



Charles Argersinger

Program notes

Missa l'homme armé

The premiere of *Missa l'homme armé* by a university choir was obstructed by the American Civil Liberties Union for an alleged violation of the constitutional separation of church and state. The firestorm of publicity in television reports and over twenty newspaper articles eventually drew the attention of the national press, when columnist Nat Hentoff wrote in the 22 August 1992 *Washington Post* that the ACLU had in this case "built a wall of separation higher than even Thomas Jefferson could have imagined."