speak of the things which I have made unto the King.

Kings' daughters were among thy honorable women.

Upon thy right hand did stand the Queen in vesture of gold; and the King shall have pleasure in thy beauty. Kings shall be thy nursing fathers and queens thy nursing mothers.

adapted by Henry Purcell (1659–1695) from Psalm 45:1, 10, 12 and Isaiah 49:23

Hail! Bright Cecilia, Z. 328 (1692)

1. Sinfonia

2. Hail! Bright Cecilia

Hail! bright Cecilia, fill every heart With love of thee and thy celestial art, That thine, and Music's sacred love May make the British forest prove As famous as Dodona's vocal grove.

3. Hark! Each Tree

Hark, each tree its silence breaks, The box and fir to talk begin, This in the sprightly violin, That in the flute distinctly speaks. 'Twas sympathy their list'ning brethren drew, When to the Thracian lyre with leafy wings they flew.

4. 'Tis Nature's Voice

'Tis nature's voice, through all the moving wood of creatures understood, The universal tongue, to none of all her numerous race unknown. From her it learned the mighty art To court the ear, or strike the heart, At once the passions to express and move, We hear, and straight we grieve or hate, rejoice or love. In unseen chains it does the fancy bind. At once it charms the sense and captivates the mind.

5. Soul of the World

Soul of the world, inspired by thee, The jarring seeds of matter did agree. Thou didst the scattered atoms bind Which by the laws of true proportion joined, Made up of various parts, one perfect harmony.

6. Thou Tun'st This World

Thou tun'st this world below, the spheres above, Who in the heavenly round to their own music move.

7. With That Sublime Celestial Lay

With that sublime celestial lay Can any earthly sounds compare? If any earthly music dare, the noble organ may. From heav'n its wondrous notes were given, Cecilia oft conversed with heaven. Some angel of the sacred quire. Did with his breath the pipes inspire, And of the notes above the just resemblance gave, Brisk without lightness, without dullness, grave.

8. Wondrous Machine

Wondrous machine, to thee the warbling lute, Though used to conquest, must be forced to yield, With thee unable to dispute.

9. The Airy Violin

The airy violin and lofty viol quit the field. In vain they tune their speaking strings To court the cruel fair or praise victorious kings. Whilst all thy consecrated lays Are to more noble uses bent. And every grateful note to heaven repays The melody it lent.

10. In Vain the Amorous Flute

In vain the amorous flute and soft guitar jointly labor To inspire wanton heat and loose desire Whilst thy chaste airs do gently move Seraphic flames and heavenly love.

11. The Fife and All the Harmony The fife and all the harmony of war In vain attempt the passions to alarm, Which thy commanding sounds compose and charm.

12. Let These Among Themselves Contest

Let these amongst themselves contest Which can discharge its single duty best. Thou summ'st their differing graces up in one, And art a consort of them all within thyself alone.

13. Hail! Bright Cecilia

Hail! bright Cecilia, hail to thee! Great Patroness of us and Harmony! Who whilst among the quire above Thou dost thy former skill improve. With raptures of delight dost see Thy favorite art make up a part Of infinite felicity.

> Nicholas Brady (1659–1726) Soloists: Henrique Neves (mvt. 2); Isabella Meyer and Soren Choi (mvt. 3); AJ Yi (mvt. 4); Olympia Hatzilambrou (mvt. 6); Julia Paolillo, Shiva Ramkumar, Henrique Neves (mvt. 7); Henrique Neves (mvt. 8); Katie Burstein (mvt. 9); Sophia Lerebours, Lara Tan Rui Qui (mvt. 10); Ari Cheriyan (mvt. 11); Chung Hon Michael Cheng and John Burton Rogers III (mvt. 12)

This concert is dedicated to Jack Megan, in honor of his retirement, and in thanks for his years as director of Harvard's Office for the Arts (2001–2024).

