

ABERDEEN BACH CHOIR – LOCKDOWN QUIZ 2

31 July 2020

Dear All,

I hope that you, your family, friends and colleagues are all safe and well. Please find the answers to the second lockdown quiz below *in green*.

I hope you enjoyed it.

Peter

SECTION 1

QUESTIONS ABOUT J.S. BACH, AND HIS MUSIC

1. In which German city was Bach born and raised? The house in which he was born, known as the Bachhaus (below) is now a museum and research centre, preserved as it would have looked in Bach's day, and filled with items relating to his life.



- Was it:
- a. Frankfurt
 - b. Hamburg
 - c. Eisenach

2. Bach took up what was to be his final position as Kantor in Leipzig in 1723. Before moving there he had held notable positions in four other German cities / courts. Can you identify which four from this list of six possibilities?

Eisenach Berlin **Mühlhausen** **Weimar** Dresden **Anhalt-Cöthen**

3. This is the opening of a chorus from a major work by Bach. Can you name the work and the movement from which it comes? The text and accompaniment have been removed. **This is Ruht Wohl – the final chorus from the St John Passion.**

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

4. Which famous chorale melody does Bach use (somewhat surprisingly) at both the beginning and the end of the Christmas Oratorio? **The Pasion Chorale is used to “frame” this oratorio.**
5. “The Wedge” is a nickname given to a piece by Bach for which instrument. **This is a fugue for organ. The name comes from the shape the fugue subject makes on the page, starting with one note and gradually spreading outwards.**

SECTION 3 IMAGES

All of these images have a musical significance and a link with music we have performed recently – can you identify them?

1.



Can you identify this composer from the photo and the information below?

This is Gerald Finzi

- The son of a shipbroker, this composer received most of his education privately, at home.
- His father and three older brothers were all killed in action between 1914 and 1918.
- In 1920 he began teaching composition at the RAM, and in 1923, married Joyce Black, a prominent portrait artist, who numbered Vaughan Williams, Arthur Bliss, Adrian Boult and other eminent musicians amongst her subjects.
- He assembled a substantial library of music, poetry and literature, and an orchard of trees bearing rare varieties of apples, saving several from extinction
- One of his most well-known works is called “Intimations of Immortality”
- One of his most popular and enduring works is an anthem written for Ascension Day

2.

Can you name this man who had a strong connection to Handel?

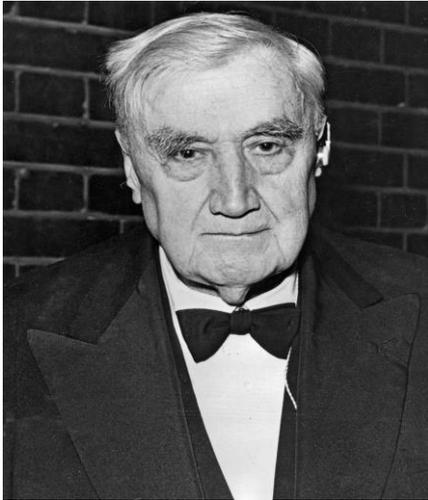


- Is it:
- a. Charles Jennens, Handel’s librettist of choice?
- b. Lord Burlington, who provided free board and lodgings to Handel in his grand house on Piccadilly?
(The building today is known as the Royal Academy of Arts.)
- c. **John Smith, Handel’s amanuensis and secretary?**

3. Can you identify this building and name the person whose grave is immediately in front of the altar? **This is the inside of St Thomas' Leipzig.**



4. Can you name this English composer? His dates are 1872-1958
This is Ralph Vaughan-Williams.



5. Where, **specifically**, is this? Construction took place between 1503 and 1516, and was paid for by Henry VII who lavished huge sums of money on it. Probably the most striking feature is the magnificent carved stone ceiling.
This is the Lady Chapel at the east end of Westminster Abby.



SECTION 4**QUESTIONS ABOUT GENERAL CHORAL SOCIETY REPERTOIRE**

1. Can you identify the work, the movement, and the composer of this famous and memorable melody? It is sung initially by the basses and it is preceded by two bars of orchestral introduction in D Minor. Later in the movement it is sung by all voices in unison.

The text and accompaniment have been removed!

This is "Libera me Domine" from Fauré's Requiem.



2. Can you identify this piece of popular mainstream choral society repertoire from its description?

This is Verdi's Requiem.

- It was composed in memory of Alessandro Manzoni, an Italian poet and novelist
- The first performance, at the San Marco church in Milan on 22 May 1874, marked the first anniversary of Manzoni's death
- It is a musical setting of a well-known text for four soloists, double choir and orchestra.
- Considered too operatic to be performed in a liturgical setting, and conceived on a grand scale, it is usually given in concert form of around 90 minutes in length
- Musicologist David Rosen calls it 'probably the most frequently performed major choral work composed since the compilation of Mozart's Requiem'

3. Which Oratorio by Handel is this describing? **This is the Oratorio "Samson".**

The "man of the sun" was the last of the judges of the ancient Israelites mentioned in the Book of Judges in the Old Testament (chapters 13 to 16) and one of the last of the leaders who "judged" Israel before the institution of the monarchy. He is sometimes considered to be an Israelite version of the popular Near Eastern folk hero also embodied by the Sumerian Enkidu and the Greek Heracles. The biblical account includes tales of immense strength and superhuman feats, including the slaying a lion with bare hands and massacring an entire army of Philistines using only the jawbone of a donkey

4. This is the first two bars of the orchestral opening of which piece of choral music?

This is "Zadok the Priest" by Handel



5. Can you name this popular oratorio from its description?

This is "Elijah" by Mendelssohn.

- *This piece was composed in the spirit of the composer's Baroque predecessors Bach and Handel, whose music he loved, and the work is modelled on the oratorios of these two Baroque masters*
- *The libretto is by Julius Schubring and is based on the Book of Kings with additional quotations from the Psalms*
- *Its lyricism and use of orchestral and choral colour the style clearly reflects the composer's own genius*
- *The work is scored for eight vocal soloists (two each of bass, tenor, alto and soprano), full symphony orchestra including trombones, ophicleide, organ, and a large chorus usually singing in four, but occasionally eight, parts*
- *The oratorio was first performed on 26th August 1846 at Birmingham Town Hall in its English version, conducted by the composer, and it was immediately acclaimed a classic of the genre*
- *The German version was first performed on the anniversary of the composer's birthday, 3rd February 1848, in Leipzig*

Scroll down for Section 5.

SECTION 5 **MUSICAL THEATRE**

1. Can you name these famous musicals from the emojis?

The King and I

Show Boat

Carousel

An American in Paris

Fiddler on the Roof

The Sound of Music



2. Can you name these well-known songs from famous musicals from the emojis?

Let's Go fly a Kite, from Mary Poppins

Feed the Birds – also from Mary Poppins

Climb Every Mountain, from the Sound of Music

Lonely Goatherd – also from the Sound of Music

Castle on a Cloud, from Les Miserables

Somewhere Over, the Rainbow from The Wizard of Oz



