

Emerald Choral Academy - April 30, 2023

Music for English Coronations

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Introduction

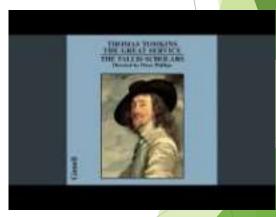
- Chronological overview
- Focus on choral works
 - ► Largely ignoring music of procession and banquet
- Second-oldest initiation ritual in world
 - ▶ 973, Edgar
 - ► First in modern style
 - ► Anointing, signed oath, Mass, Archbishop of Canterbury
 - Among chants sung: Zadok the priest, Let thy hand be strengthened
 - ▶ 1189, Richard the Lionheart
 - ▶ First coronation with newly composed music

Medieval and Renaissance eras

- ▶ 1308, Edward II (or earlier): Fourth Recension
 - ► Like a play, awaiting director/designer
 - Includes notation for chants
 - Music now a central part
 - ► Confortare, Unxerunt Salomonem, Magnificat
 - Music borrowed from coronation of pope
- ▶ 14th-16th centuries, further details are scarce
 - ▶ Hundreds in procession music, but nothing known of coronation music
- 1559, Elizabeth I
 - ► Certainly used recent polyphony, but still conjecture
 - Probably sung Tallis: Litany; Mundy: Veni creator spiritus
 - ▶ Definitely sung chants for *Te Deum*, *Salve festa dies*, *Firmetur*, *Unxerunt Salomonem*, *Confortare*

Early Stuarts

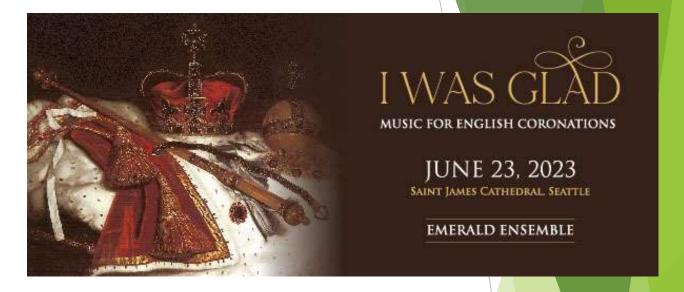
- Finally there are actual records of music, though specifics still lacking
- ▶ 1602, James I
 - ▶ During procession, Weelkes: O Lord, grant the King a long life
 - Tomkins: *The King shall rejoice*
 - We know polyphony for Let thy hand, Zadok the priest, Confortare, but we don't know who wrote what. Something by Byrd.
- 1626, Charles I
 - Musicians were on temporary scaffolds
 - ▶ (1) Fife and drum band, (2) trumpets and kettle drums,
 - (3) cornet and two slide trumpets doubling singers
 - Tomkins: Be strong and of a good courage
 - ▶ Also wrote The King shall rejoice, Zadok the priest, O Lord grant the King a long life



https://www.youtube.com/watch/v=FcTk5WRx

1661, Charles II

- Recovering from Interregnum
 - ► Sir Edward Walker reinvented regalia
 - Re-fashioned Chapel Royal, Westminster
 Abbey choir. Little training for boys
- Instruments on north and south side, including "24 violins"
 - Winds doubled untrained singers
- Child: O Lord grant the King a long life sung en route to Abbey
- Lawes: Zadok the priest





https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5elbRNFz198

1685, James II

Francis Sandford, History of the Coronation of James II

Choir and instruments again antiphonal. Abbey choir in organ loft

► Nine anthems (seven survive)

Entry into Abbey
Purcell: I was glad

Acclamation Blow: Let thy hand be strengthened

During Anointing Veni creator spiritus, in English translation

► Hymns Turner: Come Holy Ghost; Lawes: Zadok the priest

After Anointing Blow: Behold, O God our defender

After Crown
Turner: The King shall rejoice

After Benediction Child: Te Deum

► Homage Blow: God spake sometime in visions

symphony-anthem

8 soli, 8-voice choir, 4 strings, continuo

After Queen's Coronation Purcell: My heart is inditing

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeB9qbtluuA



A simpler period

- 1689, William III & Mary II
 - Disliked elaborate music
 - Mostly Purcell and Blow
- ▶ 1702, Anne
 - Most of 1689 music retained
- ▶ 1714, George I
 - Little known about the music
 - Croft: The Lord is a sun and a shield
 - ▶ First time trumpets in coronation orchestra

1727, George II

- Who's in charge? Whence Handel?
- 200 musicians in scaffold, including "the Italian Voices"
 - ▶ 5 of 10 boys' voices changed
 - Duplication of men's singing jobs
- Confusion on the day. Highlights:

Entry into Abbey
Purcell: I was glad

After Procession
Handel: Let thy hand be strengthened

After Anointing
Handel: Zadok the priest

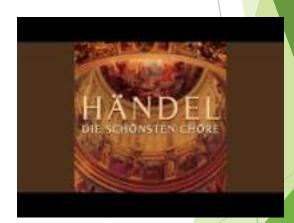
After Regalia Blow: Behold, O God our defender

Handel: The King shall rejoice

After Bible Presentation Gibbons: Te Deum

During Homage Blow: God spake sometime in vision

After Queen's Coronation Handel: My heart is inditing



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waTzBd5lTHQ

Two more Georges

- ▶ 1761, George III
 - William Boyce composed eight anthems (NOT Zadok). Highlights:
 - ▶ Boyce: Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem, with Handelian opening
 - ▶ Boyce: Come Holy Ghost, in more modern style
- ▶ 1821, George IV
 - ▶ Biggest coronation yet, to eclipse Napoleon 1804
 - King had direct input on music. Cut three anthems. Highlights:
 - ► Handel: *Hallelujah*; *Zadok the priest*; aria and chorus, "Welcome, welcome, mighty King", from *Saul*
 - Rule, Britannia
 - ▶ Attwood: I was glad and Let thy hand be strengthened
 - ► Charles Knyvett: The King shall rejoice
 - ▶ Boyce: *Te Deum*





https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdSEMhxHY8U

Another simpler period

- ▶ 1831, William IV
 - Didn't want a coronation
 - ▶ 69 instrumentalists, 118 singers (adding St Paul's Cathedral)
- ▶ 1838, Victoria
 - 400 in orchestra
 - First time with female singers
 - Four Handel works, including *Zadok*
 - Only one newly commissioned piece
 - ▶ William Knyvett: This is the day that the Lord hath made
 - ► Attwood died before completing his anthem

1902, Edward VII

- Grandest coronation yet: 430 in choir, 65 in orchestra
- Music led by Frederick Bridge, with organist Walter Alcock
- Survey of 400 years of English music
 - ► Tallis, Gibbons, Purcell
 - Dropped all Hanoverian anthems except Zadok
 - Stainer, Sullivan, Parry, Stanford
 - Parry: I was glad, incorporating "Vivat"



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rgThh7sDgNM

Two more Georges - again

- 1911, George V
 - Again Bridge. Again survey of English music history: Tallis, Merbecke, Handel
 - Also much new music
 - ▶ Bridge: *Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous*
 - ► Alcock: Sanctus
 - Parry: Te Deum
 - ▶ Stanford: Gloria in excelsis (used ever since)
 - ► Elgar: O hearken thou (also new Coronation March)
- 1937, George VI
 - First filmed. Sermon dropped. Eight rehearsals. Again showcasing music history.
 - ▶ Byrd, Merbecke, Purcell, Boyce, Handel Zadok, S.S. Wesley, Parry: I was glad.
 - New music:
 - Dyson, Bairstow, Harris, Stanford, Walford Davies, Vaughan Williams: Festival Te Deum
 - ► Walton: *Crown Imperial* (march)

1953, Elizabeth II (i)

- ▶ 15 rehearsals, including four with Queen
- Choir of 400: Westminster Abbey, Chapel Royal, St. Paul's Cathedral, St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, Royal School of Church Music, plus boys from parish and cathedral choirs around the UK
 - ▶ 182 boy trebles, 77 male altos, 62 tenors, 67 basses
- The Form and Order of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II
 - (* below indicates music newly composed for the event)

1953, Elizabeth II (ii)

- 1. The Preparation
- 2. The Entrance into the Church Parry: I was glad
- 3. The Recognition
- 4. The Oath
- 5. The Presenting of the Holy Bible
- 6. The Beginning of the Communion Service

INTROIT. Howells: Behold, O God our defender *
GRADUAL. Harris: Let my prayer come up into thy presence *
CREED. Vaughan Williams: from Communion Service in G minor

7. The Anointing

Veni creator spiritus (plainchant, Mode VIII)

Handel: Zadok the priest

1953, Elizabeth II (iii)

- 8. The Presenting of the Spurs and Sword, and the Oblation of the said Sword
- 9. The Investing with the Armills, the Stole Royal and the Robe Royal: and the Delivery of the Orb
- 10. The Investiture per Annulum, et per Sceptrum et Baculum
- 11. The Putting on of the Crown Dyson: *Confortare* *
- 12. The Benediction
- 13. The Enthroning
- 14. The Homage

Anonymous: Rejoice in the Lord always

Gibbons: O clap your hands together Byrd: I will not leave you comfortless

Willan: O Lord, our Governor *

S.S. Wesley: Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace

1953, Elizabeth II (iv)

15. The Communion OFFERTORIUM. Vaughan Williams: The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune *

SANCTUS. Vaughan Williams: from Communion Service in G minor

Vaughan Williams: O taste and see *

GLORIA. Stanford: Gloria in excelsis in B-flat

Gibbons: Amen

16. Te Deum Laudamus Walton: Coronation Te Deum *

17. The Recess God save the Queen (arr. Gordon Jacob) *

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=us2O62TTqY/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tK-halm



2023, Charles III

- Saturday, 5 May 2023
 - ▶ 11am, ceremony begins
 - Lasts just over an hour (Elizabeth's was three hours)
- Music. Highlights:
 - King Charles has personally chosen the music
 - Greek Orthodox chant after the Anointing
 - Works by Sarah Class, Patrick Doyle, Iain Farrington, Nigel Hess, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Tarik O'Regan, Roxanna Panufnik, Shirley J. Thompson, Judith Weir, Roderick Williams, Debbie Wiseman

Chief sources

- Books
 - ► Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Novello (1953)
 - ▶ Roy Strong, Coronation: A History of the British Monarchy, William Collins (2005/2022)
- Recordings
 - ► Choir of Westminster Abbey, Simon Preston, *Coronation Music for King James II*, Archiv (1986)
 - Choir of Westminster Abbey, Martin Neary, Music from the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Cantoris (1994)
 - ▶ The King's Consort, Robert King, *The Coronation of King George II*, Hyperion (2001)
 - ► Choir of New College, Oxford, Edward Higginbottom, *Coronation Anthems*, Decca (2001)
 - ► Choir of the Chapel Royal, Andrew Gant, *Music for the Coronation of James II*, Signum (2006)
 - ▶ Psallentes, Oltremontano, Wim Becu, Coronation Music for Charles II, Accent (2014)



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