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The Creation, Lawrence University Choirs and Orchestra, April 29, 2016

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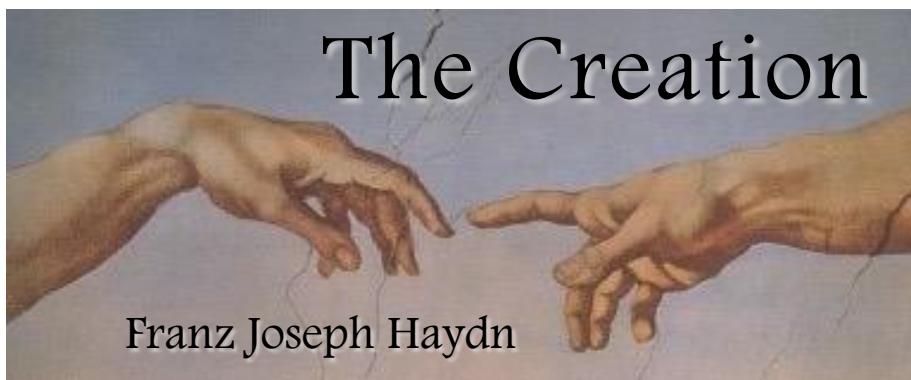
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Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Robert Shaw's Birth



The Creation

Franz Joseph Haydn

Modern English translation by Robert Shaw and Alice Parker

Lawrence University Choirs and Orchestra

Dr. Phillip A. Swan, conductor

Emily Birsan '08 (*Gabriel, Eve*)

Luke Honeck '20 (*Uriel*)

Evan Bravos '10 (*Raphael, Adam*)

Kathrine Handford, harpsichord

Friday, April 29, 2016
Lawrence Memorial Chapel
8:00 pm

The Creation (Die Schöpfung), Hoboken XXI:2

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Translation by Robert Shaw and Alice Parker

Part I

1. Introduction

The Representation of Chaos

DAY ONE

2. Recitative

Raphael

In the beginning, God created Heaven and Earth;
and the Earth was without form and void;
and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

Chorus

In the spirit, God moved upon the face of the waters;
and God said: Let there be light. And there was light.

Recitative: Uriel

And God saw the light, that it was good;
and God divided the light from the darkness.

3. Aria with Chorus

Uriel

Now vanished by the holy beams
the ancient, ghostly, shuddering blackness;
the First of Days appears.
Confusion yields, and order shines most fair.
Aghast, the fiends of hell confounded fly;
down they sink in the deep abyss to endless night.

Chorus

Convulsion, rage and terror
engulf their monstrous fall.

A new created world springs forth
at God's command.

DAY TWO

4. Recitative

Raphael

And God made the firmament,
and divided the waters which were under the firmament
from the waters which were above the firmament;
and it was so.

Then howling raged the blast of the tempest.
The clouds then were driven like chaff in the wind, the
lightnings slashed the heaven asunder,
and crashing thunder resounded on high.
From waters rose at his command the all-refreshing rain,
the devastating hail, the light and flaky snow.

5. Solo and Chorus

Gabriel

What wonder doth his work reveal
to heaven's host in joyful throng,
and loud resounds throughout the skies
the praise of God and of the Second Day.

Chorus

And loud resounds throughout the skies
the praise of God and of the Second Day.

DAY THREE

6. Recitative

Raphael

And God said: Let the waters under the heaven
be gathered together to one place,
and let the dry land appear; and it was so.

And God called the dry land Earth,
and the gathering of the waters called he seas;
and God saw that it was good.

7. **Aria**

Raphael

Rolling in foaming billows,
tumultuous swells the raging sea.
Highland and headland uplifted
through clouds their towering summits rise.
Through broad and ample plains
full flows the gathering stream and winding wanders.
Lightly murmuring, gently glides
through silent glades the crystal brook.

8. **Recitative**

Gabriel

And God said: Let all the earth bring forth grass,
the herb yielding seed,
and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind,
whose seed is in itself, upon the earth:
And it was so.

9. **Aria**

Gabriel

Now robed in cool refreshing green,
the fields their new enchantment wear;
and more to charm the sight arise the flowers in bright array.
Here herbs of every leaf abound;
here dwells a healing grace.
The burdened boughs their golden fruit afford;
here arbors spread their vaulted, restful shade.
and lofty hills are crowned with kingly groves.

