

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

New American Choral Music Series

JAMES D'ANGELO THE HOLY CITY

CATHEDRA MICHAEL McCARTHY, DIRECTOR • SCOTT DETTRA, ORGAN

GOTHIC



RECORDED IN THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

New American Choral Music Series

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CATHEDRA

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Mass Sequence

1	Organ Prelude	1:51
2	Missa Brevis: Kyrie	5:00
3	Missa Brevis: Gloria	5:56
4	Organ Interlude	1:12
5	Missa Brevis: Sanctus	4:03
6	Missa Brevis: Agnus Dei	5:56
7	Tenebrae Factae Sunt	6:43

Evensong Sequence

8	Responses I	1:31
9	Psalm 31 (verses 1-6)	4:41
10	Organ Interlude	1:16
11	Magnificat	4:55
12	Organ Interlude	1:25
13	Nunc Dimittis	3:07
14	Responses II (including The Lord's Prayer) & Collects	7:06
15	The Holy City	7:23
16	The Hymn of St. Patrick	5:14
17	Organ Voluntary: Fantasia on a theme of Hindemith	11:13

ALL TRACKS ARE WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS!

TOTAL TIME: 78:30



the music

This premiere recording represents the entire body of James D'Angelo's sacred music. The composer has assimilated and melded together diverse styles as found in the music of Gesualdo and other chromatic Renaissance composers, Hindemith, Debussy, Ravel, Holst and his mentor, the twentieth century Parisian composer Jean Catoire. The result is a unique fusion that has become D'Angelo's distinctive musical language.

The music has a refreshing technical rigor beyond the simple atmospheric contemplation so common among composers of sacred music today. In his music we find the craft of musical composition at the service of the composer's vision: in all the musical intervals, in the rhythmic gestures and excellent text underlay, in the architecture and phrase structure and in the powerful use of dynamics. The result is music of authenticity, written from the composer's own experience and conviction, leaving us with an arresting statement of faith and vision.

The recording is in two distinct parts: the first, a *missa brevis* setting with a motet for Good Friday; the second, an unfolding of an Evensong service with organ interludes and a closing voluntary. The organ prelude and interludes, written especially for the recording, are integrated into the whole through thematic links to the Mass and Evensong settings respectively to create a seamless, concentrated musical journey.

The Magnificat, Nunc Dimittis, The Holy City and *The Hymn of St. Patrick* were conceived between 1992 and 1999 and then revised in 2010-2011 as was much of the choral music. The evening canticles also exist in an original *a cappella* setting.

The earliest work is the *Tenebrae factae sunt*, originally written for men's choir, two trumpets and two trombones and performed at one of the chapels at West Point, New York while the composer was stationed there. It has passed through significant modifications over a



