

Concert News: Columbia Pro Cantare's Free Concert Presentation begins on March 7

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Durufié's "Requiem" by Columbia Pro Cantare. Frances Motyca Dawson, conducting at First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Photo courtesy of Columbia Pro Cantare.

Columbia Pro Cantare will be posting a free concert under the direction of Frances Motyca Dawson. The selections are from its 2016 Durufié "Requiem" concert with the Howard County Concert Orchestra, held at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Appearing on the harp is Jaqueline Pollauf and on the organ is Donald Fries. It features Laura Whittenberger, soprano, and Rob McGinness, baritone.

C.V. Stanford's "The Lord is my Shepherd," is sung by the CPC Chamber Singers, and Debussy's, "En Bateau" and "Beau Soir" will also be featured. You can catch a short introduction by Dr. Barbara Renton before the performance.

Durufié started writing his piece in 1944, completing it in 1947. It was originally commissioned by the Vichy government of France. Soon after the piece was completed, the government collapsed. The composer used material from "Mass for the Dead" in Gregoria Chant and the work is structured in nine movements.

Stanford, an Irish composer, wrote “The Lord is My Shepherd” in May 1886, influenced by Brahms. Debussy composed “Petite Suite” from 1886-1889 of which “En bateau” is one of four movements. “Beau Soir,” French for ‘Beautiful Evening’ is a song written by Debussy and is the setting of a poem by Paul Bourget. It was composed when Debussy was still a student in 1880.

This performance is part of Columbia Pro Cantare’s 44th Season, 2020-2021. CPC continues to be a source of pride for Columbia and the rest of Howard County. Under the Leadership of Frances Motyca Dawson, they have consistently given audiences from all over high quality choral performances. They are one of the voices that has been so badly missed during the pandemic.

The link to the concert will be posted on the [CPC website](#) and will remain on YouTube for the following year. If you missed their performance of “Handel’s Messiah” at holiday time this year, you can catch it for free on YouTube by going first to the CPC website.

This concert is dedicated to the memory of Carolyn W. Gayle.

Note: If you want to learn more about Columbia Pro Cantare check out Susan Brall’s [interview with Frances Motyca Dawson](#) on MDTG. To read her review of “Handel’s Messiah” from December 2019, click [here](#).