

Gloria by Francis Poulenc
Isaiah 35: 1-10
December 11, 2005
Susan Noble soprano

J. David Štech, Director
First Presbyterian Church
Lake Forest, Illinois

Gloria by Francis Poulenc is presented by the Sanctuary Choir, Strings and Organ. Poulenc (1899-1963) was a largely self-taught musician who joined a circle of young composers gathered around the eccentric Erik Satie. They opposed the vagueness of Impressionism and advocated simplicity and clarity. Poulenc and his circle hit the classical music scene with almost the same biting, nihilistic force that the punk movement slammed into popular music in the 1970s and early '80s. Both movements were big on irony and the goal was to shock the bourgeoisie, to burn off the sugar coating that music had been collecting in the previous decades yet both movements were absorbed into the mainstream in barely a decade.

All the more amazing, then, that late in his life Francis Poulenc wrote a gorgeous soul-affirming work that combines modern brevity and freshness with traditional creed and technique to bestow a wondrous resource for our troubled times. As with the heartfelt religious masterworks of his illustrious predecessors, Gloria served to summarize all Poulenc had experienced and become. While it goes without saying that all composers reflect a range of influences, Poulenc's were far more sweeping than most.

PRELUDE:

Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius patris
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father

INTROIT:

Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe.
O Lord, the only begotten Son Jesus Christ

RESPONSE TO CONFESSION:

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men

ANTHEM:

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, Miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus. (Amen). Tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe. Cum sancto Spiritu, in Gloria Dei Patris. Amen. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen

OFFERTORY: Domine Deus. Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty

BENEDICTION RESPONSE:

Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te. Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.
We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory