

The Scottish Chamber Choir

Directed by Michael Harris



ROSSINI PETITE MESSE SOLENNELLE

Saturday 3rd June 2000

St Mary's Cathedral
Palmerston Place
Edinburgh

The Scottish Chamber Choir

Director: Michael Harris
Harmonium: Peter Backhouse
Piano: Stuart Hope

G ROSSINI
(1792-1868)

PETITE MESSE SOLENNELLE

KYRIE – soloists and chorus

GLORIA

LAUDAMUS TE – soloists and chorus

GRATIAS AGIMUS – terzetto for contralto, tenor and bass

DOMINE DEUS – tenor solo

QUI TOLLIS – duet for soprano and contralto

QUONIAM – bass solo

CUM SANCTO SPIRITU – soloists and chorus

I N T E R V A L
of 20 minutes

Wine and soft drinks will be available in the North Aisle

CREDO

CREDO IN UNUM DEUM – soloists and chorus

CRUCIFIXUS – soprano solo

ET RESURREXIT – soloists and chorus

PRELUDIO RELIGIOSO

SANCTUS – soloists and chorus

O SALUTARIS – soprano solo

AGNUS DEI – contralto solo and chorus

PROGRAMME NOTES

Petite Messe Solennelle

Rossini's Petite Messe dates from 1864, twenty years after his previous major work, the Stabat Mater. He had retired from opera composition even earlier, in 1855, and since that time had enjoyed being the centre of attention in Paris intellectual society. Its original chamber ensemble scoring was for two pianos and harmonium, together with twelve singers – a note in the autograph suggested that these should be men, women and castrati – of whom four would sing the solos. The first performance was given in the town house of a generous artistic benefactor, Countess Louise Pillet-Will, on the occasion of the dedication of her private chapel in March 1864.

Much of the later history of the work results from the fact that Rossini initially refused to publish the Mass. His enthusiastic public did, however, eventually persuade him to orchestrate the work for larger-scale performances, although this version was never used in the composer's lifetime. This was partly due to the fact that it was not permitted to be performed in cathedrals without a Papal dispensation – never granted – allowing the use of female voices. Its first performance in the orchestral version took place in the Théâtre-Italien in Paris in February 1869, on what would have been Rossini's seventy-eighth birthday.

Rossini referred to the work as “the last mortal sin of my Old Age”, and addressing a note to God at the end of the autograph he said: “Dear God. Here it is, finished, this poor little Mass. Have I written sacred music or damned music? I was born for opera buffa, you know it well! Little science, some heart, that's all. Be blessed, then, and grant me a place in Paradise.” The style of composition ranges from the distinctly operatic arias, such as the tenor *Domine Deus*, to quite complex double counterpoint in some of the choral fugues, such as *Cum Sancto Spiritu* at the end of the Gloria.

The edition used in tonight's performance is that published in Milan shortly after the composer's death, using just one piano and harmonium. The parts are essentially a reduction of the orchestral version, and in that respect differ from the first French edition, published at almost the same time in 1869.

Programme notes by Michael Harris

TEXT AND TRANSLATION

PETITE MESSE SOLENNELLE

Kyrie

Soloists and Chorus

*Kyrie eleison,
Christe eleison,
Kyrie eleison.*

Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy,
Lord have mercy

Gloria

Soloists and Chorus

*Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te,
glorificamus te.*

Glory be to God in the highest and in earth
peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee, we adore thee,
we glorify thee.

Contralto, Tenor and Bass

*Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam
tuam,*

We give thee thanks for thy great glory,

Tenor

*Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus Pater
omnipotens.*

O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father
almighty.

*Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe,
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris,*

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ:
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

Soprano and Contralto

Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

that takest away the sins of the world, have
mercy upon us.

*Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.*

Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of the
Father, have mercy upon us.

Bass

*Quoniam tu solus sanctus, tu solus Dominus,
tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe,*

For thou only art holy, thou only art the Lord,
thou only, O Christ, art the Most High,

Soloists and Chorus

Cum sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

with the Holy Ghost, in the glory of God the
Father. Amen.

