

PROGRAM NOTES

Psalm 98 *Hugo Distler* (1908-1942)

Distler was a gifted composer who demonstrated considerable originality. His setting of Psalm 98 suggests certain characteristics of styles peculiar to the medieval and early renaissance eras, i.e., somewhat ornate figuration, indefinite patterns of rhythm, independent vocal melodies, and moments of the liturgical chant.

Exultate Deo *G. P. da Palestrina* (c. 1525-1594)

Considered to be one of the greatest composers of the late renaissance, his sacred works are considered perfect models for use in church liturgy. He served as organist and choirmaster in some of the leading Italian churches. Pope Julius III appointed him a member of the Pontifical choir, though a few months later he was dismissed on the ground that he was a married man.

Sing and praise Jehovah, Praise him and be joyful
Glorify the God of Jacob . . .

Wave All the Flags in the Country *Georg Philipp Telemann* (1681-1767)

Telemann in his time was considered to be the greatest composer, and it has been said that he composed so much music that he was unable to remember all of it.

This song is based on Jeremiah's prophecy predicting the destruction of Babylon because of its sinful ways.

The False Heart *Gabriel Fonrier*

The text concerns the physical heart rather than the heart as a love symbol. The heart is consulted to determine its condition of health. Although exuberantly reassuring, the Heart lies!

Cui Bono? *Ernst Toch* (1887-1964)

This important composer, who in the earlier part of this century was considered an extremist, employs in this song a post-romantic idiom, i.e., a free use of constantly changing chromatic harmonies, resulting in a profound feeling of emotionalism.

Poem by Thomas Carlyle

What is hope? A smiling rainbow
Children follow through the wet
'Tis not here, still yonder.
No urchin found it yet.

What is Life? A thawing iceboard
On a sea with sunny shore
Gay we sail, it melts beneath us,
We're sunk and seen no more.

What is man?
A foolish baby, vainly strifes and fights and frets,
Demanding all, deserving nothing,
One small grave is all he gets.

Envoy *Sven Lekberg*

Words by Francis Thompson

Go, songs, for ended is our brief, sweet play;
Go, children of swift joy and tardy sorrow;
And some are sung, and that was yesterday,
And some are sung, and that may be tomorrow.

Go forth; and if it be o'er stormy way,
Old joy can lend what newer grief must borrow:
And it was sweet, and that was yesterday
And sweet is sweet, though purchased with sorrow.

Go, songs, and come not back from your far way:
And if men ask you why ye smile and sorrow,
Tell them ye grieve, for your hearts know today,
Tell them ye smile, for your eyes know tomorrow.