"The Sounds of CommUNITY"

Baton Rouge's First Annual Interfaith Concert



Sponsored by the Greater Baton Rouge Federation of Churches and Synagogues

Centroplex Theatre for the Performing Arts Thursday, May 16, 1991

8:00 p.m.

"LEARN TO DO GOOD,

SEEK JUSTICE,

CORRECT OPPRESSION"

ISAIAH 1:17

WELCOME

THE REV. CHARLES T. SMITH
PASTOR, SHILOH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
PRESIDENT OF THE GREATER BATON ROUGE FEDERATION
OF CHURCHES & SYNAGOGUES

Lucile L. Hair, Director

O Thou, who art our Father, our King, grant us a year of happiness.

Marjorie Blocker, soprano Joseph Harris, tenor

Terry Patrick, contralto Sam Gray, bass

Sh'ma Ko lenu (Hear Our Voice, O Lord)

Accept our prayer, O God, and our supplication. Hear us, look graciously upon us, and grant Thy loving kindness, thy mercy and forgiveness to us who stand before thee.

Lead us back to Thee in repentance, pardon us and renew our days as of old.

Joseph Harris, tenor

Let the glory of God be extolled, let His great name be hallowed in the world, whose creation He willed. May God's kingdom soon prevail in our own day, in our own lives and in the lives of all, and let us say: Amen.

Let God's great name be blessed forever and ever. Let the name of they Holy one, blessed be He, be glorified and exalted and honored, though He is beyond all the praises, songs, and adoration we can utter, and let us say: Amen.

For us and for all Israel, may the blessing of peace and the promise of life come true, and let us say: Amen.

May God, who causes peace to reign in the high heavens, let peace descend on us, on all Israel, and on all the world, and let us say: Amen.

Linda Nagelberg, Mezzo-Soprano

"Hinay Ma Tov" (Folk song) arr. Frederick Piket

How good it is and how lovely for brothers and sisters to dwell together in unity. (Ps. 133)

**** NOTES ****

"Avinu Malkenu" one of the key prayers in the liturgy used during the days of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, the Jewish High Holy Days. These days (which are the holiest days of the year for Jews) envelope times of introspection, repentance, looking to God and away from the mistakes of the past. It is a turning towards God as one would turn towards a king, asking for mercy, forgiveness and repentance.

"Sh'ma Ko lenu," again from the High Holy Day Liturgy of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur asks God to hear our prayers and to hear our voices; although we may be of little merit, or sinners, we still believe that God hearkens to our prayer and responds.

During every single Jewish service we say Kaddish. It's known as the mourner's prayer, but the truth is, it says nothing about death. Kaddish is only a prayer of praise to God. In the midst of our sorrow and grief, when one might tend to deny the creator we, as Jews, praise God and look forward to life rather than backward towards death. It's in a vow that life is good and there is a plan even though we may not be aware of it. We are a life-affirming people not a death-affirming people. This setting of "Kaddish" by Ravel is a setting of a "message of life" animated by the wonderful "spirit of music."

"Hinay Ma Toy," How good it is when brethren dwell together in unity embodies the theme of this event. "Truly, it is good when brethren dwell together in commUNITY."

Transcribed from the Comments of Rabbi Paul Caplan by Everrett Parker

- 1

Kenneth Thevenet, St. Aloysius Church, Music Director Jack Gomez, St. Thomas More Dan Talbot, Our Lady of Mercy Church, Organist

Antiphon (repeated between each verse)

Where abideth charity and love, God is ever there.

All together one in love of Christ, our blessed Lord.

Let us sing in exultation of one accord.

Live we in holy fear of gentle love our life in God,

And give we to one another our hearts truly.

And whenever we are come together in mind and heart
There is no fear of quarreling among us to drive us apart.
Cease all angry thoughts and bitter words all evil end.
And Christ our brother comes to live among us, our guest
and friend.

(Antiphon repeated)

And when we shall see the saints in heaven, our brothers too,
There will Christ in glory shine among us, our life anew.
Oh joy that knows no bound or fear of ending, at love so true,
Through all the ages of eternity--world without end. AMEN.

