

Responsorial Psalm for a Choir Director by Pat Terry

Performed by Pat Terry and Charles Antrobus on the occasion of Dr Andrew-John Bethke's farewell concert on 27 March 2017, which was organised and compered by Andrew Tracey

Pat's introduction:

With so many musicians here tonight, it is time for all of us – audience and performers alike – to join together in our next item.

We have heard much recently of AJ's transformative effect in many aspects of our lives and music in Grahamstown. One of these has been the way in which Psalms are sung in the Cathedral.

Rather than letting the congregation stumbling through the pitfalls of Anglican Chant, he has adopted a system where a cantor presents a few verses in plainsong, to which the congregation responds with a simple mantra, sung to the melody of a well-known hymn. Those members of the congregation who are unable to find a prayer book can, nevertheless, profitably spend their time trying to identify the hymn whose tune he has chosen for the response.

In all this time neither Charles nor I can remember being chosen to be the cantor. We shall take our revenge this evening, with a Psalm to be found in the very rare Parody Psalter, in which the psalmist cries out for help in managing his choir.

The first chant is by Accident, the second by Gerald Knight of the RSCM (who, incidentally visited this Cathedral many years ago) and the third is a famous chant by Joseph Barnby.

Charles will now sing the response we have chosen, and you are asked to sing it back to him and to see if you can identify the hymn from which it is taken.

(Response – The nave is alive)

1. Oh Lord, hasten thou to lift me | up :
Let not mine enemies | cast me | down.
2. Hold me up, and let me not fall, lest I go | down :
Keep me on thy level way until it is | meet to | go up.
3. When I sing to thee in turn with my | neighbour :
then thou hearest our | glad an|tiphony
4. But when we get lost in total con|fusion *(together)*
But if the cries of the naughty men | flourish :
then thy people lam|ent our ca|cophony.

(Response – The nave is alive)

PSALM 115

G. H. Knight

5. Not unto us O Lord, not unto us, but unto the tone deaf | give the | chord :
for thy loving | mercy and | for this | psalm's sake.

6. Why must | then the | altos || say :
| where is | now our | note?

7. As for the tenors | they are . in | trouble :
they will | sing . whatso|ever | pleaseth them.

8. The basses are | silvered . and | old :
but they still have their | hair . after | all these | years.

(*Response – The nave is alive*)

9. Some have | mouths and | open || not :
| eyes | have they | and | look not.

10. They have | ears and | listen || not :

| music have | they and | read not.

(*Response – The nave is alive*)

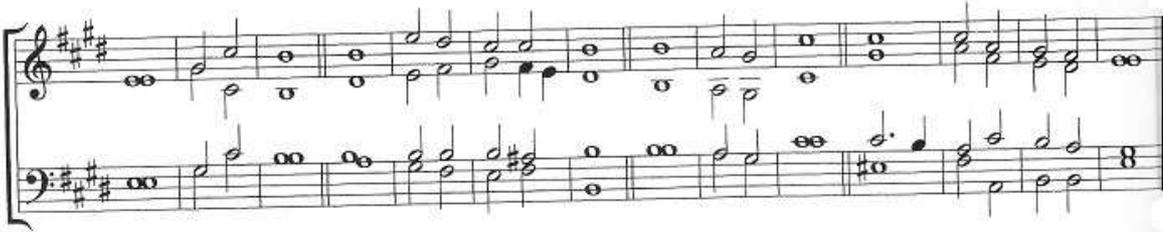
11. The deaf hear not | me O | Lord :
neither will these | children . ever | go down . into | silence.

12. Take from me a | froward | heart :
give me | patience . and | under | standing.

(*Response – The nave is alive*)

PSALM 24

J. Barnby



13. I opened my mouth and drew | in my | breath :
the organ | thundered and . I | gave the | sign.

14. My eyes gushed | out like | water :
there was no | tuneful | note . no not | one.

15. I am delivered into the | hands of . strange | children :
in wisdom thou must have made them all , the | earth is | full of . such | wretches.

16. This is the generation of | them that . know | Google :
even of them that | find their | friends on | Facebook.

(*Response – The nave is alive*)

(PDT, 27 March, 2017, Grahamstown)