

# Concert Program with Narration San Jose Cathedral Concert Aug 22, 7pm

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*All narration excerpted from the writings of St. Teresa of Avila:*

***Way of Perfection, Meditation on the Song of Songs, Interior Castle, The Life***

*The narration always anticipates the following musical selection.*

*The program flows in a reflective spirit without applause until after the Brandenburg Concerto*

**1. Procession from the Ceremony of Carols - Britten CHOIR/HARP**

2. It is extremely important to begin with great determination. Don't be afraid that the Lord will leave you to die of thirst. He gives us what we need. He finds it easy to pardon. Just the raising of our eyes in remembrance of him will have its reward! Behold it is a beautiful exchange to give our love for his. It amounts to almost nothing, just a little determination. Well, if from that which is nothing, His Majesty desires us to merit everything, let's not be foolish! Behold, the Lord invites all. Since he is truth itself, there is no reason to doubt. If this invitation were not a general one, the Lord wouldn't have called us all. He could have said, "To those whom I choose I will give to drink." But since he spoke without this condition to all, I hold as certain that all those who do not falter on the way will drink this living water. May the Lord, because of who he is, give us the grace to seek this living water as it should be sought, for he promises it."

**2a. Mothering God - Sokol CHOIR/STRINGS/HARP James Savage, conductor**

3. I think that if we were to approach the most Blessed Sacrament with great faith and love, once would be enough to leave us rich. How much richer from approaching so many times as we do. Along how many paths, in how many ways, by how many methods you show us love! Oh, secrets of God! Though he comes disguised, the disguise does not prevent him from being recognized in many ways, in conformity with the desire we have to see him. And you can desire to see him so much that he will reveal himself to you entirely.

**3a. Panis Angelicus - Franck MEZZO/ORGAN/CELLO/HARP**

4. It is good to recall how God acted with the Blessed Virgin, our Lady. In spite of all her wisdom she asked the angel: "How can this be?" But after he answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you," she engaged in no further discussion. She did not act as do some learned men. For they want to be so rational about things and so precise in their understanding that it doesn't seem anyone else but they with their learning can understand the grandeurs of God. If only they would learn something from the humility of the most Blessed Virgin!

**4a. Virgin of the Solitude** -Sokol CHOIR/STRINGS/ PIANO/HARP James Savage, conductor

5. A much greater love for and confidence in this Lord began to develop in me when I saw that he wasn't surprised by human weaknesses; that he understands our miserable make-up, subject to many falls. Even though he is Lord, I can speak with him as with a friend. Oh, compassion so measureless, since he desires our friendship, what more do we desire? Whoever has not begun the practice of prayer, I beg you for the love of the Lord not to go without so great a good. There is nothing here to fear but only something to desire. If one perseveres, I trust in the mercy of God, who never fails to repay anyone who has taken him for a friend. For prayer, in my opinion, is nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends. It means taking time frequently to be alone with him who we know loves us. I do not know, my Creator, why it is that everyone does not strive to reach you through this special friendship.

**5a. Siciliana from Suite of Eight Dances** - Carlos Salzedo Solo HARP

6. Oh, how many times do I recall the living water that the Lord told the Samaritan woman about! I am very fond of that gospel passage. From the time I was a little child, without understanding this good as I do now, I often begged the Lord to give me the water and I always carried with me a painting of this episode of the Lord at the well. How right and true, as words coming from the mouth of Truth Itself, that "whoever drinks from the fount of living water," of which the Savior spoke to the Samaritan woman, "Will never thirst again." Indeed, this thirst slakes in such a way that when God satisfies the thirst, the greatest favor he can grant the soul is to leave in it this same need – and a greater one – to drink the water again.

**6a. Living Water** - Sokol CHOIR/STRINGS/PIANO/HARP James Savage conductor

7. You may think that as a result of the favors God has granted the soul, it will be outside itself and so absorbed that it will be unable to be occupied with anything else. On the contrary, the soul is much more occupied than before with everything pertaining to the service of God! For by reason of the love it has it can hardly contain itself! Already soaked in this water, it would want others to drink, so that they might help it praise God.

