

Choral Union

Sunday, March 18, 2018 at 3 pm
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

Pacific Lutheran University
School of Arts and Communication / Department of Music present

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Richard Nance, *conductor*

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Welcome to Lagerquist Concert Hall.

Please disable the audible signal on all watches, pagers and cellular phones for the duration of the concert.
Use of cameras, recording equipment and all electronic devices is not permitted in the concert hall.

Program

MUSIC FOR ROYALTY George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Coronation Anthems (HWV 258 – 261)

Jennifer Gorham, *soprano* • Allison Neely, *mezzo-soprano*

Nate Sears, *tenor* • Jason Brinker, *bass*

I. Zadok The Priest

II. Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened

1. Let thy hand be strengthened
2. Let justice and judgment be the preparation of thy seat!
3. Alleluia

III. My Heart Is Inditing

1. My heart is inditing
2. Kings' daughters were among thy honourable women
3. Upon thy right hand did stand the Queen
4. Kings shall be thy nursing fathers

IV. The King Shall Rejoice

1. The King shall rejoice
2. Exceeding glad shall he be
3. Glory and worship hast thou laid upon him
4. Alleluia

Intermission

Te Deum in D major 'Dettingen' (HWV 283)

Melissa Dier, *soprano* • Annie Herzog, *mezzo-soprano*

Joshua Carlisle, *tenor* • Joshua Luebke, *bass*

1. We praise thee, O God
2. All the earth doth worship thee
3. To thee all angels cry aloud
4. To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry
5. The glorious company of the apostles praise Thee
6. Thou art the King of Glory
7. When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man

8. When thou hadst overcome the shadow of death
9. Thou sittest at the right hand of God
10. We believe that thou shall come to be our judge
11. Sinfonia
12. We therefore pray thee, help thy servants
13. Make them to be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting
14. Day by day we magnify thee
15. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin
16. O Lord, in thee have I trusted

Program Notes

Though George Frideric Händel (1685-1759) was German born, from the year 1711 until his death he lived in London, where he composed the majority of his operas, oratorios, anthems and concertos. He became a naturalized British citizen in 1727, granted as one of the last acts of King George I before his death. Normally the composer of the Chapel Royal would have been chosen to compose music for the coronation of a new monarch. At that time William Croft occupied the position, but he died in August of that year, and the man who would become George II felt that Croft's successor, Maurice Greene, was inferior to Handel, who was held in high esteem by the court and was very popular with the public. Handel was commissioned to compose four Coronation Anthems later that year.

The music for the coronation, held at Westminster Abbey on October 11, 1727 was of course planned on a grand scale, but it apparently did not go well. First, there was a choir of 47 singers and 92 instrumentalists – very large forces for the size of the space. Apparently the Abbey choir was not held in very high regard, so guest singers were brought in to supplement, and the musicians were placed in two galleries, specially erected for the ceremony, with poor sight lines in between. This caused the ensemble to have frequent problems staying together. The imbalance between orchestra and choir also created issues, and there was confusion caused by two different orders of service. In the preferred order, the first anthem was to be *The King Shall Rejoice*, followed by *Zadok the Priest, Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened*, and toward the end of the ceremony at the coronation of the Queen, *My Heart is Inditing*. This order is often altered for concert performances and recordings, with most beginning with *Zadok the Priest*, perhaps the most famous of the anthems, having been used at every coronation since 1727.

In June of 1743 King George II (previously the Elector of Hanover) led a rather thrown-together version of the British army and a group of Hessian troops to victory over the French in the battle of Dettingen, an early and rather inconsequential conflict during the War of the Austrian Succession (1740-1748). A day of thanksgiving was declared for July 17 and a prescribed prayer was read in all English churches. Though not yet commissioned to do so, Handel started composing a cantata setting of the *Te Deum*, which he imagined would be performed in a large celebration at St. Paul's Cathedral. The *Te Deum* text contains 29 verses, prayers that alternate between grand expressions of praise and more reflective statements. Handel followed this same form with his music – the 16 movements alternating between martial fanfares and more lyrical settings. The musical forces call for five-voice choir and SATB soloists, along with a rather large instrumental compliment that includes two oboes, bassoon, three trumpets and timpani along with the strings – very similar to that which was used in the Coronation Anthems. The music showcases Handel's flair for the dramatic and the genius of his contrapuntal technique.