10. **Recitative**

Uriel

And the heavenly host proclaimed
the Third Day,
praising God and saying:

11. Chorus

Awake the harp, ye choirs awaken,
Loud let the praise of God be sounded.
Rejoice in the Lord, the mighty God;
Surely the heavens and earth
has he girded with splendor and light.

DAY FOUR

12. Recitative

Uriel

And God said:
Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven
to divide the day from the night,
to give their light upon the earth;
and let them be for signs and for seasons,
and for days and for years.
He made the stars also.

13. Recitative

Uriel

In shining splendor, radiant now the sun bestrides the sky;
a wondrous, joyful bridegroom,
a giant proud and glad,
he runs his ordered course.
With softer steps and wistful shimmer,
steals the moon through still enshadow'd night.
The boundless vaults of heaven's domain
shine with unnumbered magnitude of stars.
And the sons of God rejoiced in the Fourth Day
in chorus divine, praising God's great might, and saying:

14. Chorus with Trio

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
with wonders of his work resounds the firmament.

Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael

Revealed are his ways by day unto day,
by night that is gone to following night.

Chorus

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
with wonders of his work resounds the firmament.

Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael

In every land is known the Word,
Every ear will hearken; never tongue be dumb.

Chorus

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
with wonders of his work resounds the firmament.

♦ 5-minute pause ♦

Part II

DAY FIVE

15. Recitative

Gabriel

And God said: Let the waters bring forth abundantly
every moving creature that hath life,
and fowl that fly above the earth
in the open firmament of heaven.

16. Aria

Gabriel

On mighty wings now circling soars the eagle proud
and cleaves the air with swift exulting flight
to greet the sun.
At morn the lark his cheerful welcome sings;
adoring, coos the tender turtle dove.
From every bush and grove
pours now the nightingale her sweetest carol;

no grief has ruffled yet her breast, nor yet to sorrow has
been tuned her charming roundelay.

17. Recitative

Raphael

And God created great whales,
and every living creature that moveth;
and God blessed them, saying:
Be fruitful all and multiply, ye creatures of the sky;
be multiplied and fill the air with song!
Multiply, ye creatures of the waters,
and fill each watery deep!
Be fruitful, grow, and multiply!
Rejoice in the Lord your God!

18. Recitative

Raphael

And the angels struck their immortal harps
and sang the wonders of the fifth day.

19. Trio

Gabriel

In fairest raiment now, with virgin green adorned,
the rolling hills appear.
From deep and secret springs, in fleeting crystal flow, the
cooling brook doth pour.

Uriel

In joyful garlands borne on wheeling tides of air, upwings
the feathered host.
The myriad feathers' gleam reflects in shimmering flight
the golden sun's pure light.

Raphael

From sparkling waters leap the fish
and twisting flash in ceaseless motion round.
From deepest ocean home waltzes up leviathan,
in foaming waves to play.

Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael

How many are Thy works, O God!

Who may their number tell?

Who? O God? Who may their number tell?

Chorus with Trio

The Lord is great, and great His might,

and ever stands His name

DAY SIX

20. Recitative

Raphael

And God said:

Let earth bring forth every living creature after his kind,

cattle and creeping things,

and beast of the earth after his kind.

21. Recitative

Raphael

Straight opening her fertile womb,

the earth brings forth at God's command

unnumbered living creatures, in perfect forms, and fully grown.

Triumphant, roaring stands the lion there.

With a lightning leap, the tiger appears.

Bounding with branching head, the nimble stag.

With snorting and stamping, flying mane,

uprears in might the noble steed.

In pleasant pastures,

quietly the cattle graze on meadows green.

And o'er the ground, as growing there,

abide the fleecy, gentle sheep.

As clouds of dust arise, in swarms assembled

the host of insects.

In long dimension creeps, with sinuous trace, the worm.

22. **Aria**

Raphael

Now shines the brightest glory of heaven;
now spreads the lavish attire of earth.
The air is filled with soaring processions,
the water swelled by swarming legions;
the ground is trod by ponderous beasts,
But all the work was not complete;
there wanted yet that wondrous being,
that God's design might thankful see
and grant his goodness joyful praise.

23. **Recitative**

Uriel

And God created Man in his own image;
in the image of God created he him;
male and female, created he them.
And God breathed into their nostrils the breath of life,
and they became a living soul.

