

Music Notes for November 5, 2023

Today is St. A's celebration of All Saints' Day, and it is the last Sunday of the Year A Pentecost Season. Next Sunday we will begin our extended Advent Season in Year B of the Revised Common Lectionary.

The Entrance Hymn today is the traditional All Saints hymn, "For all the saints," written by William W. How, a bishop of the Anglican Church, and first published in 1864. There originally were 11 stanzas, but most of those are not typically sung today. There are also differences in wording between different hymnals. The text we sing today both modernize the language (i.e., "Thou wast their rock" becomes "You were their rock") as well as slightly soften the theme of the Church militant, which is heavily present in the text. The tune we use for this hymn is called "*Sine Nomine*" (i.e. "without a name"), written by Ralph Vaughan Williams, the well-known English composer. Coincidentally, the hymn is sometimes (though not today!) sung to the tune "Engelberg," which was written for the hymn in 1904 by Charles V. Stanford, the composer of today's anthem.

The anthem today, "And, Lo, A Great Multitude," is taken from a larger work by Charles Villiers Stanford, "And I Saw Another Angel." The text is from Revelation 7, this morning's first reading. Stanford was born in Ireland and received his early musical training at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. He studied composition in both England and Germany. He taught at both the Royal College of Music and Cambridge University, and among his students are such notable musicians as Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Gustav Holst, Ralph Vaughan Williams, John Ireland, Frank Bridge, Charles Wood, and Herbert Howells. His compositions include works for organ, piano, symphony orchestra, and chamber ensembles, as well as many works for Anglican church choirs. Stanford was knighted in 1902 and his ashes are buried beside Henry Purcell in Westminster Abbey.

Today's Psalm, selected verses from Psalm 34, will be sung by the choir to an Anglican chant setting by Edgar Day (1891-1983), known for his work as the assistant organist to Ivor Atkins at Worcester Cathedral, and later for his long tenure as music master of the College for the Blind, Worcester, UK. The chant used today was specifically composed for use with Psalm 34. Listen to the antiphon [here](#).



Taste and see that God is good.

The postlude today is "Thou Art The Rock" by Henri Mulet (1878 – 1967). This toccata is said to represent the faith of St. Peter though the melody played in the pedals, and the forces of "the

world, the flesh, and the devil” buffeting that faith through the furious figures played on the manuals.

The service music is the same for this final Sunday of the season of Pentecost. Listen to the [Presentation Hymn](#), [Sanctus](#), and [Fraction Anthem](#).