Though the King's long-time wish of being a military hero had been fulfilled, the minor scale of the battle and the fact that it was primarily undertaken because of George's German family roots did not cause the politicians in Parliament to call for a huge public display of celebration, including a ceremony at St. Paul's – the national Cathedral. Instead, the premiere of the *Te Deum in D Major* was finally held six in the chapel at St. James Palace five months later, when George finally returned to England after spending the summer in Hanover. The small and intimate chapel must have been an odd match for the large musical force that was employed to perform the work.

Pacific Lutheran University Choral Union

Richard Nance, *conductor*

Megan Leibold, *collaborative pianist*

Soprano

Biffy Binkley
Stephanie Bivins
Sue Byrd
Katie Coddington
Melissa Dier
Caryl Dowd
Kathryn Eagle
Jennifer Gorham
Anna Kwon
Megan Leibold
Sierra Marsh
Nancy Nole
Amy Onstot
Carrie Scott
Heather Simmons
Diann Spicer
Helen Stalsberg

Alto

Kaitlin Armstrong
Katie Brizuela
Debbie Dion
Nicole Fife
Annie Herzog
Debbie Hushagen
Jamie Lindberg
Cindy Luebke
Jackie McPherson-Velasco
Patti Nance
Allison Neely
Faith Ockwell
Becky Purser
Hannah Rausch
Rachel Ross
Allison Saager
Maggie Smith
Anne Urlie
Jennifer Woodard

Tenor

Neil Asay
Tom Cameron
Joshua Carlisle
Samuel Eagle
John Ockwell
Rich Ockwell
Nicholas Pharris
Roland Robinson
Randy Saager
Nate Sears
Bassione Van Soest
Paul Watson
T.J. Wheeler

Bass

Alan Aplin
James D. Bales, Jr.
Chris Berntsen
Jason Brinker
Alonso Brizuela
Mike Byrd
Kevin Davis
Greg Golliet
Nathan Gorham
Brandon Hell
Franklin Hiden
Jim Hushagen
J. Christian Jaeger
Todd E. Kelley
Joshua Luebke
Philip Nesvig
Daniel Schreiner
Peter Seto

Orchestra

Violin I

Svend Rønning,
concertmaster
Janet Utterback
Li-Ling Liao
Begin Scarseth
Karen Tadena

Violin II

Gwendolyn Taylor
Maggie Booher
Monica Boros
August Giles

Viola

Rick Neff
Padua Canty
Hallie Johnston

Cello

Emily Hu
Julie Cho

Bass

Chris Burns

Oboe

Ursula Shagian
Cooper Sumrall

Bassoon

Kate MacKenzie
Steven Morgan

Trumpet

Ed Castro
Vincent Green
Claire Rehmke

Timpani

Jeffrey N. Lund

Organ

Paul Tegels



This concert is dedicated to Victor John Hansen, long-time Choral Union member who passed away on March 7 at the age of 64 after being diagnosed with stage IV pancreatic cancer. Vic's musical career began as a young man in swing choir, chamber choir, and he stole high school hearts as Curly in "Oklahoma." He was an invaluable member of the Choral Union bass section for over 20 years. He was beloved for his kindness, his wonderful sense of humor, and an ever-present smile and twinkle in his eye. Whether he was crooning in a Croatian cathedral or serenading the streets of San Antonio during a Choral Union tour, Vic sang low notes that were the foundation of the choir's sound. Vic and his beautiful bride Lori raised five daughters, who blessed him with 12 grandchildren. The pride he felt for his wife, daughters and grandchildren was tangible. He will be greatly missed, but we know he'll be forever singing in the heavenly choir!