24. **Aria**

Uriel

In native worth and honor clad,
with beauty, strength and courage formed,
toward heaven raised uprightly,
stands a man, the lord and king of nature all.
His proud and arching, noble brow
proclaims of wisdom's deep abode,
and in his eyes with brightness shines the soul,
the breath and image of his God.
And to his breast he softly holds
one of and for him formed.
his other self, his pure delight.
With virgin grace so sweetly giv'n
as springtime's charms bestowed,
she loves him, he loves her, yields their joy and bliss.

25. Recitative

Raphael

And God saw everything that he had made,
and behold, it was very good;
and the heavenly choir loud rejoicing
raised their song of praise and hailed the Sixth Day.

26. Chorus

Fulfilled at last the glorious work;
the Maker sees with sure delight.
Let all our joy resound aloud;
eternal praise to him accord.

Trio

Gabriel, Uriel

From thee, O Lord, doth all proceed;
all nature must thy bounty wait.
If open be thy hand, its fullness feedeth all.

Raphael

But if thy face be turned away,
A ghostly terror fills the night,
the living breath is gone, and dust returns to dust.

Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael

Thy breath, O Lord, is felt again,
and life awakes with sweet surprise.
Renewed is all the earth,
refreshed its charm and might.

Chorus

Fulfilled at last the glorious work,
Eternal praise to Him accord.
For He alone doth reign exalted. Alleluia. Glorious
be His name forever. Alleluia.

♦ 5-minute pause ♦

Part III

Adam and Eve

27. Recitative

Uriel

In rosy mantle, bright awaked by sweetest tones,
the morning young and fair.
From heaven's vaulted realm
streams purest harmony to earth below.
Behold the happy pair as hand in hand they go:
as from their eyes radiant shines
the thanks they owe.
Full soon their tongues shall tell
the louder praise of God.
Then let our voices ring united with their song!

28. Hymn

Eve, Adam

By Thee with grace, O bounteous Lord,
are earth and heaven stored.
This world, so great, so wonderful,
Thy mighty hand has framed.

Chorus

O blessed be His holy might;
His praise we sing eternally.

Adam

Thou star of morning,
O how fair thy tidings of the day;
What radiance rare, O sun, is thine,
thou eye and soul of all!

Chorus

Proclaim, in your extended course,
your maker's power and glory bright!

Eve

And thou, the tender queen of night,
and all ye starry host,
proclaim in every land
His praise in heaven's harmonies!

Adam

Ye mighty elements,
by His power your endless changes make;
ye misty vapors,
which the wind doth spin and roll through air.

Eve, Adam, Chorus

O sing the praise of God the Lord.
Great is His name, and great His might.

Eve

Soft flowing fountains,
tune his praise, and trees adoring bow.
Ye fragrant plants, ye flowers fair,
with sweetness fill the air!

Adam

Ye that on a highest mountain climb,
and ye that lowly creep,
ye whose flight doth cleave the skies,
and ye that swim the deep,

Eve, Adam and Chorus

Ye, creatures of our God and King,
praise, praise Him, all ye breathing life!

Eve, Adam

Ye shadowed woods, ye hills and vales,
your thanks with ours unite
and echo loud from morn to eve
our joyful hymn of praise.

Chorus

Hail, mighty God, Creator, hail!

The world springs forth at Thy command.
Adoring earth and heaven stand.
We praise Thy name forevermore.

29. **Recitative**

Adam

Now is our duty well fulfilled;
our Maker have we duly thanked.
Now follow me, companion of my life!
Thy guide I'll be, and every step
wakes new delight within my breast,
shows wonders everywhere.
Then surely thou shalt know
what boundless realms of joy the Lord hath given us.
Him praise we evermore,
Him serve with heart and mind.
Come, follow me! Thy guide I'll be.

Eve

O thou for whom I live!
My arm, my shield, my all!
Thy will to me is law.
So doth our Lord ordain;
That I obey thee is my joy and glory.

30. **Duet**

Adam

Sweet companion, here beside thee
softly fly the golden hours.
Every moment is rapture;
naught of sadness lingers near.

Eve

Dearest husband! here beside thee
floods of joy o'erflow my heart.
That thou love me is my blessing;
thine forever is my life.

Adam

The dew-freshened morning, O bright awakening!

Eve

The coolness of evening, sweetly restoring!

Adam

How rich the taste of round and ripened fruit!