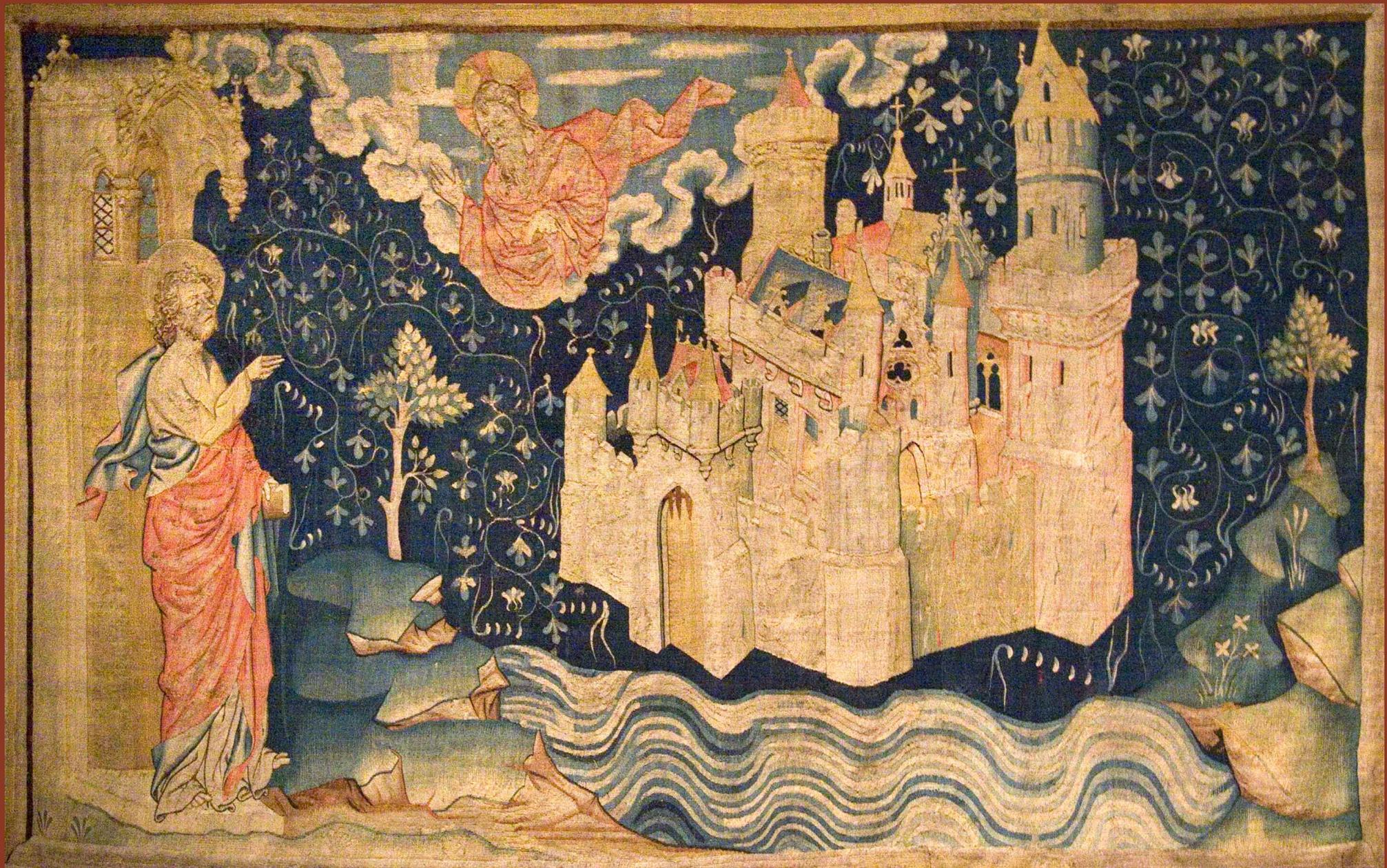


number of years. In its present form the organ carries the drama of the crucifixion, with its powerful prelude and subsequent punctuations of the text.

The Holy City, originally written for James Litton and the treble voices of the American Boy Choir, has been highly revised and set for an unaccompanied SATB choir. With a text taken from the Book of Revelation, D'Angelo uses an undercurrent of chanting of Alpha and Omega and a narrative soloist to great effect.

The *Missa Brevis* (2005) was written for and dedicated to the Gloucester Cathedral choir in England. Its tapestry of unrelated triads is reminiscent of chromatic Renaissance music. The entire Mass is a special blend of triadic and impressionistic harmony. It is a challenging work for the choir and the soloists to sing unaccompanied. The Mass was followed in 2009 by a commissioned piece based on Psalm 31 by the same cathedral where it is a regular part of its repertory. *The Hymn of St. Patrick* has a special resonance for the composer who was born on the 17th of March. It was originally conceived for The Heritage Singers to be sung in St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin.

The *Fantasia on a Theme of Hindemith* was commissioned by the German organist Ralf Blasi in 2009 and performed on this disc by the renowned American organist Scott Dettra, now director of music at the Church of the Incarnation in Dallas. Paul Hindemith has a special association for D'Angelo whose doctoral research focused on the tonality symbolism embedded into his opera *Die Harmonie der Welt*. This organ work is based on the *passacaglia* theme of the opera's finale. He has taken the theme and, rather than re-creating another *passacaglia*, transformed it through seven extended variations. This work is a companion piece to his *Fanfare Fantasia* (2008) commissioned and premiered by Adrian Partington, director of music at Gloucester Cathedral.



