

Saturday 24 & Sunday 25

Recessional
(1911)

Grand-Choeur (alla Handel) in D, Op.18 No.1

Alexandre Guilmant (1837-

Handel's celebrated popularity has remained constant since his own lifetime, but, reflecting the ebb and flow of musical fashions, the way his music has been performed has depended on tastes of the times... During the 19th century Handel was done presented 'big scale'— as this swaggering march marking homage to him by the great organist Guilmant demonstrates. This stirring march is unusual in that it is in 3/4 time – like a massive minuet, it strides imperiously and full of joy. The work is in A-B-A structure: due to current restraints of the time, we hear the second reprise of the A section.

Saturday 31

Recessional
(1686-1739)

Psalm XIX "The heavens declare the glory of God"

Benedetto Marcello

A joyous piece inspired by the words of Psalm 19 by the Venetian nobleman Marcello. His father hoped his son would devote his career to law and public service, something Benedetto managed alongside one in music (which he studied with Lotti and Gasparini). In 1711 he was appointed a member of the Council of Forty in Venice's central government and in 1730 he went to Pola as district governor. After eight years he retired to Brescia in the capacity of Camerlengo, dying of tuberculosis.

He composed prolifically in many genres; a younger contemporary of Vivaldi, his music clearly show the influence of 'the Red Priest' (Vivaldi's nickname due to his red hair). His music for Psalm XIX is celebratory, and we can imagine celestial heraldic trumpets and rejoicing in the declaration of God's glory.



D'Arcy Trinkwon, Abbey Organist