The Connection with John Bumpus

John S. Bumpus (1861-1913), scholar, author, and antiquarian was the leading writer on church music and musicians of his time. His work, sometimes superseded by modern scholarship, is still highly regarded. His major opus is *A History of English Cathedral Music* (London: T.W. Laurie, 1910). Other titles include *The Organists and Composers of St Paul's Cathedral*, and *Irish Church Composers and the Irish Cathedrals*. He also studied cathedral architecture and published *A Dictionary of Ecclesiastical Terms* (1910).

He amassed a significant collection of manuscripts and sources amongst which was the Turner Manuscript, now in the collection of Western Illinois University Libraries. Bumpus's signature appears on the flyleaf:

E Libris Johannies Bumpus.

There are several pencil emendations in the text that may also be his. In addition, he acknowledges his ownership of the manuscript in two places in his book *A History of English Cathedral Music*, on pp. 147 and 183:

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S. Paul's and a lay vicar of Westminster. "He had the singular honour," says Boyce, "of being a Gentleman of the Royal Chapels to seven Kings and Queens successively, and in the former part of his life his voice, which was a high Contra-Tenor, recommended him to much favour."

Turner took the degree of Doctor in Music at Cambridge in 1696. He died 13 January, 1740, in his eighty-eighth year, and was buried in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey in the same grave and at the same time with his wife Elizabeth, whose death occurred four days before his own, "after their having been married but a few years short of seventy, and lived together, to the very last hour, in the utmost amity and affection."* Their only daughter was married to John Robinson, a pupil of Blow, who subsequently became organist of Westminster Abbey.

A verse anthem by Turner, "Lord, Thou hast been our refuge," was printed by Boyce. Two short full anthems, "Behold now, praise the Lord" and "Try me, O God," in the autograph score of the composer, are in the possession of the present writer. "Lift up your heads, O ye gates," another short full anthem, and of a pleasing, sprightly character, originally appeared in Playford's *Divine*

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already mentioned. These comprise a detached setting of the Sanctus and Gloria in Excelsis, published, from the original MS. at Christ Church, by Sir Frederick Ouseley in his Services by English Masters (1853);* a Morning and Evening Service in E minor, containing Benedicite, Benedictus, Jubilate, Magnificat, and Nunc Dimittis; and a complete Service in F, of which the present writer possesses a score in the autograph of Dr. William Turner. The Evening Service in E minor—in triple time throughout—was printed by Arnold in the third volume of his Cathedral Music.

Bumpus was under the impression that the service music was composed by Dr. Henry Aldrich, owing to an attribution on the manuscripts title page added in a different hand to that of the manuscript, apparently at a later date. Other than that, there is no other evidence in support of this contention. The overwhelming evidence suggests that the compositions as well as the manuscript are entirely the work of Turner.

After Bumpus's death, his collection was auctioned off and dispersed. A number of items from his collection came to North America. Nothing further is known of the manuscript until it arrived at WIU in November, 2010.