"Ubi Caritas"
"O Thou Sweetest Source" Charles Wood
"If Ye Love Me Keep My Commandments"
"Jubilate Deo"
"Cantique de Jean Racine" Gabriel Faure
"Ave Verum Corpus"
"Fight The Good Fight"

1. Ubi Caritas (6th Century)

Mode VI - Gregorian Chant

No presentation of Roman Catholic music should occur without at least one offering of Gregorian Chant. In the 6th Century, Pope Gregory the Great is credited with charging the Benedictine monk, Augustine, and forty other monks to organize church liturgy. Many consider this effort to have set the roots of Western music as we know it today. To honor his efforts, the plainchant of the Church became known as "Gregorian Chant."

The song speaks to us as clearly tonight, as we gather here in fellowship at the Centroplex, as it did in the 6th century.

2. Ubi Caritas (20th Century)

Maurice Durufle

Composers have used Gregorian Chant for centuries as thematic material for compositions. This is one example of the preceding 6th Century melody used by a 20th Century composer.

3. O Thou Sweetest Source

Charles Wood

Copyrighted in 1931, this inspired anthem is founded on a hymn tune by Bourgeois. Near the end you will hear the tune sung in unison by all sections of the choir to the words, "Save, uphold, and go before me..." Truly a masterpiece of modern church music.

4. If Ye Love Me. Keep My Commandments (16th Century) Thomas Tallis

The 16th Century was known as the "Golden Age of Polyphony." This is but one example.

5. Jubilate Deo

Gordon Young

This is a happy little piece which uses the well-known Latin phrase, "jubilate deo," to highlight the joy of Christ.

6. Cantique de Jean Racine

Gabriel Faure

Jean Racine, a 19th Century dramatist who produced mostly tragedies, collaborated with musicians of the day, primarily in the area of French opera. This "song" is to him.

7. Ave Verum Corpus

W. A. Mozart

This is truly one of the jewels of Roman Catholic music. It is almost universally known and sung by Catholic Choirs around the world. It is probably the best known anthem in the entire repertoire of Catholic church music.

8. Fight The Good Fight

This is a hymn number 5 of Five Hymns in Popular Style. They were commissioned in 1963 by Trevor Russell-Cobb, Ltd., and were first performed on May 14, 1963. I think you will agree the piece takes us a long, long way from our 6th Century Gregorian Chant, but the text is from scriptures—set in sort of a raucous, '60 style!

Comments By Jack Gomez

Elvia Hammett Parsons, Trinity Episcopal Church, Organist/Choirmaster Joe Santo, Jr., Broadmoor Baptist Church Minister of Music Ronald Brothers, Broadmoor Baptist, Organist

***** NOTES ****

With the Protestant Reformation that moved through Europe in the sixteenth century came the need for change in the music used in worship also. Texts in the vernacular came into use. New composition forms evolved. Congregational singing was introduced.

Though music was retained from the Catholic Church in Germany secular tunes were used with religious texts. The chorale, a four-part setting of a German religious text, flourished. It could be thought of as an ancestor of today's hymn.

The Calvinists were more austere and used only the Psalms in worship. These simple unison and four-part settings were another ancestor of the hymn.

In England, the anthem, a short polyphonic composition with an English religious text, became popular.

The oratorio, an operatic religious work using soloists choruses, orchestra, and often staged, flourished in the seventeenth century. Biblical stories are favorite subjects for these.

The Mainline Protestant portion of this program represents such services. For all our evolving many Protestant hymnals retain examples of Gregorian chant. We still sing the Psalms, or paraphrases of them, as the Hebrews did long before Christ.

Everrett G. Parker, Shiloh Baptist Church, Minister of Music Gary Spears, Greater New Guide Baptist Church, Minister of Music Darrow W. Lathan, St. Mark United Methodist Church, Director of Music Wanda Washington, Assist. to Coordinator

Darlene Nelson Johnson, Violin Terrence Arrington, Alto Sax Ronnie Harris, Trumpet Efrem Bowman, Percussion Rickey McCants, Synthesizer

Tammy Lee, Violin
Corbin Lee, Alto Sax
Ray Johnson, Electric Bass
Rodney Jackson, Synthesizer
Trenise Gauthier, Harp

"Stand Still Jordan". arr., Harry T. Burleigh Earl T. Taylor, Tenor

"Little David Play on Your Harp" Arr. Harry T. Burleigh/E. Parker Raymond Bazemore, Bass & Trenise Gauthier, Harpist

"Daniel, Daniel, Servant of the Lord". . . . arr., Undine Smith Moore Raymond Bazemore & Earl T. Taylor

"Magnify the Lord" Virgie Carrington DeWitty Ethel Blaze, Soprano & Shavonne Matthews, Alto

