

RAVING RICHARD RADIO REVIEW, FOR BROADCAST MAY 19, 2010

KKIM, 1000 A.M., ALBUQUERQUE, AND 94.7 F.M., SANTA FE

GREETINGS FROM RICHARD SPRAY, YOUR RADIO REVIEWER FOR LIVE THEATRE, BOTH IN ALBUQUERQUE AND SANTA FE. TODAY'S COMMENTS ARE ESPECIALLY FOR DEVOTEES OF CLASSICAL MUSIC--MORE PARTICULARLY, CLASSIC CHORAL MUSIC--FOR THERE'S AN EVENT THIS SATURDAY THE 22nd YOU SHOULDN'T MISS.

THE PROGRAM WILL BE HERE IN ALBUQUERQUE AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN, FEATURING ITS FAMED CATHEDRAL CHOIR AND CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, PRESENTING "DURUFLE REQUIEM," A GLORIOUS WORK CONDUCTED BY THE CATHEDRAL'S CONSUMMATE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, MAXINE THEVENOT, WITH STEPHEN THARP, GUEST ORGANIST.

ALTHOUGH IN A MAGNIFICENT CATHEDRAL SETTING, THIS EVENT IS NOT A CHURCH SERVICE IN THE CUSTOMARY SENSE--RATHER, IT IS A CONCERT TO CELEBRATE FORMER BISHOP OF THE RIO GRANDE, RICHARD TRELEASE. MUSICALLY, THE EVENT CO-FEATURES AN INSTRUMENTAL NUMBER--SAMUAL BARBER'S "TOCCATA FESTIVA."

WHAT A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THESE TWO CLASSIC WORKS PRESENTED IN A SINGLE PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE, FOR THAT IS INDEED THE CALIBER OF THESE MUSICIANS. THE CHOIR IS REPUTED AS ONE OF THE FINEST IN THE SOUTHWEST--I WOULD SAY ONE OF THE FINEST ANYWHERE, ESPECIALLY UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MS. THEVENOT. SHE'S NOT ONLY AN ESTEEMED CHORAL DIRECTOR AND SERVES AS THE CATHEDRAL'S ORGANIST, BUT GUESTS AT SUCH PRESTIGIOUS VENUES AS ST. JOHN THE DIVINE IN NEW YORK CITY--INCIDENTALLY, THAT'S WHERE I ATTENDED SERVICES WHILE IN NAVY MIDSHIPMEN SCHOOL--BOTH THERE AND RIVERSIDE.

NOTE I'VE MADE NO COMPARISON OF THE "DURUFLE REQUIEM" TO THE MORE FAMILIAR "FAURE REQUIEM," AS SOME DO. FOR LASTING ENJOYMENT, THESE ARE PAIRED ON A SINGLE CD BY JOHN RUTTER. BOTH ARE RELATIVELY SHORT AND LIGHTER, COMPARED TO REQUIEM MASSES OF MOZART, BRAHMS, AND DVORAK, FOR EXAMPLE, WHICH ARE MORE SYMPHONIC IN NATURE;

"EACH IS A BEAUTIFUL COMPOSITION OF ITS OWN, AND BOTH ARE STUNNING PERFORMANCE MATERIAL--I LOVE DOING THEM," TO QUOTE MS. THEVENOT.

THIS SPECIAL ONE-TIME EVENT STARTS AT 6 p.m. (REPEAT, 6 p.m.) WITH SEATING OPEN AT 5:30. THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN IS ON SILVER, BETWEEN 3rd AND 4th, WITH PARKING NEARBY. TO HELP DEFRAY COSTS, ADMISSION FOR ALL CATHEDRAL CONCERTS IS ON A DONATION BASIS--SUGGESTED \$20 PER ADULT, WITH DISCOUNTS FOR SENIORS AND STUDENTS.

WELL, THAT'S ABOUT IT FOR NOW--HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE CONCERT! I KNOW YOU'LL THANK ME FOR SUGGESTING IT. AND THANKS FOR TUNING IN TO MY COMMENTARIES HERE ON 1000 A.M., KKIM, CHRISTIAN RADIO FOR NEW MEXICO, AND SIMULCAST ON 94.7 F.M., SANTA FE; ALSO SEEN ON THE INTERNET AT: MYKKIM.COM.