

MUSIC SUNDAY

the breath of life

Dan Forrest

FCC Chancel Choir and Chamber Orchestra

I. “et Deus inspiravit”... (and God breathed...) (from Genesis 2:7, Vulgate)

Et Deus inspiravit in faciem eius spiraculum vitae;
et factus est homo in animam viventem.

(and God breathed into him the breath of life;
and man became a living soul.)

II. “first breath last breath” (Antler, 2006)

When a baby boy is born
and the midwife holds him up
as he takes his first breath,
Place him over the Mother’s face
so when the baby exhales
his first breath on Earth
the Mother breathes it.
And when the Mother dies,
her middle-aged son the baby grew up to be —
by her side, his head next to her head —
Follows her breathing with his breath
as it becomes shorter,
and as the dying Mother exhales her last breath
her son inhales it.

III. “the silent kiss” (from *A Man Young and Old*, William Butler Yeats, 1928)

In the long echoing street the laughing dancers throng,
The bride is carried to the bridegroom’s chamber
through torchlight and tumultuous song;
I celebrate the silent kiss that ends short life or long.
Never to have lived is best, ancient writers say;
Never to have drawn the breath of life,
never to have looked into the eye of day;
The second best’s a soft goodnight and quickly turn away.

IV. “epilogue: time is” (Henry Van Dyke, 1904)

Time is Too Slow for those who Wait,
Too Swift for those who Fear,
Too Long for those who Grieve,
Too Short for those who Rejoice;
But for those who Love...

...Time is not

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