Oh, Strong love of God! How true it is that nothing seems impossible to the one who loves! Love is always stirring and thinking about what it will do. It is love's nature to serve with deeds in a thousand ways. Let us desire to be occupied in prayer not for the sake of our enjoyment but so as to have the strength to serve. This is the reason for prayer, my daughters. The purpose of this spiritual marriage: the birth always of good works, good works!

**7A. Holberg Suite: Prelude** – Grieg STRINGS Anthony Elliott conductor

8. Oh, God help me! Each day this soul becomes more amazed, for these Persons never seem to leave it anymore, but it clearly beholds that they are within it. In the extreme interior, in some place very deep within itself, the nature of which it doesn't know how to explain – it perceives this divine company. On fire with this thirst, the soul is like a person hanging, who cannot support himself on any earthy thing; nor can it ascend to heaven. It cannot get to the water; and the thirst is not one that is endurable but already at such a point that nothing will take it away. Nor does it desire that the thirst be taken away save by that water of which our Lord spoke to the Samaritan woman. Yet no one gives such water to the soul. Oh God, help me! How you afflict your lovers! But everything is small in comparison with what you give them afterward. It's natural that what is worth much, costs much. It is as small as a drop of water in the sea.

**8a. Verborgenheit** – Hugo Wolf MEZZO/PIANO

9. Here you will see, Sisters, whether I was right in saying that courage is necessary, and whether when you ask the Lord for these favors, he is right in answering as he did the sons of Zebedee, "Are you able to drink the chalice?" I believe all of us, Sisters, will answer yes; and very rightly so, for his Majesty gives strength to the one he sees has need of it. He defends these souls in all things. When they are persecuted and criticized he answers for them – if not through words, through deeds. And in the very end, before they die, he will pay for everything at once. May he be blessed forever, and may all creatures praise him. Amen.

**9a. Nada te Turbe** - Sokol CHOIR/STRINGS/GUITAR/HARP James Savage, conductor

**10.** This water from heaven often comes when the gardener is least expecting it. One moment is enough to repay all the trials that can be suffered in life! The soul appears to be joined to God, and there remains such certitude about this union that the soul cannot help believing in the truth of it. In this kind of prayer, seeing myself soaked by the water that came forth so forcefully and quickly and that seemingly poured from that heavenly cloud, I was so taken out of myself that I didn't know whether I was dreaming or whether the glory I was experiencing was indeed occurring. His Majesty enjoys having his works shine forth in weak people, for in them there is more room for his power to work.

**10a. Nimrod** – Elgar STRINGS Anthony Elliott, conductor

**11.** Oh, poor little butterfly, bound with so many chains which do not let you fly where you would like! Take pity on this little butterfly, O God! Let your grandeur appear in a creature so feminine and lowly, whatever the cost to her, so that the world may know that this grandeur is not hers at all and may praise you. This praise is what she desires, and she would give a thousand lives if one soul were to praise you a little more through her.

**11a. Roads to Zion (opera scene)** ZAJICK, CHOIR/STRINGS/PIANO/HARP Joel Revzen, conductor  
(Carmelite sisters who are present join in the last chorus)

**12.** In sum, my sisters, what I conclude with is that we shouldn't build castles in the air. The Lord doesn't look so much at the greatness of our works as at the love with which they are done. If we do what we can, his majesty will enable us each day to do more and more, provided that we do not quickly tire. Even though our works are small they will have the value our love for him would have merited had they been great. May God be blessed forever and ever!

**12a. Christo Psallat Ecclesia** CHOIR/STRINGS/TAMBOURINE/HARP James Savage, conductor

**Processing to the back of the Cathedral singing**

**13. Brandenburg 3<sup>rd</sup> concerto** STRINGS/PIANO Joel Revzen, conductor

**APPLAUSE**

Choir returns to the front of the cathedral

**BOWS**

*translation of the Christo Psallat Ecclesia concludes the narration:*

**14.** The Church sings psalms to Christ: Gentle mercy.

Let the redeemed daughters of Sion  
give praises to the King of Glory: Gentle mercy.  
This day he has destroyed death.

**14a. Christo Psallat Ecclesia reprise**

James Savage, conductor

***Choir and OCD Nuns process out of the Cathedral singing and waving the ribbon sticks***