Eve

How charming the scent of gay and fragrant flower!

Eve, Adam

But without thee, what is to me:

the morning dew?

the evening cool?

the ripened fruit?

the fragrant flower?

With thee is every joy exalted;

with thee, delight is ever new;

with thee is rapture everlasting.

Thine be my love and life.

31. **Recitative**

Uriel

O happy pair! and happy evermore

if false conceit betray ye not,

the more to covet than ye have

and more to know than ye should.

32. **Chorus with Soloists**

Sing to God, ye hosts unnumbered!

Thanks, all thanks for wonders new created!

Praise his name in song unending,

loud in festival rejoicing!

The Lord is great, He reigns forevermore.

Amen.

Program Notes

The *Creation* of Haydn was written in 1797-1798, at the culminating point of this great decade of composition. These years had been spent largely in England: he had composed the magnificent *London Symphonies*, and had listened, deeply moved, to performances of Handel's choral works. On his return to Vienna, he asked his friend Baron van Swieten to translate into German and English libretto which had been given him by one Linley, who had prepared it from Milton's *Paradise Lost* and from *Genesis*. Haydn composed the music to this German text, and the first performance in 1798, with Haydn himself conducting, was sung in German. This same Baron van Swieten then retranslated the text into English with rather considerable changes in the duration and accentuation of Haydn's phrases, and, according to Tovey, "not without refreshing details in the style of 'English as She is Spoke'." The present translation is an attempt not only to repair the "*disjecta membra* of the Linley-van-Swieten-English-as-She-is-Spoke confection," but to unite Haydn's minutely picturesque musical language with the colorful and understandable English text which it deserves.

Sir Donald Francis Tovey, in his essay on the *Creation*, gives a clear picture of the scope and purpose of the work. "The words of the Bible are divided between three archangels, Raphael, Uriel, and Gabriel, and a chorus which, throughout the whole work, may be considered as that of the heavenly hosts. The list and description of created things is not distributed haphazardly among the three archangels: Uriel is distinctly the angel of the sun and of daylight; his is the tenor voice, and his is the description of Man. Raphael sings of the earth and the sea, of the beginning of all things . . . the description of the beasts, the great whales, and 'every living creature that moveth'; and it is he who reports God's blessing, 'Be fruitful and multiply.' In a measured passage which is one of the sublimest incidents in Haydn's recitatives. Gabriel, the soprano, leads the heavenly hosts and describes the vegetable kingdom and the world of bird life.

Lastly, Adam and Eve appear and fulfill the purpose announced by Raphael while as yet 'the work was not complete; there wanted yet that wondrous being, who God's design might thankful see, and grant His goodness joyful praise.' Or, as the first answer in the Shorter Catechism has it,

Q. What is the chief end of Man?

A. To glorify God and to enjoy Him for ever."

- notes by *Robert Shaw and Alice Parker*

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concertmaster

Eleanor Legault,
associate

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Brandin Kreuder

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Annabelle Tsai

Joan Shalit

Laura Duggan

Sarah Olsen

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Abigail Keefe,
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Isabel Dammann

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Jessica Gehring

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Trace Hybertson

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principal

Nic Bizub,
co-principal

Viola, cont.

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Gawain Usher

Kyle Stalsberg

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Mya Hunt

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Flute

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Horn

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Katie Mueller, Gabriel (Part 1)
Elisabeth Burmeister, Gabriel (Part 2)
Froya Olson, Eve (Part 3)
Deme Hellwig, mezzo-soprano (Part 3)
Luke Honeck, Uriel
Paul Gutmann, Raphael/Adam

Continuo

Kathrine Handford, harpsichord
Adam Korber, cello
Emmett Jackson, bass

**Special thanks to Matt Michelic, Janet Anthony, Mark Urness,
and Nick Keelan for assistance with LSO sectionals.**

We gratefully acknowledge the important role all of the Lawrence faculty play in preparing our students academically and musically, from our colleagues in music history and theory, to our colleagues in sight-singing, aural skills and keyboard skills, and to our colleagues in the liberal arts. We give special thanks to the studio voice, instrumental, and piano artist faculty:

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Choirs:

Friday, May 27, 2016

8:00 p.m.

Lawrence Memorial Chapel

LSO:

Saturday, May 28, 2016

8:00 p.m.

Lawrence Memorial Chapel

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