Music 162: Stanford Symphonic Chorus

Sano, Winter 2012

M 7:15-9:45 p.m. (required tutti), W 5:30-6:30 (optional sectional)

Course Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR: Steve Sano Phone: (650) 723-1570

E-mail: sano@stanford.edu

Office: Braun 120

Hours: M: 11:00-11:50 a.m., W: 3:15-4:05 p.m., and by appointment

TIME/PLACE: Monday 7:15-9:45 p.m. Campbell Recital Hall (CRH: required tutti)

Wednesday 5:30-6:30 p.m. Campbell Recital Hall (CRH: optional sectional)

DESCRIPTION: The Stanford University Symphonic Chorus is a large mixed-voice repertory chorus that performs

major choral masterworks with orchestra. Participation is open to all members of the Stanford

community by audition.

REPERTOIRE: Bruckner: *Mass No. 3 in F Minor*

Also on the program, the SSO will perform the Elgar arrangement of

Bach's Fantasia & Fugue in C Minor (BWV 537).

ATTENDANCE: All Monday night rehearsals are mandatory. Wednesday afternoon sectional rehearsals are

optional. Attendance at all rehearsals, dress rehearsals and performances is mandatory. If a member misses more than two mandatory rehearsals without prior arrangement with the director, that member will not be allowed to participate in the performance. Members must also attend both dress rehearsals to sing in the concerts. You must notify the director in advance if for any reason you must miss all or part of a rehearsal. For those participating for graded credit, every two

unexcused absences may result in the lowering of the final grade by one letter.

EXPECTATIONS: Each singer is expected to learn the music assigned for each rehearsal on his or her own. Beyond

the first reading of a work, rehearsal time will be devoted to the development of ensemble sound, interpretation, and other musical matters. It is further expected that each singer will make a reasonable effort to develop his or her own vocal skills, and will make every effort to contribute

in a positive manner to the work of the group.

DRESS: Men: Black tux or tux-like apparel, black bow tie, black socks, black shoes.

Women: All black. Can be dress, blouse/skirt, shirt/pants.

SCHEDULE: On the Back!

Day	Date	Location	Time	Description
Monday	01/09/12	CRH	7:15 p.m.	Tutti rehearsal
Monday	01/16/12	CRH	7:15 p.m.	Tutti rehearsal
Wednesday	01/18/12	CRH	5:30 p.m.	Women's sectional (optional)
Monday	01/23/12	CRH	7:15 p.m.	Tutti rehearsal
Wednesday	01/25/12	CRH	5:30 p.m.	Men's sectional (optional)
Monday	01/30/12	CRH	7:15 p.m.	Tutti rehearsal
Wednesday	02/01/12	CRH	5:30 p.m.	Women's Sectional (optional)
Monday	02/06/12	CRH	7:15 p.m.	Tutti rehearsal
Wednesday	02/08/12	CRH	5:30 p.m.	Men's Sectional (optional)
Monday	02/13/12	CRH	7:15 p.m.	Tutti rehearsal (Maestro Cai conducting)
Monday	02/20/12	CRH	7:15 p.m.	Tutti rehearsal (Maestro Cai conducting)
Tuesday	02/21/12	MemChu	7:00 p.m.	Dress Rehearsal
Thursday	02/23/12	MemChu	7:00 p.m.	Dress Rehearsal
Friday	02/24/12	MemChu	7:00 p.m.	Call for 8 p.m. concert
Saturday	02/25/12	MemChu	7:00 p.m.	Call for 8 p.m. concert (plus strike)

FOR YOUR LISTENING PLEASURE

I grew up with LPs of Eugen Jochum's recordings of Bruckner's *Masses* from the 1960's and early 1970's — recordings that are still available re-mastered on CD or by digital download (DG 0289 447 4092 9). The performance of the F minor *Mass* is still as taught and glowing as ever, with a wonderful arc to the pacing — especially through the big *Gloria* and *Credo* compound movements. Though the sound is rather on the compressed side when compared to contemporary recordings, the reading is well worth having as a cornerstone to your Bruckner choral library.

Matthew Best and his Corydon Singers and Orchestra present one of the most satisfying of the contemporary recordings available (though even this recording is now 20 years old!: Helios CDH55332, or you may be able to find used versions on the Hyperion label CDA66599). Jean Rigby is arresting in the mezzo-soprano solos, and tenor John Mark Ainsley sings with a dramatic range of color and heft. The Corydon Singers, as always, are perfect in ensemble, intonation, blend when needed (the *piannisimo* passages are breathtaking), and vibrant, fruity color when the music demands it.

There are other excellent recordings available conducted by Celibidache (Munich Philharmonic Orchestra & Choir on EMI), Rilling (Gächinger Kantorei Stuttgart & Radio-Sinfonieorchester Stuttgart on Hänssler), and Davis (Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and Choir on Philips).