THE NEW JERUSALEM (TAPESTRY OF THE APOCALYPSE)

2. Missa Brevis: Kyrie

Kyrie eleison
Christe eleison
Kyrie eleison

*Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy*

3. Missa Brevis: Gloria

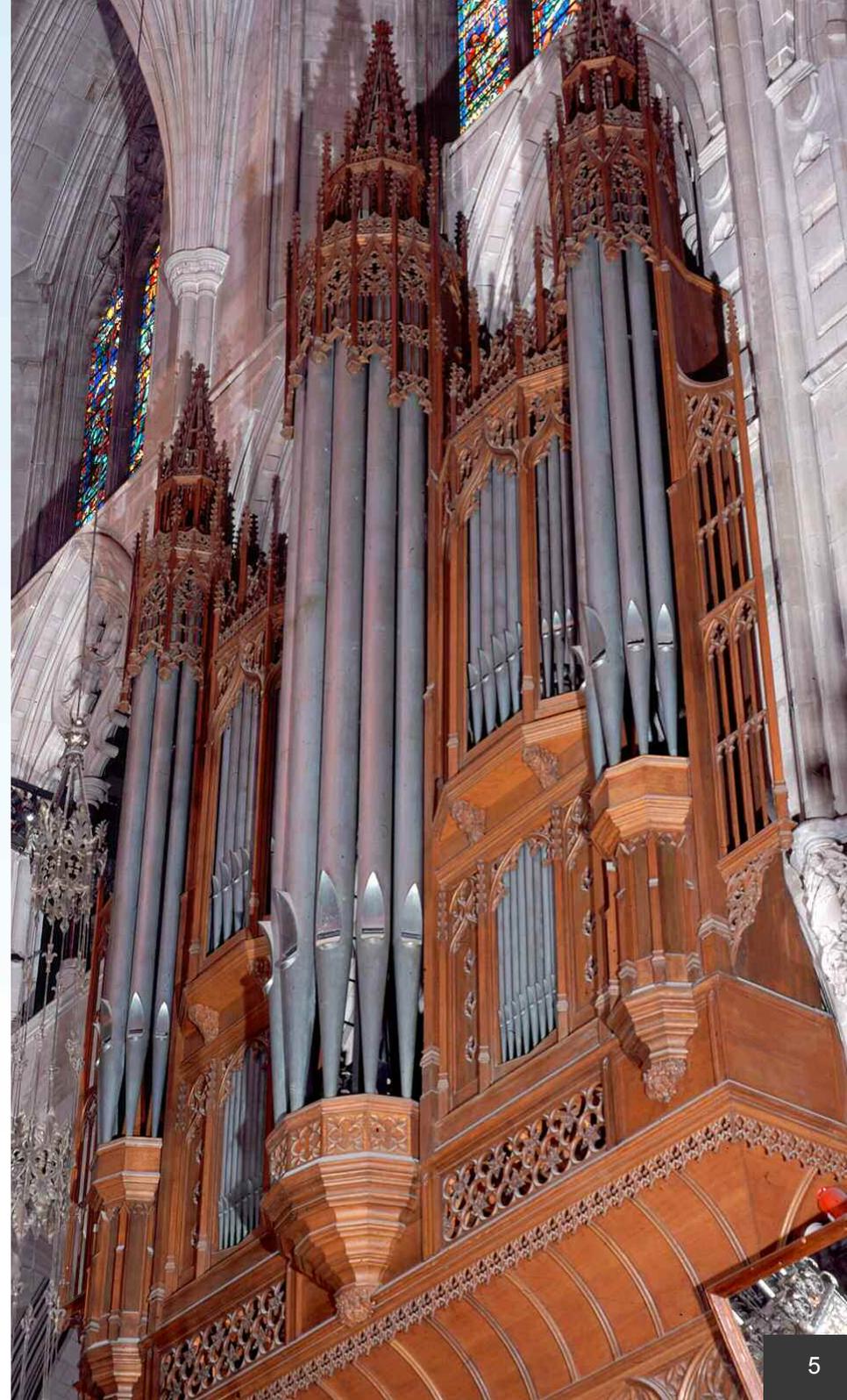
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Et in terra pax,
 hominibus bonae voluntatis
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
 adoramus te, glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi
 propter magnum gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, rex caelestis,
 Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite,
 Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
 Filius Patris.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
 miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
 suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
 miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus sanctus;
 tu solus Dominus;
 tu solus Altissimus.
Jesu Christe,
 cum Sancto Spiritu,
 in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

