



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
- ▶ 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 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=FcTk5WRxLTU>

# 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=5e1bRNFz198>

# 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=WeB9dgtluuA>



# 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=cm2kXWY\\_iF4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cm2kXWY_iF4)



<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=us2O62TTqYA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tK-halrUw04>





# 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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