



Thursday, March 13, 2014
22° 22°

Gloriae Dei Cantores de

Pipelines Work!

- Transport oil safely
- Minimize environmental impact
- Create jobs & enhance energy security



PREMIUM CONTENT
1 of 3 clicks used. Register for up to 10 free clicks per month.
[LOGIN](#) | [REGISTER](#) | [SUBSCRIBE](#)

Print this Article Email this Article

ShareThis ShareThis

By **KEITH POWERS**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
March 09, 2014

ORLEANS — Tucked away in a corner of Rock Harbor in Orleans, the estimable choir Gloriae Dei Cantores has for more than 25 years studied, performed and recorded the sacred vocal repertory. On Friday evening the choir, backed by a sturdy band of instrumentalists, performed music by two linchpins of that repertory, Bach and Buxtehude.

The vocal ensemble — drawn from members of the Community of Jesus, the ecumenical monastic group at the church — has an international reputation. That reputation has been built with multiple tours of Europe and the near east, of America, and with dozens of recordings that encompass not only the traditional sacred repertory but challenging contemporary works by composers like Copland, Thomson, Rubbra, Adler and others.

Friday's performance, directed by assistant conductor Richard Pugsley, offered Bach's cantata "Jesu, der du meine Seele," based on the story of the healing of the 10 lepers from Luke, and an earlier work, the oratorio "Membra Jesu Nostri," by Bach's predecessor and mentor Buxtehude.

IN CONCERT

What: Gloriae Dei Cantores
When: last Friday and Saturday
Where: Church of the Transfiguration, Rock Harbor, Orleans

Both works alternate ensemble vocal sections, some with instrumental accompaniment, interspersed with arias and recitatives featuring soloists drawn from the ensemble.

Bach's great genius pervades all aspects of his composition; one way this gets illustrated most directly is how he marries the meaning of text with the musical accompaniment. "Jesu, der du meine Seele" depicts not only the real, physical suffering of the leper but the suffering of the sinner in similar terms, and the subsequent healing.

Layers of emphasis passed among the vocal sections appear immediately in the choral opening. Soprano (Amanda Ortolani, who sang with clarity, forceful tone and intelligence all evening) and alto (Phoenix Catlin) take up the pleading of the lepers with the canon "O Jesu, O Meister," a duet aria. Tenor Richard Cragg sang notably — with sinuous flute accompaniment from Mariellen Sears — in his aria "Das Blut."

A baritone aria (Timothy Pehta) with oboe obbligato weaving in the background (sturdily delineated by Elizabeth Doriss), and demanding coloratura well wrought by the soloist (at the words "Handen rauben") reveals the promise being fulfilled, bringing to a close multiple settings of rich contrapuntal detail. The finale, the choral "Herr, ich glaube," creates a calming mood, both musically and texturally, drawing the work to a close.

Buxtehude's "Membra Jesu nostri" celebrates the body of Jesus as he suffers through the Passion; each of the seven sections, loosely arranged like a cantata, has an instrumental introduction, a full choir section, individual arias, and then closes with a choral recapitulation.

The orchestra was reduced to strings and harpsichord, keeping the instrumental colors simple. Each section, with the text alternately describing Jesus' feet, knees, hands, side, breast, heart and face, was a complete movement to itself, with its own musical moods and gestures.

There were several outstanding arias, but the ensemble sound dominated. While the music lacked the textural sophistication of the Bach cantata, it grew in complexity and interest as the work progressed.

Of particular note were the aria sections in "Ad manu," with first the soprano soloists (Ortolani, Alicia Mitman) and then a trio aria, well wrought, featuring alto (Catlin), tenor (Cragg) and bass (Peter McKendree) singing with a tightly blended sound.

The choir created rich vocal textures throughout. On the instrumental side, the continuo line, established largely by harpsichord (SharonRose Pfeiffer) and bass (Alexander Goodin), was consistent and strong.

Gloriae Dei Cantores next performs at the Church of the Transfiguration on July 11 and 12. For tickets and information, go to www.gdcchoir.org or call 508-240-2400.



Popular Today

Database: Cape-related state employee salaries - 3/12/2014

Man gets 6 years for attacks on girlfriend - 3/13/2014

Police: Teen tried to sell stolen items on Facebook - 3/13/2014

Cape man allegedly sold stolen items on Facebook - 3/12/2014

Dog missing in Berkshire County since July caught - 3/13/2014

Rotting dam slated for destruction in Harwich - 3/13/2014

ERROR: Couldn't open file \\GM4-d-fil-01.gmi.loc\Templates\G41\WEB\CC_includes
Error message returned was: ERROR:
Couldn't open template \\GM4-d-fil-01.gmi.loc\Templates\G41\WEB\CC_includes

Number of attempts were 4.

Error message returned was: CreateFile returned error "The system cannot find the file specified"!

ERROR: Couldn't open file \\GM4-d-fil-01.gmi.loc\Templates\G41\WEB\CC_includes
Error message returned was: ERROR:
Couldn't open template \\GM4-d-fil-01.gmi.loc\Templates\G41\WEB\CC_includes

Number of attempts were 4.

Error message returned was: CreateFile returned error "The system cannot find the file specified"!

COUPON OF THE WEEK

Buy 12 visits get 4 FREE
Buy 12 visits get 4 FREE...
SunCenter 2000



SEE ALL ONLINE TODAY

[MORE >>](#)

14 Day "Try-Before-You-Buy"
The Woman's Workout Company

\$10 off Specialty Class
The Woman's Workout Company

30 Day Personal Training Experience ONLY
\$79
The Woman's Workout Company

25% Off Any Bottle of Lotion
Sunsational Tanning Boutique

Buy any minutes plan, get 10 minutes free



We cannot load the page you requested

The page you asked for may no longer exist due to some recent changes to our online offerings. Our regional portal site can be found by clicking on the Content from the newsroom of the Cape Cod Times. If you are looking for a particular article

Connect with capecodonline.com

[Reader Services](#)

[Submissions](#)

[HOMES](#)

[JOBS](#)

[RENTALS](#)

Become a member of the Cape Cod Times and enjoy the convenience of home or office delivery



subscribe to the Cape Cod Times



EXPLORE ALL THE FRESH CHOICES >



EXPLORE ALL THE FRESH CHOICES >



Long-term Nursing Care
at Linden Ponds.



Request a Free Brochure

Long-term Nursing Care
at Linden Ponds.



Request a Free Brochure

Long-term Nursing Care
at Linden Ponds.



Request a Free Brochure