

Cantate 6

Since we are celebrating “Labor Day”, which is a uniquely American Holiday in just a few days, I thought it appropriate to highlight Early American Hymn Tunes on this program.

Whenever we think of Early American hymntunes we somehow always think of the Shaker Hymn...”Tis the gift to be simple”. The Shakers lived a very simple life and their music reflected that lifestyle. Probably the most recognizable example of this tune was written for orchestra by Aaron Copland. *Appalachian Spring* is a [ballet](#) score that premiered in 1944 and has achieved widespread and enduring popularity as an [orchestral suite](#). The ballet, scored for a thirteen-member [chamber](#) orchestra, was created upon commission of choreographer and dancer [Martha Graham](#) . It premiered [October 30, 1944](#), at the [Library of Congress](#) in [Washington, D.C.](#), with [Martha Graham](#) dancing the lead role. Listen as the composer conducts the London Symphony Orchestra.

Track 1

The Tudor Choir and its director Doug Fullington are a Seattle based group founded in 1993 and are artists-in-residence at Seattle’s St. Mark’s Cathedral, and a Resident Ensemble at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Medina, WA. Next listen as the Tudor choir sings the Shaker Hymn “Star of Purity”, text by Ezra T. Leggeth, music by Susannie M. Brady 1868 in an arrangement by Kevin Siegfried.

Track 2 Star of Purity

O brighter than the morning star is the heart that's pure and free.
And the light that's ever glowing there the Star of Purity.
The sun shall wane the stars go down and reign of time be o'er.
But the living light in the heart that's pure shall shine for ever more.

The gems within the ocean deep and the wealth her caverns bear.
Let the ocean and the caverns keep in darkness hidden there.
But O, Almighty Father, send Thine Angels from above
To kindle in my heart a fire of Purity and Love.

Track 3 Zion’s Walls

Come fathers and mothers,
Come sisters and brothers,
Come join us in singing the praises of Zion.
O fathers, don't you feel determined
To meet within the walls of Zion?
We'll shout and go round
The walls of Zion.

You just listened to Zion’s Walls again by the Tudor Choir singing an original melody & text credited to John G. McCurry in the mid 19th Century, who was the compiler of “The Social Harp”. This arrangement again, by Aaron Copland is an adaptation for choir by Glen Koponen.

Next, we will hear *Gloriae Dei Cantores*, an internationally acclaimed choir directed by Elizabeth Patterson in two early American Hymn Tunes from their CD, *Kaleidoscope*. First, "How Firm a Foundation". Then, we'll hear a John Carter arrangement of "Holy Manna", another memorable tune in the Southern tradition. Its vigorous and simple message is typical of the spiritual songs of the mountain folk of the early 19th century.

Track 4 How Firm a Foundation

1. "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
3. "When through deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.
4. "When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

Track 5 Holy Manna

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| 1. | Can you bear to let them go? |
| Brethren, we have met to worship, | See our fathers--see our mothers, |
| And adore the Lord our God; | And our children sinking down; |
| Will you pray with all your power, | Brethren, pray, and holy manna |
| While we try to preach the word. | Will be showered all around. |
| All is vain, unless the Spirit | |
| Of the Holy One come down; | 3. |
| Brethren, pray, and holy manna | Sisters, will you join and help us? |
| Will be showered all around. | Moses' sisters aided him; |
| | Will you help the trembling mourners, |
| 2. | Who are struggling hard with sin? |
| Brethren, see poor sinners round you, | Tell them all about the Savior, |
| Trembling on the brink of woe; | Tell him that he will be found; |
| Death is coming, hell is moving; | |

Sisters, pray, and holy manna
Will be showered all around.

4.

Is there here a trembling jailer,
Seeking grace, and filled with fears.
Is there here a weeping Mary,
Pouring forth a flood of tears?
Brethren, join your cries to help them
Sisters, let your prayers abound;
Pray, O! pray, that holy manna
May be scattered all around.

The Southern Harmony

5.