This concert is made possible with the support of the Mary Reiss Nelson Memorial Concert Fund.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY CHOIR

Edward Elwyn Jones, Gund University Organist and Choirmaster David von Behren, Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster Carson Cooman, Research Associate in Music and Composer in Residence Frank Kelley, Vocal Instructor Soren Choi and Ari Cheryan, Choir Secretaries Tara Guetzloe, Social Secretary

Tenors

Sopranos

Elizabeth Bennett Levna Blume Tara Guetzloe Carolyn Hao Olympia Hatzilambrou Hanabi Ito Isabella Mever Nicole Newell Caitlin Paul Lara Tan Rui Qi Akhila Yalvigi Peggy Yin Lea Wang

Altos

Katie Burstein Ari Cheriyan Maliya Ellis Sonja Johnson-Yu Iulia Kim Sophia Lerebours Katherine McPhie Kiesse Nanor Julia Paolillo Shiva Ramkumar Roseanne Strategos Angela Wu

Fahim Ahmed Jonathan Caron Dhruv Goel Sam Lyczkowski Luis Pabón Rico Ian Svetkey AJ Yi Livingston Zug

Basses

Lucas Amory Chung Hon Michael Cheng Soren Choi Henrique Neves Christopher Ong John Burton Rogers III Moritz von Brescius Iordan Woods

Italics denote members of the Ferris Choral Fellows.

HARVARD BAROQUE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Phoebe Carrai, Director Sarah Darling, Assistant Director

Violin

Farkhad Abdikadirov Hilary Chan Sarah Darling* Morgen Heissenbuettel Sarah Kiel Patricia Ku Armando Ortiz Ambrose Philipek* Madeleine Riskin-Kutz Clara Ross Nikhil Seshadri Zev Shapiro Maureen Sheehan Meghan Titzer

Viola

Iulian Bernal Teresa Bloemer Zoe Chau Veronica Koven-Matasy Hayley Murks-Abdikadirova* Amy Sexauer

Cello

Phoebe Carrai* Paul Clayton Judah Coffman Itzel Orellana Sierra

Bass Isabel Atkinson

Oboe/Recorder Gaia Saetermoe-Howard Andrew Blanke

Bassoon Allen Hamrick Kate van Orden

Trumpet

Steven Marquardt Paul Perfetti Vincent Monaco

Timpani Robert Schulz

Harpsichord Adrian Cho

Organ David von Behren Edward Elwyn Jones

* Principal

NOTES

Welcome to the Memorial Church of Harvard University, and to this evening's spring concert, given by the Harvard University Choir and the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra. It is a joy to dedicate this musical offering to Jack Megan, tireless Director of Harvard's Office for the Arts for over twenty years, who retires at the end of this semester.

The pomp and pageantry of a British coronation might be encapsulated in the opening sequence of the most famous of all coronation anthems, Handel's *Zadok the Priest*. Written for the coronation of George II in Westminster Abbey on October 11, 1727, it has been used in every subsequent coronation. Handel, however, wrote three other anthems for this occasion: the English composer Maurice Greene, whose appointment as organist of the Chapel Royal should have secured him the rights to these compositions, was snubbed in favor of a German composer famous in London for his Italian operas! Majestic and stately—as befits such an occasion—the anthems also contain more lyrical, intimate, and reflective passages that would all inform Handel's later compositional style found in his English oratorios.

In 1683, the newly formed "Musical Society of London" commissioned Henry Purcell to compose an ode in honor of music's patron saint, Cecilia. Nine years later, Purcell's fourth and final ode is his grandest and most ambitious essay in the genre. Nicholas Brady's libretto—which extols the virtues and power of music and her patron saint—elicits a grand paean from Purcell, that combines celebratory, contrapuntal choruses with sequences of airs with obbligato instruments, which employ a variety of contemporaneous dance forms.

It has been a pleasure to prepare this program with such an enthusiastic group of young singers alongside the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra's instrumentalists, led by Phoebe Carrai and Sarah Darling. Our work would not be possible without the support of so many benefactors, and I would like to thank all of our patrons for their ongoing generosity. In addition, I encourage you to join our email list by visiting our website, memorialchurch.harvard.edu, where you can also make a contribution towards our free concert series.

