

ASO CHAMBER CHORUS Announcements – January 14, 2009

IF IT'S FRIDAY, THIS MUST BE... WHALES?

Haydn structured his CREATION-oratorio into this neat subdivision:

Part I

Nrs. 1-3: The 1st Day – Light

Nrs. 4-5: The 2nd Day – Sky

Nrs. 6-11: The 3rd Day – Earth and Seas; Plants

Nrs. 12-14: The 4th Day – Sun, Moon and Stars

-(choral finale, “Die Himmel erzählen die Ehre Gottes” – “The Heavens declare the glory of God”)

Part II

Nrs. 15-19: The 5th Day – Fish and Fowl

Nrs. 20-26: The 6th Day – Terrestrial Beasts and Humanity

-(choral finale, “Vollendet ist das grosse Werk” – “The great work is completed”)

Part III – “The Garden of Eden”

Nrs. 27-32: The 7th Day – Adam and Eve

-(choral finale, “Singt dem Herren, alle Stimmen” – “Let every voice sing unto the Lord”)

-Beats the hell out of Broadway's CATS, doesn't it? Why?

Because:

HAYDN'S MIRACLE

The inspiration and perspiration poured into Haydn's CREATION are equal – every measure is a miracle. This creator's industry and the artistry are both on the highest level possible. Spending time with a masterwork like this, I am reminded of Robert Shaw's analogy:

“I recall the voices of my father and grandfather announcing from their pulpits on Christmas mornings that ‘the Word was made Flesh.’ And the reciprocal truth strikes me that it is possible for matter to become spirit. -That the Arts are the ‘Flesh become Word.’ And for me that is no less a miracle, and no less Divine.”

Amen!

Jeffrey Baxter / *Choral Administrator* / Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Friday, February 20, 2009

-A Reminder, Funny and Observation:

REMINDER

See you tomorrow morning, SATURDAY, 2-21-09, 10:00am at Trinity Prez.

FUNNY

“Der Herr ist gross” = “Your hair is gross?”

-Reminds me of one of my students in South Carolina when I was preparing them for a Mozart REQUIEM. This eager Mozartean bought a copy of the Shaw/ASO recording and thought when he heard the passage “Quam olim Abrahae promisisti” that he was hearing something out of a Smurf cartoon: “Come hold me, Gargamel – call me sissy!”

OBSERVATION

The beautiful slow intro to the final chorus in CREATION (beautiful, like many of Haydn's slow intros to a symphonic Allegro) contains an odd word, “Wettgesang” [competition-song; festival-song; festive song]. The full phrase, “Lasst zu Ehren seines Namens Lob in Wettgesang erschallen,” which ends with a period, really should end with a colon [:]. Why? -Because Haydn's delightfully dizzying double fugue that ensues is the “Wettgesang:”

“To the honor of God's name, let festive song ring out”

-or as one translator put it “Let song with song compete!”

See you in the a.m. for more!

-**Jeffrey Baxter** | Choral Administrator / Atlanta Symphony Orchestra