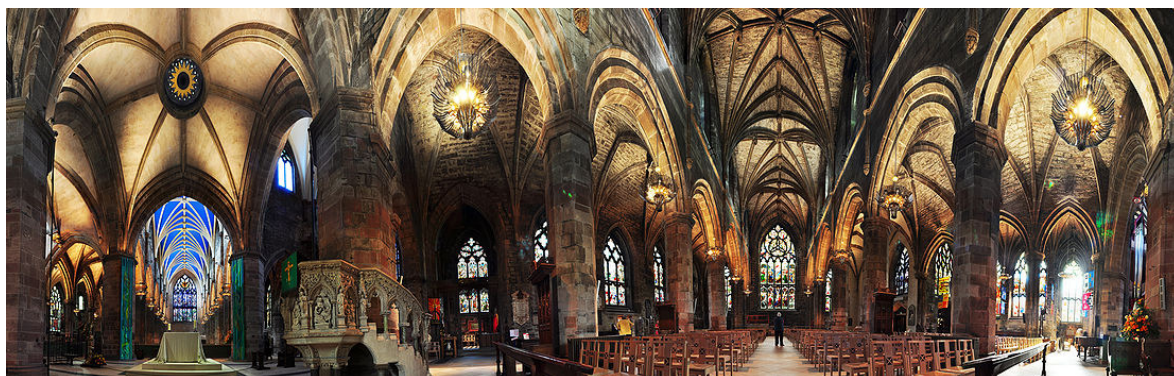


St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh



St Giles' at Six

12 June 2011

The Singers

Newcastle upon Tyne

Conductor Donald Halliday

Programme

Abendlied, Op. 69 No. 3

Josef Rheinberger (1839 – 1901)

Sung in German, for six part choir

Bide with us, for evening shadows darken, and the day will soon be over.

A prolific composer, Rheinberger composed a considerable amount of choral and organ music which is currently somewhat out of fashion in the UK.

Ave Verum Corpus

Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934)

Sung in Latin

Hail the true body, born of the Virgin Mary:
You who truly suffered and were sacrificed
on the cross for the sake of man. From whose
pierced side flowed water and blood:
Be a foretaste for us in the trial of death.
O sweet, O merciful, O Jesus, Son of Mary.

Versa est in luctum

Alonso Lobo (1555-1617)

Sung in Latin, for six part choir

My harp is tuned for lamentation, and the organ to those who weep. Spare me, O Lord, for my days are as nothing.

Lobo was a Spanish composer of the late Renaissance, a contemporary of Victoria and Guererro. This motet was written for the funeral of Philip II of Spain.

If ye love me

Thomas Tallis (ca. 1505-1585)

Sung in English

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever, even the spirit of truth.

Ave Maria

Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548 – 1611)

Sung in Latin, for eight part choir

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Queen of heaven sweet and

merciful, O Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
that with the elect we may gaze upon thee.

Bogoroditse Devo, raduisya

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873 – 1943)

Sung in Church Slavonic

Rejoice O Virgin, Theotokos [God-bearer], Mary
full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women, and blessed is
the Fruit of your womb,
for you have borne the Saviour of our souls.

*This is a movement from Rachmaninoff's setting
of the Russian Orthodox Church's All Night Vigil.
Written in 1915 and banned after the 1917
revolution. It was first recorded in 1965 by the
USSR Academic Russian Choir – for export only!*

A Child's Prayer

James MacMillan, born. 1959

Welcome Jesu,
Deep in my soul forever stay,
Joy and love my heart are filling
On this glad communion day.

*Written in 1966 as a response to the Dunblane
tragedy and first performed that year in
Westminster Abbey, London. The words are sung
by two sopranos in duet while the choir sings the
word 'welcome' sixteen times. The choir joins
with ecstatic grace note decoration on the word
'joy'. A further three 'welcomes' respond at the
end of the piece.*

As one who has slept

*John Tavener, born. 1944
for eight part choir*

As one who has slept the Lord has risen,
And rising He has saved us. Alleluia.

*The second choir sings a long continuous drone
that rises while the first choir slowly meditates
on the words with repeated alleluias. Tavener
asks for a deeply solemn atmosphere full of
'awe, silence and expectation'. The words are
taken from the liturgy of St Basil on Easter
Saturday. The composer's suggested speed is
slow and this makes this a very difficult piece to
bring off!*

Ave Verum Corpus

Mozart (1756 – 1791)

Sung in Latin

Duo Seraphim clamabant

Francisco Guerrero (1528-1599)

Sung in Latin, for twelve part choir

Two seraphim cried to one another:
Holy is the Lord God of Sabaoth.
The whole earth is full of his glory.
There are three who bear witness in heaven:
the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit:
and these three are one.
Holy is the Lord God of Sabaoth.
The whole earth is full of his glory.

*A masterly setting for three four part choirs.
Word painting abounds as the three choirs
respond to each other and join together for 'the
whole earth is full of his glory'.*

The Singers

The Singers is a chamber choir based in
Newcastle upon Tyne. The choir has been
coming to St Giles every two years since 1992.

Last October the choir gave a concert in the
National Trust's Seton Delaval Hall, near
Newcastle. Last Christmas it joined the English
Philharmonic Ensemble for Candlelit Concerts in
Carlisle, Hexham and Newcastle. Each January
the choir sings for the Epiphany Service in
Durham Cathedral. At the end of April the choir
made a return visit to Cologne where it sang in
five of Cologne's magnificent Romanesque
churches – St Severin, St Georg, Gross St Martin,
St Andreas and St Aposteln. It also sang Choral
Vespers in Cologne Cathedral. The choir also
periodically visits London where it spends a
weekend singing the services in Southwark
Cathedral.

Website: singers.org.uk