Let us love our God supremely,
Let us love each other too;
Let us love and pray for sinners,
Till our God makes all things new
Then he'll call us home to heaven,
At his table we'll sit down.
Christ will gird himself and serve us
With sweet manna all around.

An early published version of the tune “Land of Rest” appeared in **The Sacred Harp** (1844), titled **New Prospect** and attributed to W. S. Turner. In 1938, a harmonized version of the tune was published in Annabel Morris Buchanan’s **Folk Hymns of America**. Listen as organist Jason Alden plays George Shearing’s arrangement of this tune on the organ at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Rockwall, Texas.

Track 6 Land of Rest

Dale Warland has made an indelible impression on the landscape of contemporary choral music both nationally and internationally. During his time with the Dale Warland Singers, he shaped a vocal ensemble known for its exquisite sound, technical finesse, and stylistic range. From that platform, Warland not only mastered the traditional repertoire, but also commissioned over 270 new choral works. Listen as the Dale Warland Singers sing one of the great old revival hymns of the Civil War. “Beautiful River” was written by Rev. Robert Lowry in 1864 using his poem “At the River” based on Rev. 22:1.

Track 7 Beautiful River

Shall we gather [by]¹ the river,
Where bright [angel's]² feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?

Yes, we'll gather [by]¹ the river,

The beautiful, the beautiful river,
[Gather with the saints by the river]³
That flows by the throne of God.

Ere we reach the shining river
Lay we every burden down,
Praise our spirits will deliver
And provide our robe and crown.

Yes, we'll gather at the river.
The beautiful, the beautiful, river.
Gather with the saints at the river,
That flows by the throne of God.

Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease,
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.

Yes, we'll gather by the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river
That flows by the throne of God.

Track 8 Followers of the Lamb

O brethren ain't you happy, O brethren ain't you happy,
O brethren ain't you happy ye followers of the Lamb.
Sing on, dance on, followers of Emmanuel,
Sing on, dance on, followers of the Lamb.
O sisters ain't you happy,...
I'm glad I am a Christian [originally "Shaker"],...

Text: Shaker Song from about 1847

With its threefold repetition in the verses and rousing chorus, you just heard again the Tudor Choir, Doug Fullington, director, singing "Followers of the Lamb", text and tune by Sister Clarissa Jacobs, New Lebanon, New York, circa 1847.

The next two tracks are sung by the Dale Warland Singers from their CD "Harvest Home". First we'll hear Peace (from Shaker Songs) arr. by Kevin Siegfried. "Peace" is a mid-nineteenth century tune and text from New Hampshire, and Siegfried kept his version of it unusually simple: much of it in unison and two part harmony. This is followed by "Lay Me Low" which revels in rich textures. Its melody comes from New Lebanon, New York, site of the first American Shaker Community.

Track 9 Peace

Peace unto Zion, Peace,
Peace to the faithful, and a crown of rejoicing,
From your Heavenly Father.

When Zion shall be cleansed she shall flourish as a rose
I will walk in her midst and will bless all those
With a ten fold blessing
And their sorrows shall cease, for I'll cry upon her walls.
Peace, sweet peace.

Track 10 Lay Me Low

Lay me low where the Lord can find me,
where the Lord can own me, where the Lord can bless me.

No program on early American music would be complete without the tune "New Britain". Listen as Bradley Welch, organist at Highland Park United Methodist Church, Dallas, plays Frederick Swan's arrangement of "Amazing Grace" on the world's largest French-style organ at Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

Track 11 Amazing Grace

We can't think of early American music without including a spiritual, but that will be another complete program. The next two tracks are popular spirituals. "Rock a My Soul" is sung by Chorus Angelicus a children's choir from Norfolk Connecticut directed by Paul Halley, former organist-choir director at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. Then we'll hear Kathleen Battle and Jesse Norman sing "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" accompanied by Maestro James Levine and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and Chorus.

Track 12 Rock a my soul

Part 1
Rocka my soul in the bosom of Abraham
Rocka my soul in the bosom of Abraham
Rocka my soul in the bosom of Abraham
Oh, rocka my soul!