*Glory to God in the highest.
And on earth peace,
 goodwill towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
 we worship thee, we glorify thee.
We give thanks to thee
 for thy great glory.
O Lord God, heavenly King,
 God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son,
 Jesus Christ.
O Lord God, Lamb of God,
 Son of the Father.
That takest away the sins of the world,
 have mercy upon us.
That takest away the sins of the world,
 receive our prayer.
That sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
 have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy;
 Thou only art the Lord;
 For thou only art most high.
Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

5. Missa Brevis: Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
 Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit
 in nomine domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy
 Lord God of power and might
Heaven and earth of full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*





6. Missa Brevis: Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God,
who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God,
who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God,
who takes away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.*

7. Tenebrae Factae Sunt

Tenebrae factae sunt,
dum crucifixissent Jesum Judaei:
Et circa horam nonam
exclamavit Jesus voce magna:
Deus meus, Deus meus,
ut quid me dereliquisti?
Et inclinato capite,
emisit spiritum.
Exclamans Jesus
voce magna, ait
Pater, in manus tuas
commendo spiritum meum
Et inclinato capite,
emisit spiritum.

*Darkness covered the earth,
when the Jews crucified Jesus:
And about the ninth hour
Jesus cried out in a loud voice:
“My God, my God,
why hast Thou forsaken me?”
And he bowed his head,
and gave up the ghost.
Jesus cried out
in a loud voice, saying
“Father, into Thy hands
I commend my spirit.”
And he bowed his head,
and gave up the ghost.*

8. Responses I

O Lord, open Thou our lips.
And our mouth shall shew forth Thy praise.
O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord’s name be praised

9. Psalm 31 (verses 1-6)

In thee, O Lord, have I put my trust; let me never be put to confusion;
deliver me in thy righteousness.
Bow down thine ear to me; make haste to deliver me.
And be thou my strong rock, and house of defence, that thou mayest save me.
For thou art my strong rock, and my castle; be thou also my guide,
and lead me for thy Name’s sake.
Draw me out of the net that they have laid privily for me;
for thou art my strength.
In thy hands I commend my spirit; for thou hast redeemed me,
O Lord, thou God of truth.

11. Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth, all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud
in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things;
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel;
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

13. Nunc Dimitis

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou has prepared before the face of all people.
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles
And to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

14. Responses II (including The Lord's Prayer)

The Lord be with you.
And with Thy Spirit.
Let us pray.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Our Father which art in Heaven,
Hallowed by Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come
Thy will be done
On Earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those
 who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil. Amen.



O Lord, show Thy mercy upon us.
And grant us Thy salvation.
O Lord, save the Queen.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon Thee.
Endue Thy ministers with righteousness.
And make Thy chosen people joyful.
O Lord, save Thy people.
And bless Thine inheritance.
Give peace in our time, O Lord
Because there is none other that fighteth for us.
But only Thou, O Lord.
O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from us. Amen.

First Collect:

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

Second Collect:

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and thy day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know thee as thou are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of thy love. Amen.

Third Collect:

O God, you manifest in your servant the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another thy abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

