

A Brother Abroad –
Peter of Bologna, Bishop of Corbavia
A Cantata by Martin Bussey
Libretto © Anthony Pinching

My Lord Archbishop, Walter, has granted to me,
Peter of Bologna, Bishop of Corbavia,
the faculty to dedicate, according to canon law,
the Chapel of Pynnore of his patronage
on the sixth of Kalends of October
in this year of our Lord, Thirteen hundred and
twenty-one.

And so today, I leave my simple room
at Greyfriars, granted to me by the King,
to journey beyond Harrow Hill
on to the Chapel of St John
near my Lord Archbishop's deer park,
his favoured hunt, when state affairs permit.

Already in open country,
the leaves are now mostly fallen.
The roads and tracks of soft clay
hazardous to our *familia*,
while the wild thickets and dark woods
conceal other dangers.

But few compared to the far North,
when first I came to this island:
our papal legation ambushed,
robbed by a band of shavaldours,
as we went to parlay for peace
between King Edward and Robert Bruce.

Despite such violence, I have come to love
this island, with its rough and smooth order.
I still miss the warmth and colours of home,
'La Rossa', and Modena, their learning.
But intrigues at the Avignon Palace
made me reluctant to return to court.

For me, as an Observant Friar,
the Rule, Testament and life
of our dear Brother Francis is clear.
I love the simplicity and our holy work.

Here, I am trusted, *in partibus infidelium*,
in work for my Lord Archbishop, and for my Lord
God:
always tasks to be done, sacred duties fulfilled:
conferring orders, as last month at Southwark;
church reconciliations and consecrations;
benedictions, confirmations, monks' professions;
consecrating holy oil, chrism and vestments;
hearing confessions and granting absolutions.
First up in York, then London, Lincoln, Winchester
and Cantuar, I have taken the Bishops' place.

The rites to be observed,
offices celebrated,
the mysteries honoured,
and obedience shown.
Places made sacred again,
simply and purely.
The unknown to be found,
the lost to be reclaimed,
and the poor to be grown.
The silent to be heard,
the angry to be stilled,
and the wayward guided,
all in the way of Christ.
'May the Lord give you peace.'

The Lord has granted me, Peter of Bologna,
a way to serve Him in faith, through Brother
Francis,
who replaced, by mercy, the bitter with the sweet.
Thus, in poverty, may I live by the Gospel,
whilst others conduct the affairs of state and land,
where ownership, rank and royalty must hold sway.

Thus, my master at Canterbury distracts himself,
shifting his allegiance from the King to the Queen,
communing with barons, both rebel and loyal,
in truces and alliances as befit him.
I saw enough, at court, in the North and Scotland,
of men corroded by avarice and envy.

My true obedience lies beyond:
Like my Brother William of Ockham,
I cleave the spiritual domain
from what is owned on temporal earth,
and say that only through faith
may we know the ways of God.

And now, as I come to Pynnore,
greeted by the ringing of bells,
I see throngs of cheering people
gathered for the dedication
of their new chapel on this day:
a new beginning for them all.

You join in our procession around the church
and here I strike the door with my crozier, thrice.
Now admitted, I may consecrate this place:
sprinkle holy water, place the sacred cross,
and anoint altar with chrism, water and oil,
before your first Mass here, the first of many.

With John the Baptist,
I now bless this church,
and all such souls, now and ever,
as shall here reside.
May the Lord give you peace.

Glossary for *A Brother Abroad*

Peter of Bologna (c.1260-1332), Bishop of Corbavia, was a Franciscan Suffragan Bishop. He worked across Europe and, for his last 15 years, in England, he worked in five dioceses, and was held in high regard by all parties, keeping to his Franciscan Rule and style.