Credo

Soloists and Chorus

Credo in unum Deum, Patrem omnipotentem, factorem coeli et terrae, visibilium omnium et invisibilium, et in unum Dominum Jesum Christum, Filium Dei unigenitum, et ex Patre natum ante omnia saecula:

Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine, Deum verum de Deo vero, genitum non factum, consubstantialem Patri, per quem omnia facta sunt: qui propter nos homines et nostram salutem, descendit de coelis; et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto, ex Maria Virgine, et homo factus est.

Soprano

Crucifixus etiam pro nobis; sub Pontio Pilato passus et sepultus est.

Soloists and Chorus

Et resurrexit tertiam die secundum Scripturas; et ascendit in coelum; sedet ad dexteram Patris;

et iterum venturus est cum gloria iudicare vivos et mortuos; cujus regni non erit finis.

Et in Spiritum Sanctum Dominum et vivificantem, qui cum Patre et Filio simul adoratur et conglorificatur; qui locutus est per Prophetas.

Et unam sanctam catholicam et apostolicam Ecclesiam. Confiteor unum baptisma in remissionem peccatorum et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum, et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen.

Preludio religioso

Sanctus

Soloists and Chorus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible: and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds:

God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

He was crucified also for us: He suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was buried,

and the third day he rose again according to the scriptures, and ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of the Father.

And He shall come again with glory to judge the quick and the dead: whose kingdom shall have no end.

And (I believe) in the Holy Ghost, the Lord the Giver of life, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke through the prophets.

And (I believe) in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

O salutaris

Soprano

*O salutaris hostia
Quae coeli pandis ostium.
Bella premunt hostilia;
Da robur, fer auxilium.*

Agnus Dei

Soloists and Chorus

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

O saving Victim opening wide
The gate of heaven to all below.
Our foes press on from every side;
Thine aid supply, Thy strength bestow.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The work of the choir is subsidised by the **National Federation of Music Societies** from funds supplied by the Scottish Arts Council. The Federation, which was founded in 1935, represents the interests of around 1400 societies throughout the United Kingdom and provides them with a range of services and training as well as acting as the leading voice for amateur music. The Federation's patron is HRH The Duchess of Kent, and its current President is Sir Peter Maxwell Davies.



No part of this concert should be recorded without prior permission

The Scottish Chamber Choir

Since its formation in 1968, the **Scottish Chamber Choir** has performed throughout Scotland and Northern England to great acclaim. The highly successful and critically praised Silver Jubilee season in 1993-4 concentrated on 20th century British music and was recognised by an Enterprise Award from the Performing Right Society - one of only three awards in Scotland. The choir's hallmark, however, is its breadth of repertoire, encompassing music from the 16th century to the present day.

Vacancies occur in the choir periodically, and any singer interested in obtaining further details should contact Bill Wood, President, on 0131 339 7663.

Michael Harris was appointed as Musical Director of the choir in January 1998, in succession to Philip Sawyer. He is Organist and Master of the Music of St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, a post that is combined with a Lectureship in Music at Napier University.

Prior to coming to Edinburgh, he was Assistant Organist of Canterbury Cathedral and Organist of The King's School, Canterbury, having previously been Sub-Organist of Leeds Parish Church. He began his musical education as a chorister at Gloucester Cathedral, and later became Organ Scholar of St. Peter's College, Oxford. He studied organ with Nicholas Danby.

His work has involved him in numerous recordings and broadcasts, both for television and radio, including the Enthronement of George Carey as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1991. He has also recorded a solo CD, 'The Widor Tradition', of nineteenth and twentieth century French organ music. Together with St Giles' Cathedral Choir he has recently released a CD of music for choir and organ entitled Sounds of St Giles'.

In addition to his work with Cathedral and choral music in general, Michael Harris has given many solo organ recitals throughout Great Britain and Germany. During his time in Kent he was also Musical Director of The Canterbury Singers, one of the leading chamber choirs of the area.

