

## Music Notes for April 13th

**Prelude:** William Byrd: *Callino Casturame*

**Introit:** John Goss: *Praise my Soul, the King of Heaven*

**Anthem:** James Bain: *Brother James' Air* (Psalm 23)

**Offertory:** *La bounette* (from The Mulliner Book, 1560)

**Response:** John Rutter: *God be in my head*

**Postlude:** Thomas Arne: Keyboard Concerto No. 1: III. Allegro

People have asked me how I get ideas for putting together a service's worth of music that all ties together. Sometimes it is through careful planning and great study, and other times things seem to come to me by accident. While looking at the UCC lectionary for this week, I saw that the Psalm reading is number 23, a favorite of composers, and leafing through my anthologies of choral music, I found a beautiful setting by James Leith MacBeth Bain that I really wanted to use as an anthem, and I thought to myself "wouldn't it be interesting if I could find a whole service worth of obscure but beautiful music from the British Isles?" And so, here we are.

The organ music ranges from the Renaissance to the high Baroque, much earlier than the vocal music. The prelude is a set of what are called divisions on a galliard called *Callino Casturame* by William Byrd, most famous for his consort music for viols and recorders, and for his lute songs. The galliard was a popular Renaissance dance, fast or slow, involving a great leap on the fourth beat of each bar; the slower the tempo, the higher you have to jump to stay in the air until beat five! Queen Elizabeth I was said to have danced galliards before breakfast as a form of exercise. The offertory is an anonymous composition from a manuscript found in the British Museum, a pavan called *La bounette*. Despite these foreign language titles, both pieces are distinctly British in style, well-mannered and not as highly ornamented as music from Italy or France in the same period. As a postlude, I have selected the final movement from one of Thomas Arne's keyboard concerti. Arne is most famous for composing *Rule, Britannia!* which in various times has served as an unofficial national anthem for England.

John Goss served as organist at the Cathedral of St. Paul's in London, teaching Arthur Sullivan and others. His hymn *Praise my Soul, the King of Heaven* is extremely Anglican in style, with the harmonization of the hymn tune changing each verse, with the organ greatly reduced for the second and third, then re-entering grandly with a soprano descant for the fourth and final verse. John Rutter's contribution to modern English choral repertoire is great, and he is probably the most successful modern choral composer; his *Shepherd's Pipe Carol* has sold well over one million copies of sheet music. His style is expressive and simple, appropriate to the text *God be in my head* which will serve as our benediction.

Thomas Dawkins, organist/choir director