

Tridentine Community News

September 28, 2014 – Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Impossible Beauty: Catholic Music Programs in London, England Part 1 of 2

This column has written many times about the amazing traditional liturgical life in London, England. Today we wish to focus on the extraordinarily high standard of liturgical music that one finds throughout the Catholic churches of that city of great culture, arguably the highest concentration of world-class sacred music found anywhere in the globe.

From a non-musician's viewpoint, there are five criteria that seem to distinguish a superlative Latin Mass choir: 1) Ability of all singers to sing on pitch; 2) Ability of all singers to stop and start simultaneously [this appears to be the single most difficult quality for a choir to achieve]; 3) Diversity in repertoire, best exemplified by an ever-changing, different-material-every-week music program; 4) Ability to sing Gregorian Chant as well as Sacred Polyphony competently; 5) Cohesive sound whether male voices only, female voices only, or mixed voices.

Getting to the point where a choir possesses these abilities can take years. Rounding up the right people who can sing together effectively is an immensely challenging task, as talented singers are usually spoken for and are not abundantly available to join new groups. Many choirs possess some but not all of the above five qualities, for any one of a number of valid reasons. Most major cities are lucky if they have one Latin Mass choir that fills all of these criteria. Some large cities, Los Angeles for example, do not yet have a single choir that ticks off all five qualities.


It is all the more remarkable, then, to note that London, England has *at least thirteen* choral groups that meet all five criteria.

Let's take a look at the choirs that stand out. Adjacent to many of them is a sample of the music selections from their respective web sites. If you are reading this column on-line, the links will take you to the full music listings for each choir.

25th Sunday of the Year		28 th September 2014
Mass	Messe "On me l'a dit"	Lassus
Intrant	Prope est Dominus	Plainchant
Offertory Motet	Prope est Dominus	Eit
Communion Motet	Si Ambulavero	Palestrina
Marian Antiphon	Salve Regina	Plainchant



26th Sunday of the Year		29 th September 2014
Mass	Missae Quinti Toni	Lassus
Intrant	In Nomine Domini	Plainchant
Offertory Motet	Christus Factus Est	Anerio
Communion Motet	Super Flumina Babylonis	Palestrina
Marian Antiphon	Salve Regina	Plainchant



special Mass, St. Mary's exceptional choir is noteworthy because it is all-volunteer.

2. [St. Patrick, Soho](#): In 2011, this church completed a restoration to its original historic architectural condition. A choir was formed to provide music in accord with the lovely building. They sing a largely Latin repertoire at Ordinary Form Masses which are only partially in Latin themselves. Extraordinary Form Masses are also held there on occasion.

3. Carmelite Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Kensington: This choir sings for a weekly Ordinary Form Latin Mass.

4. [The Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street](#): In the upper-crust Mayfair neighborhood is that rare find: A conservative Jesuit church, offering sung Ordinary Form Latin Masses and the occasional Extraordinary Form Low Mass.

September 21st 1100 – 25th Sunday of the Year		
Mass	Messe brève	Gounod
Motets	Salve Regina	Rheinberger
	O Salutaris	Gounod
Organ	Final (Symphonie II)	Widor

September 28th 1100 – 26th Sunday of the Year		
Mass	Missae octi toni	Lassus
Motets	Super Flumina Babylonis	Palestrina
	Panis angelicus	Saint-Saëns
Organ	Praeludium in E minor	Bridans

Sunday 21st
J S Bach Andante BWV 527
Casati Missa a Quattro voci
Pitoni Cantate Domino
Credo III, Salve Regina, Domine salvam fac
J S Bach Prelude in d minor BWV554
Sunday 28th
C P E Bach Andante in F
J Haydn Little Organ Mass
Croce Cantate Domino
Byrd Ave verum corpus
Credo III, Salve Regina, Domine salvam fac
C P E Bach Allegro in F

5. [St. Etheldreda](#): Hidden down a street that is now the home to a number of investment trading firms, St. Etheldreda is England's oldest extant Catholic church, dating to 1250. Their fully professional choir sings for weekly Ordinary Form Latin Masses. The church also offers periodic Extraordinary Form Low Masses.

6. [St. George Cathedral](#): The seat of the Archdiocese of Southwark ("SUTH-ark"), covering London south of the Thames River, St. George has a weekly 11:30 Ordinary Form Mass partially in Latin, along with periodic Tridentine Masses.

11:30 Mozart Spatzen-Messe Glinka <i>Cherubic Hymn</i> 259 Holy holy holy 173 Firmly I believe and truly Bull <i>Gloria tibi Trinitas</i> Mozart <i>Fantasia in F minor K608</i>
21 June Marriage Mass 3:00 Pecters <i>Missa in Honorem Sancti Josephi</i> Franck <i>Panis angelicus</i> Durufle <i>Ubi caritas</i> O praise ye the Lord Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation Widor <i>Adagio & Toccata from Symphonie V</i>
22 June The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ 10:00 MacMillan <i>St Anne's Mass</i> De Saegre <i>Anima Christi</i> 674 Sweet Sacrament divine 730 This is my body 548 O praise our great and gracious Lord Purcell <i>Rondeau</i>
11:30 Byrd Mass for Four Voices Byrd <i>Ave verum Corpus</i> 674 Sweet Sacrament divine 548 O praise our great and gracious Lord Handel <i>Larghetto for Organ Concerto Op 4 No 6</i> Boellmann <i>Toccata from Suite Gothique</i>

7. [St. Bede in Clapham Park](#): The only London parish to offer a weekly Sunday High Mass in the Extraordinary Form. A small choir sings all but one Sunday per month, while a professional choir, [Cantores Missae](#), sings a polyphonic Mass once per month.

Sunday 28th at 10.45am - FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING - St. Bede's Church, 58 Thornton Rd, London SW12 0LF
- Music: <i>Missae Quarti Toni</i> - Tomás Luis da Victoria <i>Jubilata Deo</i> - Orlando Lassus <i>Benedicam Domine</i> - Giovanni Croce

Next week we'll wrap our listing with the "Big Three", the three main churches with multiple choirs and the most accomplished sacred music offerings of all.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

[Mon. 09/29 7:00 PM](#): Low Mass at *St. Joseph* (Dedication of St. Michael the Archangel)

[Tue. 09/30 7:00 PM](#): Low Mass at *St. Benedict/Assumption-Windsor* (St. Jerome, Priest, Confessor, & Doctor)

[Fri. 10/03 7:00 PM](#): Low Mass at *St. Joseph* (Sacred Heart of Jesus) [First Friday]

[Sun. 10/05 4:00 PM](#): Solemn High Mass at *All Saints, Flint* (Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost) – 25th Anniversary of the Flint Tridentine Mass. Dinner follows Mass. Wassim and the Assumption-Windsor choir will provide the music.