

Christmas Organ Concert

Hl. Familienkirche Linz, 15 December 2005

Organ and presentation: Christiaan van de Woestijne

Programme

1. Franz Schmidt (1874-1939): “Halleluja-Prelude”
2. Talk: “What is an organ?!”
3. The Story of the Shepherds

Music: “Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland” and

“Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her” by Johann Sebastian Bach;

excerpts from “La Nativité du Seigneur” by Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992);

“O come, all ye faithful” by Christiaan van de Woestijne (world premiere!)

Text: Christiaan van de Woestijne, after the **Gospel of Luke**.

- I. The world is dark, and fervently awaiting the Saviour.
- II. Around the year 0 AD, near Bethlehem, some shepherds keep the nightwatch. The hours of the night pass slowly...
- III. Somewhere, they hear a nightbird sing...
- IV. To chase time, one of them plays an old song on his syrinx...
- V. Suddenly, an ANGEL! Everything turns bright around them. They are terrified!
- VI. The angel tells them not to be afraid. Rather, there's really great news to tell: this night, the Saviour is born, quite close to where they are!
- VII. His voice multiplies, by and by the whole sky is full of angels singing God's praise... It's an overwhelming experience.
- VIII. The angels are gone, the sky is still glowing, and so are their hearts...
- IX. There's only one thing to do: head into town, find the newborn king, and adore him!

Programme (continued, subject to change at last notice!)

4. Christmas Songs

i. From “Kerstsuite” Nrs. 1 and 2 by Jan Zwart (1877-1937)

1. “Stille Nacht” (2 variations)
2. “Er ruischt langs de Wolken”
3. “O, Sanctissima” (2 variations)
4. Pastorale and fugato on “V an uit den hemel daalde ik neer”

ii. From the “Orgelbüchlein” by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

1. “Christum wir sollen loben schon” (“A solis ortus cardine”)
2. “In dulci jubilo” (simple setting and canon, listen carefully!)

iii. “O come, O come, Immanuel”

iv. “Ding Dong! Merrily on High”

v. “Es ist ein Ros entsprungen”

vi. “Macht hoch die Tür”

1. In a setting by Max Reger (1873-1916)
2. Improvised variations and finale

Thanks to:

- the Pfarramt and organists of the Hl. Familienkirche, for making this possible
- Herrn Franz Kapplinger in particular, for assisting me during the concert
- everyone in the audience, for coming! Merry Christmas and a happy new year!