

## 1st Day of Christmas - Christmas Day December 25th, 2020

A Christmas Pastorale (Silent Night)	H. Alexander Matthews
<i>In dulci júbilo</i>	Marcel Dupre
Chorale Prelude on "Silent Night"	Samuel Barber
Pastorale from the "Christmas Concerto"	Arcangelo Corelli
<i>In dulci júbilo</i>	J. S. Bach

For the first day of Christmas, here is a group of mostly peaceful selections. Samuel Barber arranged this selection for organ himself, from his orchestral Christmas work "Dies Natali." Marcel Dupre is regarded as the greatest French organist of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This lovely and quiet setting of "*In dulci júbilo*" was his wife's favorite piece of all his compositions. Corelli's "Christmas Concerto," another Baroque instrumental work, is one of numerous examples of pieces in 12/8 meter, with the rocking motion perhaps intended to evoke the shepherds in the manger (lulling the baby Jesus to sleep?) Bach also wrote a Pastorale for his "Christmas Oratorio," and the little "*Pifa*" from Handel's "Messiah" is yet another well-known example.