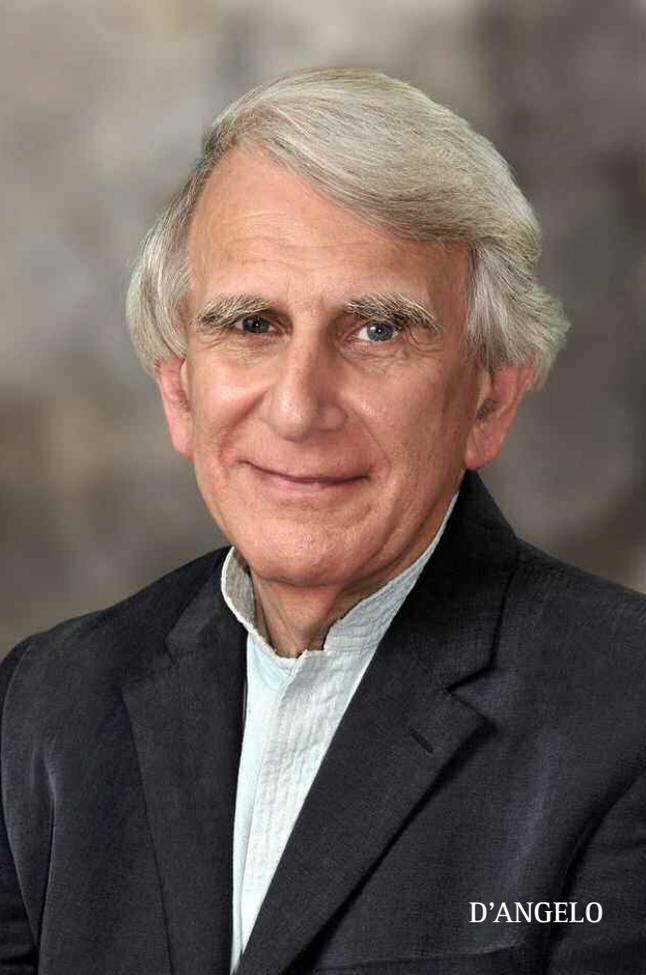


15. The Holy City (from the Book of Revelation)

And I saw a new Heaven and a new Earth
For the first Heaven and first Earth were passed away
And there was no more sea.
And there came unto me one of the seven angels, saying:
Come here, I will show thee the bride, the wife of the Lamb.
And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great high mountain,
And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem
Descending out of heaven from God,
Prepared as a bride, adorned for her husband.
And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying:
Behold the tabernacle of God is with men,
And He will dwell with them
And they shall be His people,
And God Himself shall be with them and be their God.
And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.
And there will be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying,
Neither shall there be any more pain.
For the former things are passed away.
And He that sat upon the throne said:
Behold, I make all things new.
It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.
The first and the last. Amen.

16. The Hymn of St. Patrick

I arise today through a mighty strength,
The invocation of the Trinity through belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the Oneness toward the Creator.
I arise today through the strength of Christ in the baptism,
Through the strength of the crucifixion with His burial.
Through the strength of His resurrection with His ascension.
I arise today through the strength of the love of Cherubim,
In obedience of angels, in the service of archangels,
In hope of resurrection.
Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ where I lie,
Christ where I sit, Christ when I arise.
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
Salvation is of the Lord, salvation is of the Lord,
Salvation is of Christ.
May Thy salvation, O Lord, be ever with me. Amen.



D'ANGELO

PHOTO © RICHARD BEAL

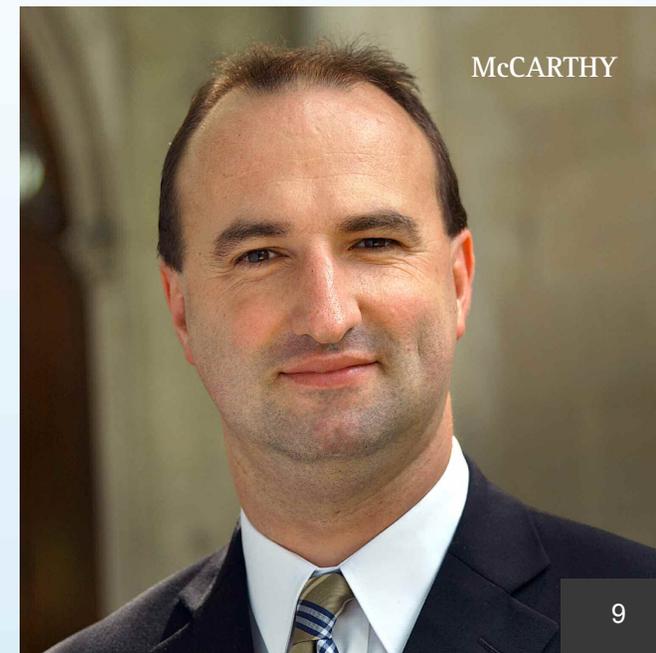
James D'Angelo has had a very varied musical career as a composer, pianist (both classical and jazz), organist, lecturer, writer and sound therapist. American born, he holds BMus and MMus degrees from the Manhattan School of Music (New York) and a PhD from New York University. His mentors have included Victorio Giannini, Nicholas Flagello, Jan Gorbaty, William Russo and visionary Parisian composer Jean Catoire. From 1970 to 1986 he was a professor of music within the City University of New York. Emigrating to England, he became a music lecturer at Goldsmiths College, London (1989-2003). A published composer, D'Angelo has written over fifty songs, many chamber works, much choral music, organ works, orchestral music and an unusual series of semi-improvised piano suites. His *Three Portraits of Krishna* for flute and piano were recorded for EMI Virgin Classics alongside works by Copland, Barber and Rorem. His epic song *Elegy* and bass quartet *Ode to St.*

