



Chamber/Concert Choir Virtual Learning

# High School Large Choral Works

**May 1, 2020**



High School Chamber/Concert Choir  
Lesson: May 1, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target: students will learn about large choral works**



# LARGE WORK

1. What is it?
  - a. Compositions composed for chorus and orchestra and typically have several movements.
2. What is a “movement” in music?
  - a. Collection of multiple songs that are to be performed together and without applause in between.

## THE YUCCA FALLS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Yasser Ahmed Hoolihan, *Conductor*

Hector Pernambuco, *Violin*

Overture to *The Barber of Seville*.....Rossini

Violin Concerto no. 2 in B minor.....Paganini

Allegro maestoso

Adagio

Rondo

Hector Pernambuco, *Violin*

- INTERMISSION

Symphony no. 4 in A (*Italian*).....ssohn

Allegro vivace

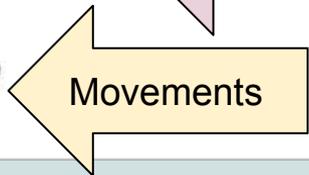
Andante con moto

Con moto moderato

Saltarello: presto



Large Work



Movements

# HANDEL'S *MESSIAH*

- Composer: George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)
- *Messiah* was written in 1741
- Oratorio: a large-scale musical work for orchestra and voices, typically a narrative on a religious theme, performed without the use of costumes, scenery, or action.



# HANDEL'S *MESSIAH*

- Handel wrote the music in 24 days
- SATB Choir
- Original Orchestra
  - 2 trumpets
  - 2 oboes
  - 2 violins
  - Viola
  - Timpani
  - Basso continuo
    - Harpsichord
    - Organ
    - Cello
    - Bass
- Three Parts
  - Each part has multiple scene and pieces
  - Some are solos, instrumental, or the choir
- The work was later reworked to be played with a full orchestra and large choir

# HANDEL'S *MESSIAH*

- Hallelujah is the most well known piece from this work.
- In this recording, you can hear the audience stand up as this movement begins. This has been tradition since King George II did it.
- Listen to the different parts weave in and out of each other and then when they all come back together.
- Listen to the orchestra and how it interacts with the choir



# ANDRE THOMAS *MASS: A CELEBRATION OF LOVE AND JOY*

- Composer: Andre Thomas
  - B. 1952
  - Grew up in Wichita, KS
- At age 16, he took a job as a church choir director and began arranging music to make it work with them.
- Some of his popular choir pieces:
  - [Keep Your Lamps](#)
  - [I Dream a World](#)
  - [Glory to God](#)



# ANDRE THOMAS *MASS: A CELEBRATION OF LOVE AND JOY*

- SATB Choir and soloists
- Orchestra
  - 2 Flutes
  - Oboe
  - English Horn
  - 2 Clarinets
  - 2 Bassoons
  - 4 French Horns
  - 3 Trumpets
  - 3 Trombones
  - Tuba
  - Tempani
  - Percussion
  - 2 Violins
  - 2 Violas
  - Cellos
  - Bass
  - Piano
- Gospel style
- Parts of the Mass:
  - Kyrie
  - Gloria
  - Credo
  - Sanctus
  - Agnus Dei
- Robert Ray wrote his *Gospel Mass* in 1978 and Andre Thomas sang in the choir that premiered it. He started composing his own in 2014 and premiered his in 2019.

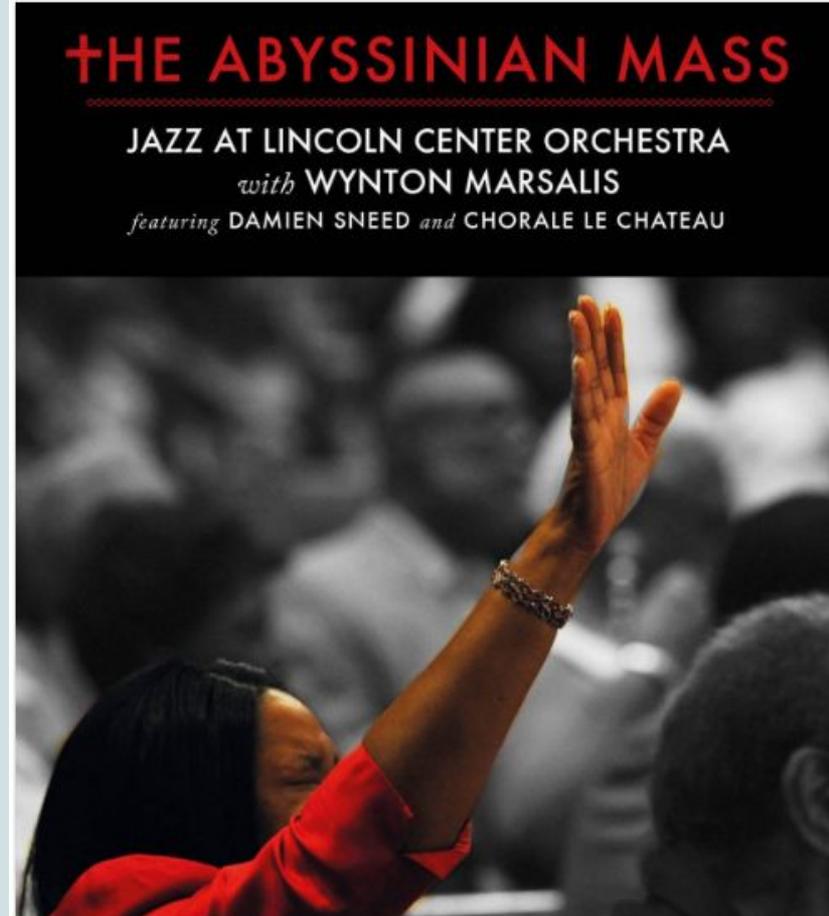
# ANDRE THOMAS *MASS: A CELEBRATION OF LOVE AND JOY*

- 1st Movement
  - Kyrie
- Right from the start, you can tell it's written in a gospel form and different than most masses.
- This movement has two soloists
- Kyrie eleison means “Lord Have Mercy”. They sing it in Latin and in English. As well as other text in this movement.
- Listen for the orchestra and how the drums really drive the music.