Peter Backhouse teaches music at The Edinburgh Academy. His musical training began as a chorister in the choir of York Minster. Later he studied music at Edinburgh University where he graduated B.Mus.(Hons.), having won the 3rd year class medal and the Tovey Memorial Prize for his organ playing. He was appointed Assistant Organist at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in 1977. This post, with its daily accompaniment of services, as well as many concerts, recitals, broadcasts and recordings, kept him busy for over 20 years until he retired in 1997. He has served on the council of the Edinburgh Society of Organists for many years, including two years as President. He supports the work of the Royal School of Church Music in Scotland and is an organ adviser in the Edinburgh area for the Scottish Federation of Organists. Railways have interested him all his life and last summer he qualified as a signalman on the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway. His photographs, principally of organs and churches, continue to be published and he tries to find time to enjoy cricket, golf and walking.

Stuart Hope was brought up in Berwick-upon-Tweed and is a graduate of Edinburgh University. At present, he is accompanist to the Scottish Chamber Orchestra Chorus, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra Chorus and the National Youth Choir of Scotland. He works regularly with the Dunedin Consort and Ludus Baroque and, as a freelance accompanist, has performed in recitals and masterclasses throughout the country. Stuart also teaches piano at Loretto School.

The Scottish Chamber Choir

Sopranos	Jenny Auld	Heather MacLeod
	Alison Crichton	Marianne Rustad
	Lorraine Fraser	Erica Schwarz
	Anne McAlister	Adriana Skaraas
Contraltos	Olivia Blomfield-Smith	Mary O'Neill
	Jean Brodie	Anna Muschol
	Myra Brown	Sheila Robertson
	Deirdre MacLelland	Beatrice Wickens
Tenors	Vic Hodgson	James Verge
	Andrew Morley	Bill Wood
Basses	Adrian Coppola	Hamish Martin
	Andrew Firth	Colin Mason
	Frank Lucas	Martin Tarr

Peter Backhouse: Harmonium

Stuart Hope: Piano

Soloists:

Soprano	Adriana Skaraas (Laudamus; Cum Sancto; Credo; Et resurrexit)
	Alison Crichton (Qui tollis; Crucifixus; O salutaris)
	Marianne Rustad (Sanctus)
Contralto	Myra Brown
Tenor	Andrew Morley
Bass	Hamish Martin

Forthcoming concerts

8:00pm Saturday 18th August 2000

St. Mary's Cathedral

Vivaldi *Gloria*, Albinoni *Adagio for Organ and Strings*, Bach *Magnificat in D*
with chamber orchestra

8.00pm Saturday 18th November 2000

St Giles' Cathedral

Hieronymus Praetorius *Magnificat*, Schutz Motets, Finzi *Magnificat*, Cui *Magnificat*,
Bax *Mater ora filium*
with organ

8.00pm Saturday 17th March 2001

St Giles' Cathedral

Tallis *Lamentations*, Lotte *Crucifixus*, Sanders *Requiem*
unaccompanied

8.00pm Saturday 2nd June 2001

St Giles' Cathedral

Martin *Mass for Double Choir*, Bernstein *Chichester Psalms*
with organ, harp and percussion

8.00pm Sunday 12th August 2001

Festival Concert at St Mary's Cathedral

J S Bach *Mass in B minor*

with soloists and chamber orchestra

The choir will also be singing at

Dunkeld and Birnham Music Club 8.00pm Sunday 9 July 2000

St Mary's, Haddington 7.30pm Saturday 9th December 2000

Ayr Music Club 7.30pm Saturday 13th January 2001

Galashiels Arts Association 7.30pm Sunday 25th March 2001

West Linton Music Society 7.30pm Saturday 21st April 2001

The unaccompanied music presented at these concerts will include:

Parry *Songs of Farewell*, Dempster *Tranquil Night*, Maxwell Davies *Lullabye for Lucy*, Britten
Hymn to Saint Cecilia, Stanford *Seven Part Songs*, Vaughan Williams *Three Shakespeare*
Songs, Moeran *Songs of Springtime*.

Details for all these concerts from the President, Bill Wood, on 0131 339 7663

We hope that you have enjoyed the concert and will wish to hear the choir in our Festival Fringe concert

8:00pm

Saturday 18th August 2000

St. Mary's Cathedral

Vivaldi *Gloria*

Albinoni *Adagio for Organ and Strings*

Bach *Magnificat in D*

with chamber orchestra

Edinburgh Festival
*fringe**

Details from choir members or from the President, Bill Wood,
on 0131 339 7663