

UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY

Charles A. Sink, President

Thor Johnson, Guest Conductor

Lester McCoy, Associate Conductor

Fifth Concert

1955-1956

Complete Series 3169

Seventy-seventh Annual
Choral Union Concert Series

THE ROBERT SHAW CHORALE

and

CONCERT ORCHESTRA

ROBERT SHAW, *Conductor*

TUESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 22, 1955, AT 8:30
HILL AUDITORIUM, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

PROGRAM

Magnificat in D major, for Orchestra, Chorus, and Soloists . BACH

INTERMISSION

King David, Symphonic Drama (after a play by René Morax) HONEGGER

FOR NARRATOR, SOLOISTS, CHORUS, AND ORCHESTRA

Narrator: BOOTH COLMAN

Soloists with the Robert Shaw Chorale

Sopranos:

ELIZABETH BAISCH
LORRAINE SMOROL
JAYNE SOMOGI

Mezzo-Sopranos:

JANE CRAMER
CAROL JONES
BARBARA WILLIAMSON

Contraltos:

GRETCHEN BENCE
FLORENCE KOPLEFF
MARGERY PEARCE

Tenors:

HOWARD ROBERTS
KEITH WYATT
LINDSEY BERGEN

Basses:

EUGENE BRICE
THOMAS PYLE
HOWARD KAHL

RCA Victor Red Seal Records

Steinway Piano

The organ is a Connsonata made by C. G. Conn, Ltd.

A R S L O N G A V I T A B R E V I S

PROGRAM NOTES

Magnificat JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)

Surely there is no more joyous music in the world than that of Bach's *Magnificat*. The wonder and praise in Mary's heart, when informed by the angel that she is to bear the Messiah, are reflected in music of unsurpassable warmth and beauty. First performed at Leipsig in 1723, shortly after Bach's arrival there to begin his duties as Cantor of St. Thomas' Church, it has come to be known and loved as one of the most personal and immediately communicative of his major works.

The Canticle of Mary is found in the Gospel according to Saint Luke, Chapter I, verses 46-55. In Bach's setting, each verse becomes a remarkably compact, but complete movement, whose spirit shines in a musical language of almost literal pictorial expressiveness. When the mighty are put down from their seats, the music descends most fiercely; and when the rich are "sent empty away" the music dissolves to a plaintively humorous single-note ending. The triumph of the opening and closing choruses renders more poignant, by contrast, the wonder of *Quia respexit* and the tenderness of *Et misericordia* and *Suscepit Israel*.

Magnificat Chorus
My soul doth magnify the Lord.

Et exultavit Mezzo-Soprano
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

Quia respexit Soprano and Chorus
For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for behold, from hence forth all generations shall call me blessed.

Quia fecit Bass
For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

Et misericordia Tenor and Alto
And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

Fecit potentiam Chorus
He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

Deposuit potentes Tenor
He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

Esurientes Contralto
He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

Suscepit Israel Women's Chorus
He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy.

Sicut locutus est Chorus
As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

Gloria Chorus
Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

King David Arthur Honegger (1892-)

The phenomenal success of *King David* at its first performance affirmed that Arthur Honegger had indeed succeeded in his intention to "create an art that addresses itself directly to everyone." With his unerring instinct for the dramatic, and his spontaneous, colorful musical language, *King David* speaks with an overwhelming power and sincerity.

Although Honegger later rescored the work for full symphony orchestra, the work is here performed in the original theatre version which was used at its premiere in Switzerland in June, 1921. To the scoring of woodwinds, brass and percussion instruments of this version have been incorporated some string parts in accordance with Mr. Honegger's later expanded score.

Scene I: The Ark is Set in Jerusalem

Psalm: "All praise to Him, the Lord of Glory" (Chorus)
Song of the Daughters of Israel (Soprano, Women's Chorus)
The Dance before the Ark

Scene II: David and Bathsheba

Song: "Now my voice in song upsoaring" (Chorus)
Song of the Handmaiden: "O, my love, take my hand" (Contralto)
Psalm: "Pity me, God, in my distress" (Chorus)
Psalm: "Behold in evil I was born" (Chorus)

Scene III: The Revolt of Absalom

Psalm: "O shall I raise my eyes unto the mountains" (Tenor)
Song: "O, thou forest of grief" (Soprano and Women's Chorus)
March of the Hebrews
Psalm: "Thee will I love, O Lord." (Chorus)

Scene IV: Last Days

Psalm: "In my distress" (Chorus)
The Crowning of Solomon
The Death of David (Soprano and Chorus)

M E S S I A H

First Concert: Saturday, December 3, 8:30 P.M.

Repeat Concert: Sunday, December 4, 2:30 P.M.

ELLEN FAULL, *Soprano* HOWARD JARRATT, *Tenor*

LILLIAN CHOOKASIAN, *Contralto* DONALD GRAMM, *Bass*

UNIVERSITY CHORAL UNION
MUSICAL SOCIETY ORCHESTRA
MARY McCALL STUBBINS, *Organist*
LESTER MCCOY, *Conductor*

Tickets (either performance): 75 cents and 50 cents

Chamber Music Festival

Rackham Auditorium

BUDAPEST STRING QUARTET, February 17, 18, 19, 1956

JOSEF ROISMAN, *Violinist*

BORIS KROYT, *Violist*

ALEXANDER SCHNEIDER, *Violinist* MISCHA SCHNEIDER, *Cellist*

ROBERT COURTE, *Guest Violist*

Season Tickets: \$3.50 and \$2.50

Single Concerts: \$1.75 and \$1.25

Choral Union and Extra Series

BOSTON POPS TOUR ORCHESTRA (Extra) . . . Sunday, January 8
ARTHUR FIEDLER, *Conductor*

VIENNA CHOIR BOYS (C.U.) 2:30 P.M. . . . Sunday, January 15

MYRA HESS, *Pianist* (Extra) Wednesday, February 15

TORONTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (C.U.) . . Wednesday, February 22
SIR ERNEST MACMILLAN, *Conductor*

ARTUR RUBINSTEIN, *Pianist* (C.U.) Thursday, March 1

TERESA STICH-RANDALL, *Soprano* (Extra) . . . Friday, March 9

VIRTUOSI DI ROMA (C.U.) Tuesday, March 13

WALTER GIESEKING, *Pianist* (C.U.) Monday, March 19

Tickets: \$3.50—\$3.00—\$2.50—\$2.00 and \$1.50.