Walter Reynolds:	Archbishop of Canterbury under Edward II.
Chapel of Pynnore:	St John's Chapel, later Church, Pinner.
Deer Park	Archbishops of Canterbury were granted the Pinner deer park in mid-13 th C.
Corbavia:	A diocese in Croatia (Krbava).
	A titular see (' <i>in partibus infidelium</i> ') granted to members of the Papal Court.
Sixth of Kalends:	27 th October.
<i>familia</i> :	People travelling with the Bishop (usually friars: secretary, master of ceremonies, vicar, etc.).
shavaldours:	Bands of well-to-do rogues, sometimes acting as mercenaries. These ones were led by Sir Gilbert de Middleton.
Avignon Palace:	Peter served under 4 Popes: 2 in Rome, 2 in Avignon. His legation was sent by the last, John XXII. John XXII later took a stand against the <i>Fraticelli</i> , a Franciscan sect.
<i>La Rossa</i> :	A nickname for Bologna.
Modena:	Peter also trained at this neighbouring city.
Cantuar:	Canterbury.
William of Ockham:	Noted Franciscan theologian, Peter's contemporary. Famous for 'Occam's Razor'; and of separating spiritual from temporal.

Ecce sacerdos magnus Anthem by Sir Edward Elgar

Ecce sacerdos magnus qui in diebus suis placuit Deo, et inventus est iustus.	Behold a great priest, who in his days pleased God, and was found to be just.
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Responsory of Common of Confessor Bishops, Liturgy of the Hours

Hymn to St John the Baptist Anthem by Russell Pascoe. Text: © Anthony Pinching

In grateful memory to all who have worshipped God at St. John the Baptist, Pinner, since 1321

The voice of one who cries in the wilderness
who prepares the path to make it straight,
who shapes the Jordan waters for the Holy Spirit,
and who testifies to the Light.

May we hear the voice when it calls to us,
May we feel the waters when we are washed,
May we see the light when it shines on us,
May we know the path when we come to it
and, as we walk, may we be open to the end

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to commemorate the 700th Anniversary of St John the Baptist, Pinner*

JS Bach BWV 30 Cantata for the Birthday of John the Baptist	
Erster Teil 1. Chor Freue dich, erlöste Schar, Freue dich in Sions Hütten. Dein Gedeihen hat itzund Einen rechten festen Grund, Dich mit Wohl zu überschütten.	Part One 1. Chorus Rejoice, redeemed flock, Rejoice in the tabernacle of Zion. Your Anointed one has now a firm and proper ground on which to protect you with goodness.
2. Rezitativ B Wir haben Rast, Und des Gesetzes Last Ist abgetan. Nichts soll uns diese Ruhe stören, Die unsre liebe' Väter oft Gewünscht, verlangt und gehofft. Wohlan, Es freue sich, wer immer kann, Und stimme seinem Gott zu Ehren Ein Loblied an, Und das im höhern Chor, Ja, singt einander vor!	2. Recitative B We have repose, and the burden of the law is done away with. Nothing shall disturb this our rest, that our dear forefathers often desired, longed and hoped for. Indeed, they rejoice, who can eternally, and sound to the honour of their God a song of praise, that in the exalted choirs indeed, are sung to one another!
3. Arie B Gelobet sei Gott, gelobet sein Name, Der treulich gehalten Versprechen und Eid! Sein treuer Diener ist geboren, Der längstens darzu auserkoren, Daß er den Weg dem Herrn bereit'.	3. Aria B Praised be God, praised be His name, who faithfully kept His promise and oath! His loyal servant is born, who was chosen long since for this, to prepare the way of the Lord,
4. Rezitativ A Der Herold kömmt und meldt den König an, Er ruft; drum säumet nicht Und macht euch auf Mit einem schnellen Lauf, Eilt dieser Stimme nach! Sie zeigt den Weg, sie zeigt das Licht, Wodurch wir jene selge Auen Dereinst gewißlich können schauen.	4. Recitative A The herald comes and announces the King, he calls; therefore do not delay and arouse yourselves with a hasty gait, hurry after this voice! It shows the way, it shows the light, by which that blessed pasture we shall surely behold one day.
5. Arie A Kommt, ihr angefochnen Sünder, Eilt und lauft, ihr Adamskinder, Euer Heiland ruft und schreit! Kommet, ihr verirrtten Schafe, Stehet auf vom Sündenschlafe, Denn itzt ist die Gnadenzeit!	5. Aria A Come, you tempted sinners, hurry and run, you children of Adam, your Saviour calls and cries! Come, you erring sheep, get up from your sleep of sin, for now is the time of grace!
6. Choral Eine Stimme läßt sich hören In der Wüste weit und breit, Alle Menschen zu bekehren: Macht dem Herrn den Weg bereit, Machet Gott ein ebne Bahn, Alle Welt soll heben an, Alle Täler zu erhöhen, Daß die Berge niedrig stehen. ("Tröstet, tröstet mein Lieben," verse 3)	6. Chorale A voice is heard in the wilderness far and wide, to convert all mankind: make the way of the Lord ready, make a level path for God, all the world shall begin to exalt every valley, so that the hills shall stand lowly.