Kilda were international prize winning compositions. His *Blow Out, Ye Bugles* was chosen for the Washington (DC) commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 disaster. His *Festival Fanfare* was commissioned for the 2013 Three Choirs Festival, England's oldest and best known festival of music and he has been a featured composer at several London contemporary music festivals. He has had a close association with the Gloucester Cathedral (UK) choir and it has commissioned him to write three works since 2009. In 2010 he formed Trio D'Angelo (soprano, clarinet and piano) to perform his own music and unusual repertoire. Beyond his classical playing, he has concertized as a jazz pianist throughout the UK with singer Jenna Monroe. Since 1994 he has developed vocal sound therapy courses, resulting in the publication of two books: *The Healing Power of the Human Voice* and *Seed Sounds for Tuning the Chakras*.

Michael McCarthy is highly regarded as one of the leading choral conductors of today. A native of the UK, Maestro McCarthy has worked with numerous professional choirs including the Sixteen and the Gabrieli Consort. In addition to singing with the Monteverdi Choir, McCarthy also served as Sir John Eliot Gardiner's assistant with the choir until his move to the US in 2003 when he became Director of Music at Washington National Cathedral.

Of McCarthy's performance of Bach's *St. John Passion*, the Washington Post claimed it a "stunning spectacle" where McCarthy "never let his

musicians lose for a whit of Bach's signature rhythmic pulse" adding that he "captured the story's terrifying realism and immediacy." It is for his bold and vivid interpretations that McCarthy is known. As a musician of breadth, he applies the experience of a world class performer with a unique vision for how music is to be presented. In that regard, his extensive work with the film industry and, in particular, his association with the *Lord of the Rings* and the *Harry Potter* films adds a dimension to the creative process that sets him and the musicians of Cathedra apart from the rest.



McCARTHY

cathedra chamber choir

DIRECTOR
Michael McCarthy

ORGAN
Scott Dettra

Established in 2010, Cathedra has already achieved high acclaim, not least for its "beautiful, blended sound" (The Washington Post). Specializing in music of both the Renaissance and Baroque and a champion of the modern-day composer, Cathedra is a highly skilled ensemble of professional singers and instrumentalists, dedicated to bringing the highest form of musical expression to music from across the ages.

Under the artistic leadership of Michael McCarthy, the ensemble is resident at Washington National Cathedral. Exploring new boundaries of both repertoire and presentation, Cathedra tailors its programming in such a way as to offer authenticity and originality that is both unique and compelling.

