

Choral Treats 1 - Spring, 2020

In 2021 I celebrate my 60-year involvement with choruses from schools, churches, communities, and even the US Army. Recently I've been mining the internet for recordings and background information of pieces you might enjoy giving a listen and reading about.

These offerings are not exclusively for singers, but for anyone with a budding interest in music that stirs or comforts the soul. In this series you won't have to read any music — just watch, listen and enjoy. I will feature two or three composers each time. The recordings will last 30 to 50 minutes total.

Our first two pairings are from lesser known composers: Josef Rheinberger and Robert Pearsall.

Josef Gabriel Rheinberger (1839 - 1901)

Mass in E-flat Op. 109, time 22:52

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eXUbcNtdZA>

Marvel at the skill and sensitivity of these North Texas University 20-somethings, performing without music and without a break. They have a superb bass section for this age group, I might add.

This is Rheinberger's only Mass [of twelve total] written for double choir, and it obtains its special character through the use of ancient classical polyphony, functional harmony and expressive, songlike voice-leading. Rheinberger was honored for this Mass with the Gregorius Medal in 1879 by Pope Leo XIII. - OUP

Translations movement by movement at

http://www1.cpd.org/wiki/index.php/Mass#Ordinary_of_the_Mass

... and a treasure of a six-part chorus ...

Abendlied, Op. 69/3, time 3:31

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziNQ7CrUMIA>

Abendlied (Evening song) is a sacred motet by Josef Rheinberger for a six-part mixed choir (SSATTB). It has been regarded as his best-known sacred composition. He wrote the first version in 1855 at the age of 15. At age 24, he revised the motet ... [Wikipedia]

The text is a verse from the biblical narration of the Road to Emmaus appearance according to Luke 24:29 in Martin Luther's German version of the bible. According to the New Testament, the road to Emmaus appearance is one of the early resurrection appearances of Jesus after his crucifixion and the discovery of the empty tomb. Both the meeting on the road to Emmaus and the subsequent supper at Emmaus, depicting the

meal that Jesus had with two disciples after the encounter on the road, have been popular subjects in art.

Bleib bei uns,
denn es will Abend werden,
und der Tag hat sich geneiget.

Bide with us, for evening shadows darken,
And the day will soon be over, soon be over,
O bide with us, for evening shadows darken.
Tr. John Rutter (b. 1945)

... and two from **Robert Pearsall** (1795 - 1856)

Lay a Garland, time 3:11

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VM2xHJG2uIk>

Information at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lay_a_garland

... and Who Shall Have my Lady Fair, time 2:02

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GzcmpLYWio>