My sincere thanks go to my colleagues in the church, and in particular to the Pusey Minister, Professor Matthew Ichihashi Potts, Vocal Instructor, Frank Kelley, Assistant University Organist, David von Behren, and Composer in Residence, Carson Cooman, for their support, friendship, and encouragement. To the Harvard University Choir secretaries, Soren Choi and Ari Cheriyan, I give my heartfelt gratitude for all they do to ensure the group's smooth-running. Finally, I thank you, our audience, for your support of this evening's concert, and for your enthusiasm for the music program here in the Memorial Church.

Edward Elwyn Jones

For over 180 years the **Harvard University Choir** has provided a unique opportunity for student singers to perform choral literature at the highest level, both in concert and during the services of the Memorial Church. Its program of daily choral services, broadcasts, tours, commissions, and recordings make it one of the premier college chapel ensembles in the United States, and each year the choir presents America's longest-running Christmas Carol Services to packed congregations. Highlights of recent seasons include concert performances of Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* and Vespers, Haydn's *The Creation*, J. S. Bach's *St. John Passion* and Mass in B minor, C. P. E. Bach's *Die Israeliten in der Wüste*, Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Handel's *Athalia, Saul*, and *Messiah*, Mozart's Requiem and Mass in C minor (in completions by Harvard Professor Robert Levin), Roxanna Panufnik's *Westminster Mass*, Alice Parker's *Melodious Accord*, Stephen Paulus's *The Three Hermits*, and Benjamin Britten's *St. Nicolas*. Committed to the presentation of new music, the choir has premiered works by today's most prominent composers, including David Conte, Mark Miller, Tarik O'Regan, Alice Parker, Daniel Pinkham, Craig Phillips, John Rutter, and Gwyneth Walker.

Edward Elwyn Jones is the Gund University Organist and Choirmaster at Harvard University, a post he has held since 2003. Mr. Jones directs the music program in the Memorial Church in the midst of Harvard Yard and leads the 180-year old Harvard University Choir in its daily choral services, broadcasts, tours, commissions, and recordings. Mr. Jones is also Music Director of the Harvard Radcliffe Chorus, the Lowell House Opera (New England's longest-running opera company), and is a frequent collaborator with Yale's Schola Cantorum. As a conductor, he has guest conducted with such organizations as Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Grand Harmonie, Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Boston, Boston Camerata, Emmanuel Music (Boston), Longwood Symphony Orchestra, and the Handel and Haydn Society Orchestra. He has led opera productions with Iceland's Reykjavik Summer Opera Festival, New England's Intermezzo Opera, Lowell House Opera, and the Harvard Early Music Society. Mr. Jones has worked alongside William Christie, Christopher Hogwood, Nicholas McGegan, and Gil Rose, and has served as continuo player and Assistant Conductor to Sir John Eliot Gardiner and the English Baroque Soloists. During his time at Harvard, Mr. Jones has overseen the publication of a new university hymnal and the installation of two new pipe organs in the Memorial Church, and has commissioned works from some of America's most prominent contemporary composers, including Daniel Pinkham, Alice Parker, and David Conte. A native of Wales, Mr. Jones studied music at Cambridge University, where he was Organ Scholar of Emmanuel College, and served as conductor of three university orchestras. He received the Master of Music degree in orchestral conducting from Mannes College of Music in New York City, where he was the recipient of the Felix Salzer Memorial Award.

The **Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra** (HBCO) is a small chamber orchestra dedicated to bringing back to life the vivid rhetoric and dancing rhythms of baroque music. It was founded by Murray Forbes Somerville (Gund University Organist and Choirmaster, 1990–2003) and baroque violinist Robert Mealy '85, now director of Juilliard's Historical Performance program. The orchestra rehearses each week in the sanctuary of the Memorial Church, using the church's set of baroque bows and instruments from the Early Instrument Collection of the music department. HBCO's Harvard members are joined by students and recent graduates of the New England Conservatory, Boston Conservatory, Boston University, and the Longy School of Music. Guest directors have included Christopher Hogwood, William Christie, Joel Cohen, Andrew Parrott, and Ton Koopman; the orchestra also improvised with Bobby McFerrin before a packed Sanders Theater in 2002. In 2009, the orchestra was awarded the Erwin Bodky Prize from the Cambridge Society for Early Music.

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