

ABERDEEN BACH CHOIR – LOCKDOWN QUIZ

Dear All,

Answers below in red – as promised.

Peter 5/6/20

22 May 2020

Dear All,

I hope that you, your family, friends and colleagues are all safe and well. Now, I am not offering any prizes, and I do not want this to be competitive, but I have devised this musical quiz to help keep the choir community connected and to offer you something to help you to pass the time. Participation is, of course, entirely optional.

Please feel free to share it with family and friends who are not choir members. Ian Downie has kindly put a copy of it on the choir website where anybody can access it. You can do this quiz in one of two ways:

1. Challenge yourself to complete the questions **without** reference to information from books, scores, concert programmes or the internet. If you do it this way and would like the odd clue to a question please feel free to e-mail me at p.parfitt@st-margaret.uk and I will point you in the right direction!
2. Research the questions to which you do not know the answers, in order to try to find the correct answers.

Many of the questions relate to music which we have performed recently, and many of the answers can be found in my programme notes.

I will make the answers available online via the website in two weeks' time – Friday, June 5th.

Good luck!!

Peter

SECTION 1

QUESTIONS ABOUT J.S. BACH AND HIS FAMILY

1. *In which year did Bach take up his position as Kantor at St Thomas' in Leipzig?*
1723
2. *In which German City did Bach's fifth son, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, hold the exact same position as Kantor as his father from 1767-1788.*
Hamburg
3. *This is a well-known fugal subject from a work by Bach. It is sung firstly by the tenors and then by all other parts in turn. Can you name the work and the movement from which it comes. The text and accompaniment have been removed.*
It is the Kyrie from the Mass in B Minor



4. *Bach was third choice for the position at Leipzig – the post was offered to two other prominent musicians of the day who were unable to accept the position. Who were they?*
Georg Telemann and Christoph Graupner
5. *As well as keyboard playing, singing and music, which other subject was Bach required to teach at the Thomasschule in Leipzig?*
Latin

SECTION 2

QUESTIONS RELATING TO WORKS WE HAVE PERFORMED RECENTLY

1. *In Handel's oratorio Israel in Egypt, movements 4 – 9 describe various acts of plague and destruction. Movement 4 describes the turning of rivers into blood and movement 9 sees the destruction of the first-born of Egypt. Can you name the subjects of movements 5 – 8 in the correct order?*
5 – Frogs: 6 – Flies, Lice and Locusts: 7 – Hailstones and Fire: 8 – Thick Darkness
2. *In which building in Dublin was Handel's Messiah first performed?*
New Music Hall in Fishamble Street
3. *During World War II, both Herbert Howells and Patrick Hadley deputised for Directors of Music at two Cambridge Colleges whilst their actual incumbents were called up for service. Which two colleges were these?*
Howells deputised at St John's College, and Hadley deputised at Kings College

4. *Andrea and Giovanni Gabrieli were both organists of Basilico San Marco in Venice in the late sixteenth / early seventeenth century. What was their relationship to one another?*

Father / Son Grandfather / Grandson **Uncle / Nephew** Brothers Cousins

5. *Which of the pieces in our concert from April 2019 (I Was Glad) were performed at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II?*

Zadok the Priest - Handel / I Was Glad - Parry

SECTION 3 IMAGES

All of these images have a musical significance and a link with music we have performed recently – can you identify them? The first three are composers' wives.

1. This lady was well known in her own right as a published poet. Her English husband died in 1958.

This is Ursula Vaughan Williams



3. Whose wife is this?

This is Lady Alice Elgar



4. And who is this?

This is Anna Magdalena Bach – J.S. Bach's second wife



Can you identify these famous buildings?

This is St Thomas' Leipzig

4.



5.

This is the Chapel of the Foundling Hospital – famous for its annual performance of Messiah



SECTION 4**ITALIAN PERFORMANCE DIRECTIONS**

Give the translation / meaning of these Italian words which you might have heard me use in rehearsals.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. <i>Poco piu mosso</i> | <i>A little more movement – a little faster</i> |
| 2. <i>Rubato</i> | <i>To vary the pulse in order to be expressive</i> |
| 3. <i>Stringendo</i> | <i>Gradually getting faster</i> |
| 4. <i>Dolce</i> | <i>Sweetly</i> |
| 5. <i>Cantabile</i> | <i>In a singing style</i> |

SECTION 5**QUESTIONS ABOUT GENERAL CHORAL SOCIETY REPERTOIRE**

1. Can you identify the work, the movement, and the composer of this famous and memorable chord progression? The text and accompaniment have been removed! The passage is usually performed with a crescendo from *pp* – *ff*.

This is a passage from the Lacrimosa of Mozart's Requiem (Bars 5 – 8)

The words are “qui resurget ex favilla, judicandus homo reus”

The image shows a musical score for four vocal parts: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The music is in 12/8 time and features a famous chord progression from the Lacrimosa of Mozart's Requiem. The notes are: Soprano (G4, A4, B4, C5), Alto (F4, G4, A4, B4), Tenor (E4, F4, G4, A4), and Bass (C4, D4, E4, F4). The progression is: G4-A4-B4-C5, F4-G4-A4-B4, E4-F4-G4-A4, C4-D4-E4-F4.

2. Can you identify these two pieces of popular mainstream choral society repertoire from their descriptions?

- i. A work for chorus and orchestra, the composer's Op 38, written for the Birmingham Music Festival and first performed in Birmingham Town Hall in October 1900. The work requires only three soloists – one female and two male, and the text is a setting of a poem published in 1886, whose author lived from 1801-1890. The work is usually referred to as an oratorio, although the composer disapproved of this term, and nowhere is the word used on the original score.

The Dream of Gerontius by Elgar

- ii. *This work is a bit of a misnomer as the accepted title of it does not reflect the usual text one would expect. It was composed between 1885 and 1886 and calls for only two soloists (one male and one female), chorus and orchestra. It is the composer's Op 45 and his longest work. It was premiered in Leipzig in 1869.*
The German Requiem by Brahms, which does not in fact use any of the Requiem text
3. *What is the Latin title of the movement of Fauré's Requiem which is for soprano soloist only.*
Pie Jesu
4. *Which oratorio, premiered at the Adelphi Theatre in London in 1944, contains choral settings of five African-American spirituals, in a kind of modern parallel to Bach's inclusion of chorale melodies in his sacred works.*
A Child of Our Time by Michael Tippett
5. *Name the title and composer of an oratorio which was written in 1931 and premiered at the Leeds festival in the same year. The Old Testament text is based on a story in Chapter 5 of the Book of Daniel.*
Belshazzar's Feast by William Walton

Thank you for engaging with this – I hope you enjoyed it and that you and your families and friends are all safe and well

Peter
5/6/20