"Precious Lord" . . "A Perpetual Prayer". . Thomas Dorsey, arr. E. Parker Amanda Whiten, Soprano

"David's Song" (Psalms 27) Gerrye Gallagher, Arr., E. Parker Ethel Blaze, Shavonne Matthews, Wanda Washington Alto

 Many African American composers have been regarded as nationalists in the sense that they consciously turned to the folk music of their people as a source of inspiration for their composed and arranged music. This more evident in their sacred music repertoire. Many of the composers placed special emphasis upon traditional African American performance practices, and made efforts to reflect the individualities of these practices in their composed music. The song writers also set the poems of African American poets to music and made vocal and choral arrangements of spirituals and other folksong genres.

Harry Thacker Burleigh (1866-1949) was the earliest of the African American nationalistic composers. Burleigh was determined to capture the spirit of African American folksong in his composed and arranged music. Along with his numerous compositions, he arranged over fifty spirituals for the solo voice, thus making a unique contribution to the history of American music. "Stand Still Jordan" is one of the spirituals that is not frequently performed, however, it has a beautiful and memorable melody that is never overpowered by the accompaniment.

Undine Smith Moore a 20th century writer, veteran composer and arranger of spirituals, arranged this stirring rendition of "Daniel, Daniel, Servant of the Lord."

Although, many African American composers often reserved their creative energies for African American-inspired compositions, they of course, knew how to write music in traditional European style and indeed, often did so. "Magnify the Lord" is composed by another contemporary composer, Virgie Carrington DeWitty.

Gospel Music is a synthesis of West African and African American music, dance, poetry, and drama. It is a body of urban contemporary sacred music of rural folk origins which is a celebration of the Christian experience of salvation and hope. Gospel is also a distillation of the African American aesthetic and a declaration of selfhood and personal interpretation which is expressed through the medium of music.

One of the most widely performed gospel compositions is "Precious Lord" written by Thomas Dorsey, who is considered the "Father of Gospel Music." "Precious Lord" has been performed in many countries around the world and has been translated into thirty three different languages. This version of "Precious Lord," is arranged by Everrett Parker. It features a choral accompaniment with the soloist improvising on the melody.

Gerrye Gallagher composed "David's Psalm" (Psalm 27) in two sections with two separate idioms--classical and gospel. Tonight Everrett Parker presents his arrangement of this composition flavored with a little jazz.

Calvin H. Rhone is a contemporary gospel composer. His composition, "I Can't Tell It All," is a culmination of the African American sacred and aesthetic experience. The vocal line, phrasing, rhythmic emphasis, and dramatic projection of the text reflects the contrasting aesthetic form which each performance emanated.

The demonstration of concern for aesthetics is manifested in the decision to have the choir members wear their own respective church robes, which presents a colorful and moving kaleidoscope. African dress was very colorful and it is evident the tradition has survived in many of today's black church choir robes."

Comments by Dr. Joyce Jackson

Invitation to Join in The Sounds of CommUNITY

mmUNITY Rev. Jeff Day Executive Director Federation of Churches & Synagogues

God Bless America

God bless America, Land that I love; Stand beside her and guide her thru the night with a light from above. From the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam, God bless America, My home sweet home, God bless America, my home sweet home.

Let There Be Peace On Earth

Let there be Peace on Earth and let it begin with me. Let there be Peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God as our Father, we are family. Let me walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now with every step I take, Let this be my solemn vow. To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Synagogues

***** Participating***** Parishes

Churches

Beth Shalom B'nai Israel

St. Aloysius
St. Thomas More
St. Jean Vianney
Most Blessed Sacrament
Immaculate Conception
Our Lady of Mercy
Holy Family, Port Allen
St. Joseph Cathedral

St. Joseph Baptist
Broadmoor Baptist
St. Mark U. M. C.
Trinity Episcopal
Shiloh Baptist
2nd Baptist
Neely U. M. C.
Elm Grove Baptist
Greater New Guide
St. Paul Lutheran
First U. M. C.
University Presbyterian
First Christian Church
The Unitarian Church
St. Luke's Episcopal

**** Program Committee ****

Ken Thea Everrett Parker Allan Brent Willie Staats Richard Goldberger

Elvia Hammett Parsons Lucy L. Hair Jeff Day Pam Xander

**** Special Acknowledgements ****

Barbara Thomas-Parker, Program Editing
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2nd Baptist Church, Rehearsal Site
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