

Choral Treats 3

The Late Romantic composers, it must be admitted, did have their excesses. Let's see, we're talking maybe 1870 through the 1920s. As you see, the time span was itself longish, continuing after people like Debussy and Stravinsky tried to extinguish the genre. Even the greats had their excesses. Wagner's operas were very long-winded, and Tchaikovsky was master of the ten-minute ending. Check out his Symphony No.2, where the finale seems to start before the last movement begins.

Anton Bruckner was another master of the long form, but this week I write in his defense. My exhibits will be two movements from his Mass in E minor, the Credo and the Agnus Dei, and two very sweet shorter works, Locus Iste and Ave Maria.

You will hear works of two Irish composers who resisted modernism though ironically, their prominent pupils were a vanguard in the 20th century British style. Charles Villiers Stanford taught Holst and Vaughan Williams. We end these selections with three Stanford choruses that should take you to heaven, or at least send you in that direction.

Charles Wood, also taught Vaughan Williams as well as Herbert Howells. Wood arranged the traditional anthem "Hail Blessed Virgin Mary" which remains a favorite in the British Isles to this day. The Wood setting of the Thomas Campion poem "Never Weather-beaten Sail," though a sacred anthem, is the most thoroughly romantic chorus I believe ever written. What do you think?

More commentary to follow, but now hear the rich sounds of Bruckner.

Anton Bruckner (1824 - 1896)

Mass in E minor:

III. Credo, 10:38

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2d9JcvT5W2o>

V. Agnus Dei, 6:20

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K91EYuR7K7c>

Locus Iste, 2:59

Translates to "This place was made by God."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUGBoR_nnA

Ave Maria, 3:04

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbHKnUhdv8g>

Charles Wood (1866 - 1926)

Hail Blessed Virgin Mary, 2:15

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dm41hzLtYFo>

Never Weather-Beaten Sail, 3:22

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oCmZntf_tk

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore,
Never tired pilgrim's limbs affected slumber more
Than my wearied sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast:
O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest.

Ever blooming are the joys of Heaven's high Paradise,
Cold age deafs not there our ears nor vapour dims our eyes.
Glory there the sun outshines whose beams the blessed only see:
O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to Thee.

Information on Wood:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Wood_\(composer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Wood_(composer))

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852 - 1924)

About Stanford:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Villiers_Stanford

How Beauteous are Their Feet, 3:58

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3sBoIyqmqE>

The Blue Bird, 3:42

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UNdeCzrdnpE>

Beati Quorum via, 3:44

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9zgg5qrNGw>

Beati quorum via integra est,
qui ambulant in lege Domini.

Blessed are the undefiled in the way,
who walk in the law of the Lord.