Part 2
So high, you can't get over it,
So low you can't get under it,
So wide, you can't get around it,
Oh, rocka my soul!

Part 3
Rocka my soul
Rocka my soul
Rocka my soul
Oh! Rocka my soul!

Track 13 He's got the Whole World in His Hands

He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got my brothers and my sisters in His hands,
He's got my brothers and my sisters in His hands,
He's got my brothers and my sisters in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the sun and the rain in His hands,
He's got the moon and the stars in His hands,
He's got the wind and the clouds in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the rivers and the mountains in His hands,
He's got the oceans and the seas in His hands,
He's got you and he's got me in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got everybody here in His hands,
He's got everybody there in His hands,
He's got everybody everywhere in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

Alice Parker (b. 1925) has made a cherished gift to choral music with her arrangements of spirituals, both black and white. Her spirited setting of "Hark, I hear the harps eternal" combines the driving force of the American heritage of shape-note singing, with brilliant choral expertise, the fruitful result of her long association with Robert Shaw and his talented singers. Listen as the Gloriam Dei Cantores sings her arrangement of this Shaker Tune.

Track 14 Hark I Hear the Harps Eternal

Hark, I hear the harps eternal
Ringing on the farther shore,
As I near those swollen waters
With their deep and solemn roar.

*Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Hallelujah, praise the lamb!
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Glory to the great I AM!*

And my soul, though stained with sorrow,
Fading as the light of day,
Passes swiftly o'er those waters,

To the city far away.

*Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Hallelujah, praise the lamb!
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Glory to the great I AM!*

Souls have crossed before me, saintly,
To that land of perfect rest;
And I hear them singing faintly
In the mansions of the blest.

*Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Hallelujah, praise the lamb!
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Glory to the great I AM!*

With a text from the Song of Solomon which ends “My Beloved spake and said unto me: rise up, my Love, my fair one, and come away, for Lo, the Winter is past, the rain is over and gone”. Join again with the Tudor Choir as they sing Williams Billings hymn, “I Am the Rose of Sharon”.

Track 15 I Am the Rose of Sharon

I am the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley.
As the Lily among the thorns,
So is my love among the Daughters,
As the Appletree among the trees of the wood,
So is my Beloved among the Sons.
I sat down under his shadow with great delight,
And his fruit was sweet to my taste.
He brought me to the banqueting house,
his banner over me was love.
Stay me with flagons,
Comfort me with apples,
For I am sick of love.
I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem,
By the roes and by the hinds of the field,
That you stir not up nor awake my love 'til he please.
The voice of my beloved,
Behold he cometh,
Leaping upon the mount and skipping upon the hills.
My beloved spake,
And said unto me,
Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away,
For lo, the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone

One of the commissions of the Dale Warland Singers was by Stephen Paulus in 2001. Paulus poignantly recasts the melody from the hymn “The Lone Wild Bird” set to the tune “Prospect and set to a new text by Minnesota poet, Michael Dennis Browne. The soprano soloist is Marie Spar Dymit.

Track 16 The Road Home

Tell me, where is the road
I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost
So long ago?
All these years I have wandered,
Oh when will I know
There's a way, there's a road
That will lead me home?

After wind, after rain,
When the dark is done,
As I wake from a dream
In the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling
From far away,
There's a voice I can hear
That will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me,
Come away, is the call,
With the love in your heart
As the only song;
There is no such beauty
As where you belong;
Rise up, follow me,
I will lead you home.

Track 17 Simple Gifts

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gain'd,
To bow and to bend we shan't be asham'd,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come round right.

That was again "Simple Gifts" an arrangement by the Conductor and sung by the Dale Warland Singers. With the encore of this tune we'll end today's program on the music of Early America. I hope you've enjoyed this edition of Cantate. As always, I leave you with this prayer:

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit: Amen.

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in
Heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through
art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on
earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty,
and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for
evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*