

Cantopí

Robert L. Harris, conductor

presents

Firsts

Premier Performances of Music Old and New

May 30, 1997

8:00 pm

St. John's Episcopal Church

Concorso fatto (first modern performance)

Francesco Durante
(1684-1755)

My God, protect me from spiteful changes, Alleluia; from all unfair works, Alleluia.

Requiem (1992)

Zdeněk Lukáš
(1928-)

Requiem aeternam

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. A hymn befits thee O God in Zion, and to thee a vow shall be fulfilled in Jerusalem. Hear my prayer, for unto thee all flesh shall come. God have mercy, Christ have mercy, God have mercy.

Dies irae

Day of wrath, that day shall dissolve the world into embers, as David prophesied with the Sybil. How great the trembling will be, when the Judge shall come, the righteous investigator of all things. The trumpet, spreading its wondrous sound through the tombs of every land, will summon all before the throne.

Lacrymosa

O how tearful that day, on which the guilty shall rise from the embers to be judged. Spare them then, O God. Merciful Lord Jesus, grant them eternal rest.

Offertorium

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, liberate the souls of all the faithful departed from the pains of hell and from the deep pit.

Hostias

Sacrifices and prayers of praise, O Lord, we offer to thee. Receive them, Lord on behalf of those souls we commemorate this day.

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, grant them rest. Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, grant them rest everlasting. A hymn befits thee, O God, and to thee shall be fulfilled a vow in Jerusalem; for thou art merciful, and perpetual light shine on them. Amen.

Schaafe in mir (Op. 29, #2)

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Schaafe in mir, Gott, ein rein Herz

Create in me, O God, a pure heart, and grant anew a right spirit within me.

Verwirf mich nicht von deinem Angesicht

O cast me not away from Thy countenance, and take not Thy holy spirit from me.

Tröste mich wieder mit deiner Hülfe

Grant unto me the joy of thy salvation; with thine infinite love uphold thou me.

i n t e r m i s s i o n

Praedicatio, op. 279 - world premier performance

Zdeněk Lukáš

Rejoice and be glad because your rewards are bountiful in heaven. Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven; Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth; Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted; Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God; Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice for they will be satisfied. Rejoice and be glad...

Magna est vis veritatis (1982)

Zdeněk Lukáš

Great is the power of Truth against the natural, sly cunning, falsehood, and treachery of man, which by themselves would lead him astray: Great is the power of Truth.

Pater Noster, op. 263 (1995)

Zdeněk Lukáš

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Good Night, Beloved (Moravian-Slovak)

**Věra Kistlerová
(1929-)**

Good night beloved, good night. May angels watch o'er you through the night. Sleep my love, my delight. May angels watch o'er you through the night.

**Daniel C. Cohen, baritone
Marina Lindblom, violin**

Morning Star (world premier performance)

Věra Kistlerová

Morning star, keep shining even when the sun comes out and I no longer see you, keep shining. Morning Star, keep guiding my poor wand'ring feet so they won't go astray or stumble in the dark. Be my bond between the world and the awesome wonder of the universe, and when I'm lonely or afraid, remind me that I'm a child of this universe, no less than the trees, no less than the stars. I have a right to be here!

Praedicatio

Zdeněk Lukáš

Zdeněk Lukáš, conductor

I Cantori

soprano

Peggy Breese
Mimi Ellis
Mari Harris
Diane R. O'Brien
Stacie O'Connor
Beth Pafford
Elizabeth van Beest

alto

Beth Bowen
Charlotte Caplan
Linda Estes
Carol Gray
Lori Wacker
Sonia W. Yoder

tenor

Randy Canady
Raymond R. Ellis, jr.
Bruce Patterson
Jody Turner
Timothy Wheelles
Billy Wooten

bass

Daniel C. Cohen
Jeff Herrin
Gene L. Jarvis
Gregory Allen Johnson
Nathaniel Roper
James Ryan

manager

treasurer

wardrobe

Diane O'Brien

Raymond R. Ellis, jr.