Zweiter Teil 7. Rezitativ B So bist du denn, mein Heil, bedacht, Den Bund, den du gemacht Mit unsern Vätern, treu zu halten Und in Genaden über uns zu walten; Drum will ich mich mit allem Fleiß Dahin bestreben, Dir, treuer Gott, auf dein Geheiß In Heiligkeit und Gottesfurcht zu leben.	Part Two 7. Recitative B Thus you have considered, o my Saviour, the covenant that You made with our forefathers, to keep faith and to rule over us in grace; therefore with all industry I will strive, after Your promise, faithful God, to live in holiness and the fear of God.
8. Arie B Ich will nun hassen Und alles lassen, Was dir, mein Gott, zuwider ist. Ich will dich nicht betrüben, Hingegen herzlich lieben, Weil du mir so genädig bist.	8. Aria B I now will hate and leave behind everything, which is contrary to You, my God. I will not cause You trouble, rather I will heartily love You, since You have been so gracious to me.
9. Rezitativ S Und obwohl sonst der Unbestand Den schwachen Menschen ist verwandt, So sei hiermit doch zugesagt: Sooft die Morgenröte tagt, Solang ein Tag den andern folgen läßt, So lange will ich steif und fest, Mein Gott, durch deinen Geist Dir ganz und gar zu Ehren leben. Dich soll sowohl mein Herz als Mund Nach dem mit dir gemachten Bund Mit wohlverdientem Lob erheben.	9. Recitative S And although otherwise the inconstancy of weak humanity is unchanged, yet let this be said as well: as often as the dawn daily breaks, so long as one day follows another, just as long I will, erect and firmly, my God, through Your spirit live to honour You totally and completely. My heart as well as my mouth after this covenant made with You shall exalt You with well-deserved praise.
10. Arie S Eilt, ihr Stunden, kommt herbei, Bringt mich bald in jene Auen! Ich will mit der heiligen Schar Meinem Gott ein' Dankaltar In den Hütten Kedar bauen, Bis ich ewig dankbar sei.	10. Aria S Hurry, you hours, come to pass, bring me soon to that pasture! I wish, with the holy flock to build my God an altar of thanks in the tents of Kedar, until I can be eternally thankful.
11. Rezitativ T Geduld, der angenehme Tag Kann nicht mehr weit und lange sein, Da du von aller Plag Der Unvollkommenheit der Erden, Die dich, mein Herz, gefangen hält, Vollkommen wirst befreiet werden. Der Wunsch trifft endlich ein, Da du mit den erlösten Seelen In der Vollkommenheit Von diesem Tod des Leibes bist befreit, Da wird dich keine Not mehr quälen.	11. Recitative T Patience, the pleasant day cannot be far off or far away, when from all the trials of the imperfect earth, that hold you, my heart, captive, you will be completely freed. The wish will finally come to pass, when you with the redeemed souls in perfection shall be freed from the death of this body, there no need shall trouble you again.
12. Chor Freude dich, geheiligte Schar, Freue dich in Sions Auen! Deiner Freude Herrlichkeit, Deiner Selbstzufriedenheit Wird die Zeit kein Ende schauen.	12. Chorus Rejoice, o holy flock, rejoice in Zion's pasture! The glory of your happiness, the time of your contentment and peace will never reach an end.