SOPRANO

Crossley Hawn
Susan Lewis Kavinski
Hilary Park
Robin Smith
Charlotte Woolley

ALTO

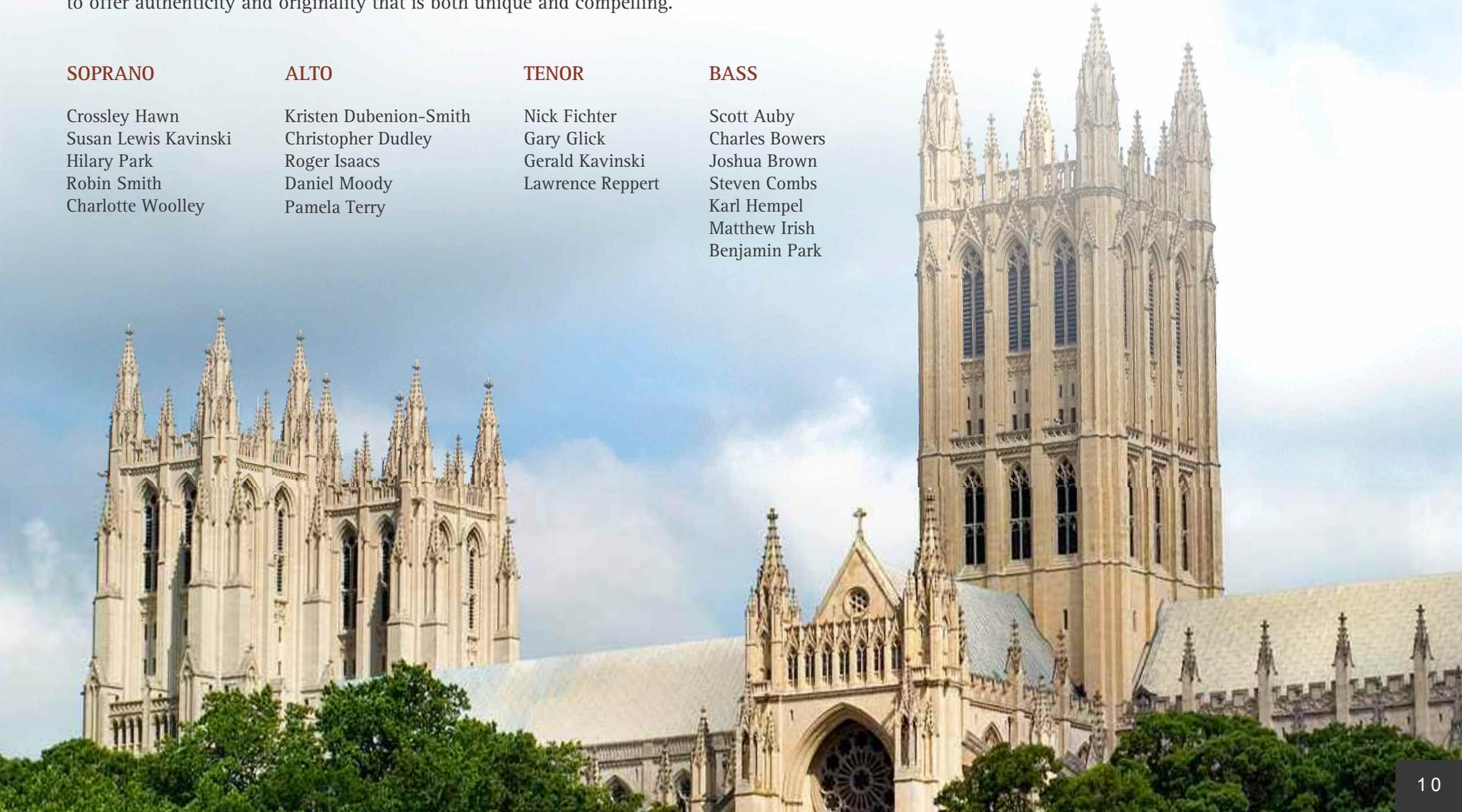
Kristen Dubenion-Smith
Christopher Dudley
Roger Isaacs
Daniel Moody
Pamela Terry

TENOR

Nick Fichter
Gary Glick
Gerald Kavinski
Lawrence Reppert

BASS

Scott Auby
Charles Bowers
Joshua Brown
Steven Combs
Karl Hempel
Matthew Irish
Benjamin Park



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THE HOLY CITY

CATHEDRA CHAMBER CHOIR
MICHAEL MCCARTHY, CONDUCTOR • SCOTT DETTRA, ORGAN

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