# ABYSSINIAN MASS

- Composer: Wynton Marsalis born 1961
- Writing started in 2008 and premiered in 2013
- Mass: is a large work originally used for church services.
- Typically at least 5 parts called the ordinary: Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Agnus Dei.
- This particular work takes a different approach to the mass while staying attached to the traditional ordinary format



# ABYSSINIAN MASS

- Written for big band and a 70-piece gospel choir
- Choir
  - SATB with soloists
- Big Band
  - Drumset
  - Piano
  - Guitar
  - Double Bass
  - 4 Trumpets
  - 3 Trombones
  - 5 Saxophones
- Few jazz works are considered “sacred” (meaning religious) versus secular (non-religious)

- Damien Sneed conducted it and Wynton Marsalis said Damien should be the only one to conduct the work because of how musical and excellent he was

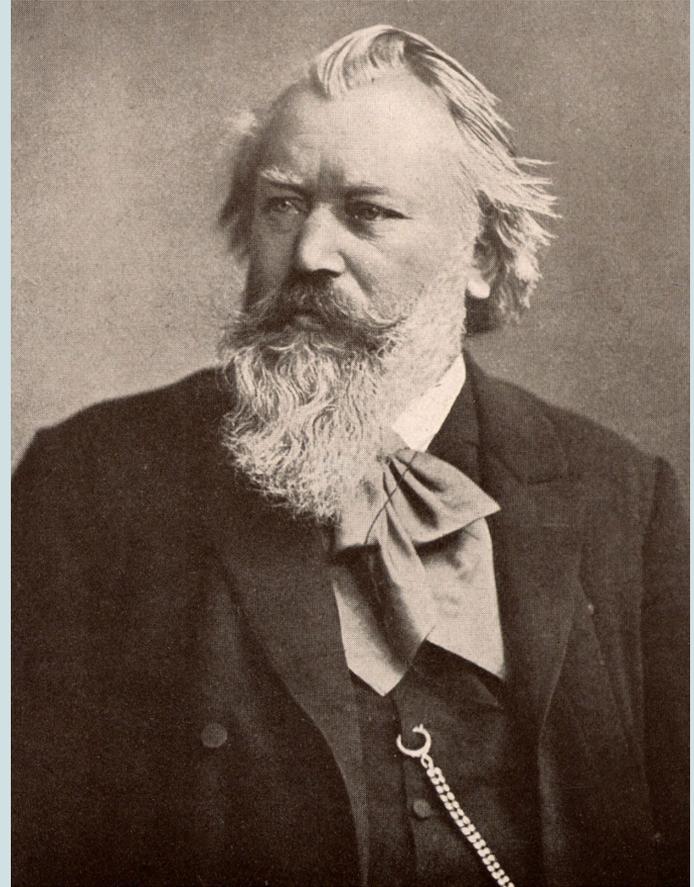


# ABYSSINIAN MASS



# BRAHMS REQUIEM (A GERMAN REQUIEM)

- Johannes Brahms: Wrote the 7-movement work over three years 1865-1868
- About 65 to 80 minutes long
- Requiem: Typically a large scale work composed of 7 or 8 parts
  - Introitus
  - Kyrie
  - Dies Irae
  - Offertorium
  - Sanctus
  - Benedictus
  - Agnus Dei
  - Lux aeterna



# BRAHMS REQUIEM

- Said to have been inspired by the passing of his mother as well as long time friend and mentor, Robert Schumann
- Normally requiems are written in Latin but this work follows the Martin Luther German translation of the bible
- Written for orchestra, soprano and baritone soloists, and mixed choir
- Orchestra
  - Piccolo
  - 2 Flutes
  - 2 Oboes
  - 2 Clarinets
  - 2 Bassoons and Contrabass
  - 4 Horns
  - 2 Trumpets
  - 3 Trombones
  - Tuba
  - Strings
  - Harp
  - Organ

# BRAHMS REQUIEM-1ST MOVEMENT

Listen for:

- The slow tempo
- Listen for melodic themes that are passed between the orchestra
- The choir's piano entrance at the beginning
- The expressive singing (even though it's in German, you can clearly hear the syllable stress).
- This video scans the orchestra, choir, and conductor for a cool perspective



# THE REHEARSAL

- Rehearsals with orchestra and a large choir look different than a normal choir rehearsal.
- Usually there isn't a lot of time to put it all together. So it is extremely important that everyone knows their part very well.
- No talking when conductor is giving instructions to anyone. We all know how this goes... one person talks and it spreads and grows to being too loud.
- The conductor will be communicating with the orchestra and the choir so listen well and watch for the cues.
- It is such a cool experience to do a large work with orchestra. Enjoy it!

# LESSON TAKEAWAYS

1. Which piece (out of the four) stuck out to you the most?
2. If you could perform one of these pieces, which one would you pick? Why?
3. What did you notice was different than the choir music we are used to singing?

THINKING...



# EXTRA PRACTICE

Here are some other large works that are awesome! Some are older and some are more modern.

Listen for similarities and differences from the four we listened to in the lesson.

Dan Forrest- [Requiem for the Living](#)

Robert Ray- [Gospel Mass](#)

Beethoven- [9th Symphony](#)

Verdi- [Requiem](#)