


The background of the entire page is a complex, abstract pattern of thick, hand-drawn lines in yellow and light green. These lines swirl and curve, creating a sense of movement and depth. In several places, the lines form shapes that resemble human faces, particularly eyes and mouths, which are partially obscured by the swirling patterns. The overall effect is a vibrant, textured, and somewhat chaotic visual field.

*messe pour double Chœur*

FRANK MARTIN

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

## ABOUT THE MUSIC



1. - 5. Frank Martin wrote the first four movements of the Mass for Double Choir in 1922 and completed the Agnus Dei in 1926. The piece is scored for two SSAATTBB choirs, a cappella. It has the traditional Mass text in the customary five movements: Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus and Agnus Dei. The Mass finally premiered in 1963 in Hamburg, Germany, by the Bugenhagen-Kantorei conducted by Franz W. Brunnert. Despite being hidden in Martin's personal files for 40 years, the piece has already become one of the most performed 20th-century sacred choral works.

Martin, the son of a Huguenot Calvinist minister, grew up in Geneva taking composition and piano lessons. Thus, his musical tastes were shaped largely through the German tradition that was so prominent there. Moreover, Martin began to connect with his French roots in the 1910s as he discovered the work of Chopin and Debussy.

In the Mass, Martin exhibits his Swiss nationality through well-crafted Germanic contrapuntalism combined with French coloristic harmonies. It fits within Martin's early period of composition. Biographer Bernhard Billeter describes this style as "a linear, consciously archaic style, restricted to modal melody and perfect triads and evading the tonal gravitation of Classical and Romantic harmony."

6.

Psalm 148 was commissioned by The University of Southern Mississippi for the Southern Chorale's performance at the 2005 ACDA National Convention in Los Angeles. John Cheetham is professor emeritus of music theory and composition at the University of Missouri. Having written for a variety of media, Cheetham has won the Abraham Frost Prize in Composition in addition to ASCAP Special Awards.

7.

Pierre Vilette (1926-98) was a French composer who studied with Maurice Durufle. His music is largely influenced by Gregorian chant, jazz and Igor Stravinsky. *Hymne à la Vierge* is one of his most performed compositions.

8.

In addition to its clusters and extended tertian harmonies, Ross Bernhardt's *Prayer of St. Patrick* incorporates a spatial component — the singers are divided into four choirs marked north, south, east and west. Thus, the text of the composition comes to powerful fruition with calls of "Christ above me, Christ below me, Christ beside me, Christ behind me." Dr. Bernhardt is a collegiate choral director whose compositions have been published by many major companies.

9.

Eric Whitacre was the youngest composer to have received the prestigious Raymond C. Brock Commission in 2001. The result of this commission, *Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine*, is a fast-paced programmatic work based on Leonardo DaVinci's dream of creating a machine for human flight.

10.

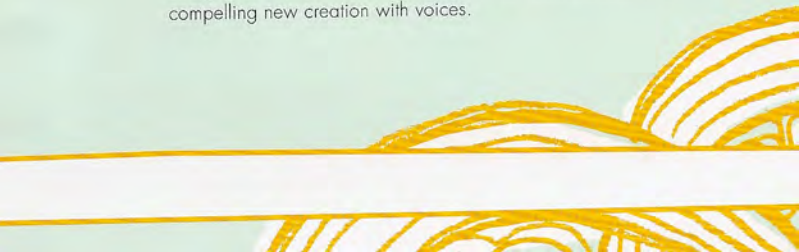
Longtime friend of The Southern Chorale's director, Gregory Fuller, Howard Helvey not only writes prolifically for many publishing houses, but he also tours as a concert pianist and serves as organist and choirmaster of historic Calvary Episcopal Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Silent comes from a set of two pieces with texts by transcendentalist poet Jones Very. The set was commissioned by the Wisconsin Chamber Choir and premiered in May 2002.

11.

For many, British composer Ralph Vaughan Williams is the greatest of modern composers of Shakespeare. The Cloud Capp'd Towers is part of his last Shakespeare tribute, a set of three SATB pieces.

12.

Originally, the adagio movement for a string quartet in 1936, American composer Samuel Barber's Agnus Dei went through several transformations: first, as a stand-alone work for string orchestra in 1938, and finally as a work for a cappella choir in 1967. Agnus Dei, while simply a version of Adagio for Strings with the text of the Agnus Dei of the Mass, becomes a compelling new creation with voices.