Anita Turner

Benefactor

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Emery

Sponsors

in memory of T. C. Kistler

Mr. and Mrs. Lientz

Mr. and Mrs. James Odom

Donors

De Frey and Company

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Russell

acknowledgments

St. John's Episcopal Church

Fr. William Ralston, rector

Kenneth Yates, choirmaster

Mrs. Joanne Hardwick, St. John's Episcopal Church Women

Armstrong Atlantic State University

Dr. James Anderson

Dr. Chris White

On-Site Sound

Becky Bowden - The Anderson Group

Sponsorship contributions can be designated for use in support of the I Cantori Scholarship in Choral Music. This award, which covers full tuition for one year, goes to an outstanding music student at Armstrong Atlantic University who is preparing for a career in choral music. The award winner for 1996-97 is Darren Harrison. The past winner is Sonia Yoder.

I Cantori also welcomes support for our ongoing project of commissioning new compositions by eminent choral composers. In 1995 we premiered "Four Fragments from John Donne" by Daniel Pinkham. Last Spring we had the honor of presenting the first performance of "And the White Rose Is a Dove" which was commissioned from Williametta Spencer. In December we presented the premier of "Hodie" by Vaclav Nehlybel.

Tonight we will premier a new work based on the Beatitudes which we have commissioned from the Czech composer, Zdenek Lukas. I Cantori had the honor of premiering his "Requiem" four years ago. We also present the premier performance of "Morning Star" by Vera Kistler. Peter Schickele has been commissioned for a new work for March of 1998. We are also joining with Temple Mickve Israel in commissioning a new setting of the Jewish Sacred Service by the Republic of Georgian composer, Joseph Bardanashvili. Significant donors can have their name included in the printed edition of the work when it is published. Any support is most welcome. For more information call 925-7866.

We would like to add your name to our mailing list so that we can inform you of upcoming concerts. Won't you please take the time to fill in the information on the form enclosed in tonight's program and give it to an usher or to one of the singers.

Francesco Durante (1684-1755) Durante was known in his own time as a great teacher who had included among his students Giovanni Pergolesi, and as an important composer of church music. Two facets of his life, however were somewhat unusual. First, in contrast to most of his contemporaries, he wrote no operas, although he did compose a number of "sacred dramas." Second, although he worked during the height of the Baroque era, many of his sacred choral composition are written in an a capella style more typical of the Renaissance. The motet, "*Concorso fatto*" of one of these pieces which he designated as being "in the style of Palestrina." It has been edited by Dr. Harris from the composer's manuscript for this performance.

Zdeněk Lukáš (b. 1928) Lukáš is one of the leading choral composers in the world today. Born, raised and trained in Czechoslovakia he has been a leading composer, conductor (sharing a guest podium with Leopold Stokowski) and teacher in his home country. His compositions have won international prizes in the United States and in Europe. In addition to his many choral compositions he has also written six symphonies, two full length operas and numerous pieces for orchestra and chamber ensembles. Unfortunately many of his compositions were not published in his own country during the communist occupation because of his dedication to such principles as those contained in "*Magna est vis veritatis*" which we present this evening. I Cantori had the honor of giving the American premier of the Lukas "*Requiem*" and this evening we premier a work which we have commissioned, "*Praedicatio*." It is a great honor to welcome Zdeněk Lukáš to Savannah (on his first visit to the United States).

Věra Kistlerová (b. 1929) Born in Czechoslovakia, Dr. Kistler came to the United States as a new bride in 1947, knowing but a few words of English. She became a US citizen in 1949, and earned bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees in music. She has been a prolific composer of vocal and choral music, writing for orchestra, chamber ensembles with great distinction, but her first love has been music for the voice. She has written many compositions for children's voices, often including traces of music from her homeland in her music. Among her vocal compositions is a cycle of songs to texts by the poet Rainer Rilke which was written for and premiered by Daniel Cohen, a member of I Cantori and long-time friend of the composer. She has also written three books of fiction and has published many poems and short stories which have won awards in the United States and abroad.