13.

Curse Upon Iron (Rauua needmine) was written in 1972 by Estonian composer Veljo Tormis. While Tormis has written over 500 works for choir, these remarkable pieces have just recently found widespread recognition in the United States. Curse Upon Iron's almost epic-sized text depicts guns, knives, soldiers, sirens and nuclear holocaust in a chilling call for peace.

14.

Howard Roberts has been a musical director, singer, instrumentalist and teacher. The Robert Shaw Chorale's first African-American tenor soloist, Roberts has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and seven ASCAP Standard Music Panel Awards. He is on the faculty of Borough of Manhattan Community College in New York.

15.

A music director, studio musician, arranger and producer, Byron J. Smith is an associate professor of music at Los Angeles Harbor College. His choral works have sold thousands of copies throughout the world. Smith also conducts a professional choir, The Spirit Chorale of Los Angeles.



## **DR. GREGORY FULLER** DIRECTOR OF CHORAL ACTIVITIES

As director of choral activities at The University of Southern Mississippi, Gregory Fuller conducts the Southern Chorale and the Hattiesburg Choral Union, teaches conducting, supervises candidates in the master's and doctoral programs, and serves as the chair of the choral/vocal division.

Previously, Dr. Fuller held similar appointments at Missouri University and Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa. His choirs have been honored with invitations to perform at eight state and national meetings of the American Choral Directors Association and the Music Educators National Conference. He has organized many national and international tours resulting in performances at York Minster, Coventry Cathedral, Salisbury Cathedral, the University of Orleans, Basilica of San Marino, Salzburg Cathedral, Melk Abbey, Carnegie Hall and the new Disney Hall in Los Angeles. Active in orchestral, wind and choral settings, he is a frequent clinician and guest conductor.

Fuller holds a degree in cello and voice from Oklahoma Baptist University and earned the master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Missouri. Among his significant mentors and teachers are James Fuller, James Woodward, Duncan Couch, Michael Cox, Michael Budds and John Cheetham. He has participated in workshops and master classes with Robert Shaw, Sir David Wilcox, John Rutter, Jere Lantz, John Paynter and Col. John R. Bourgeois.

## THE SOUTHERN CHORALE

The Southern Chorale, the premier vocal ensemble at The University of Southern Mississippi, has a long history of excellence. Membership consists primarily of junior/senior voice majors and graduate students in voice and conducting. Recent appearances have brought national attention to the group. In 2005, they appeared at National ACDA in Los Angeles and appeared at Carnegie Hall as special guest for a Katrina relief concert. They have also appeared at National ACDA in Chicago. Under the leadership of Dr. Gregory Fuller, the group has been very active in a four-state Gulf Coast region with numerous appearances at schools and churches.

Choral Activities at Southern Miss offers three daily choirs: the Southern Chamber Singers, Vocal Jazz Ensembles and the Hattiesburg Choral Union, a large group that performs large works with the Southern Miss Symphony Orchestra.

The School of Music at Southern Miss has approximately 450 majors and prides itself in its outstanding performing ensembles. The College of Arts and Letters at Southern Miss contains fully accredited programs in music, theater, art and dance, distinguishing it as the only university in the state to do so.



MASS FOR DOUBLE CHOIR FRANK MARTIN (TRACKS 1-5)

1. KYRIE
2. GLORIA
3. CREDO
4. SANCTUS
5. AGNUS DEI

6. PSALM 148  
JOHN CHEETHAM

7. HYMNE À LA VIERGE  
PIERRE VILLETTE

8. PRAYER OF ST. PATRICK  
ROSS BERNHARDT

9. LEONARDO DREAMS OF HIS FLYING MACHINE  
ERIC WHITACRE

10. THE SILENT  
HOWARD HELVEY

11. THE CLOUD-CAPPED TOWERS  
RALPH VAUGHN WILLIAMS

12. AGNUS DEI  
SAMUEL BARBER

13. CURSE UPON IRON  
VEJO TORMIS

14. SINNER MAN  
ARR. HOWARD A. ROBERTS

15. HE'LL MAKE A WAY  
BYRON J. SMITH

