

BRISBANE
CHAMBER
CHOIR

Beyond
MESSIAH

Sunday, 8 March 2020 @ 2.00 PM
St John's Anglican Cathedral
373 Ann Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

Thank you for attending *Beyond Messiah*. Please note the following housekeeping notices to ensure an enjoyable experience for all.

- Please do not applaud between movements.
- While the Cathedral has a children's play-area it is strongly recommended that children are encouraged to sit and listen to the performance.
- Please make sure you have turned off your phone for the duration of the concert.
- You can find the public amenities on the Ann Street side of the main carpark.
- Please join us for refreshments after the concert at the back of the Cathedral.

In Praise of Music

Your Voices Tune
From *Alexander's Feast*

Music, Spread thy Voice Around
From *Solomon*

Let the Bright Seraphim
From *Samson*

Let their Celestial Concerts All Unite
From *Samson*

Concerto grosso, Op. 6 No. 11 in A major
1. Andante larghetto
2. e staccato Allegro

In Praise of the Divine

Sing unto God
From *Judas Maccabaeus*

Hallelujah, Amen
From *Judas Maccabaeus*

Gloria Patri
From *Dixit Dominus*

In Praise of Love

May No Rash Intruder
From *Solomon*

Endless Pleasure, Endless Love
From *Semele*

Mourn, all ye Muses
From *Acis and Galatea*

Organ Concerto No. 13 in F major
'The Cuckoo and the Nightingale'

In Praise of the Hero

See, the Conqu'ring Hero Comes
From *Judas Maccabaeus*

Zadok the Priest
From *Coronation Anthems*

Brisbane Chamber Choir

Graeme Morton AM

Petrina Collingwood, Cheryl Fiedler, Elodie Geertsema, Clara O'Loughlin, Sandra Nissen, Anna Brookfield, Emma Hutchings, Sian Jones-Christ, Fiona Palmer, Emma Steel, Alexander Bowly, Peter Garrett, Jonathan Hargreaves, Issac Holtby, Alexander Mason, Jeffery Mitchell, Tim Grantham, Matthew McKinnon, Tam Nguyen, Jason Schoutrop

Orchestra

Leader Alan Smith

Violin Iona Allan, Wayne Brennan, Rebecca Seymour, Nicholas Thin

Viola Nicholas Tomkin, Belinda Williams

Cello Kathryn Close, Andre Duthoit

Double Bass Justin Bullock

Oboe Vivienne Brooke, Alexa Murray

Trumpet Michael Whitaker

Organ Phillip Gearing

The chamber organ of St John's Anglican Cathedral

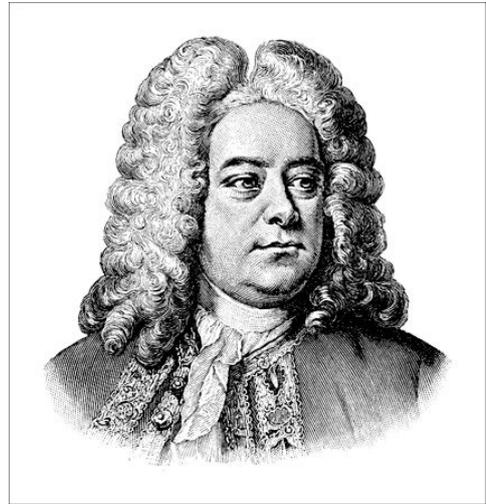
The beautiful, bespoke chamber organ you will hear played during this performance was commissioned by the Brisbane Chamber Choir as a gift to St John's Cathedral. It was locally designed and made by Pierce Pipe Organs of Brisbane, with pipework by Tim Gilley of Melbourne and casework by Derek Smart, and was completed and installed at the Cathedral in March 2019. Of note, the Tasmanian Oak casework incorporates pipe shades and decorative panels of Silver Ash featuring native Australian flora and fauna, in which the shrewd observer may notice a complementary nod to aspects of the screen on the main organ at St John's!

George Frideric Handel

Handel (1685-1759) was a German-born, British Baroque composer who spent the bulk of his career in London, becoming well known for his operas, oratorios, anthems and organ concertos.

Handel received critical training in Halle, Hamburg and Italy before settling in London (1712), and became a naturalized British subject in 1727. He was strongly influenced both by the great composers of the Italian Baroque and the middle-German polyphonic choral tradition.

Within fifteen years, Handel had started three commercial opera companies to supply the English nobility with Italian opera. Musicologist Winton Dean writes that his operas show that "Handel was not only a great composer; he was a dramatic genius of the first order." As *Alexander's Feast* (1736) was well received, Handel made a transition to English choral works. After his success with *Messiah* (1742) he never performed an Italian opera again. Almost blind, and having lived in England for nearly fifty years, he died in 1759, a respected and rich man. His funeral was given full state honours, and he was buried in Westminster Abbey.



Born the same year as Johann Sebastian Bach and Domenico Scarlatti, Handel is regarded as one of the greatest composers of the Baroque era, with works such as *Water Music*, *Music for the Royal Fireworks* and *Messiah* remaining steadfastly popular. One of his four Coronation Anthems, *Zadok the Priest* (1727), composed for the coronation of George II of Great Britain, has been performed at every subsequent British coronation, traditionally during the sovereign's anointing. Handel composed more than forty operas in over thirty years, and since the late 1960s, with the revival of baroque music and historically informed musical performance, interest in Handel's operas has grown.

Handel's compositions include 42 operas, 29 oratorios, more than 120 cantatas, trios and duets, numerous arias, chamber music, a large number of ecumenical pieces, odes and serenatas, and 16 organ concerti. His most famous work, the oratorio *Messiah* with its "Hallelujah" chorus, is among the most popular works in choral music and has become the centrepiece of the Christmas season. Among the works with opus numbers published and popularised in his lifetime are the *Organ Concertos* Op. 4 and Op. 7, together with the Opus 3 and Opus 6 concerti grossi; the latter incorporate an earlier organ concerto *The Cuckoo and the Nightingale* in which birdsong is imitated in the upper registers of the organ. Also notable are his sixteen keyboard suites, especially *The Harmonious Blacksmith*.

Courtesy of the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society.

In Praise of Music

Your Voices Tune

*Your voices tune, and raise them high,
Till th'echo from the vaulted sky
The blest Cecilia's name;
Music to Heav'n and her we owe,
The greatest blessing that's below;
Sound loudly then her fame:
Let's imitate her notes above,
And may this evening ever prove,
Sacred to harmony and love.*

Music , Spread thy Voice Around

*Music, spread thy voice around,
Sweetly flow the lulling sound.*

Let the Bright Seraphim

Soloist: Cheryl Fielder

*Let the bright Seraphims in burning row
Their Loud uplifted Angel Trumpets blow
Let the Cherubic Host in tuneful Choirs
touch their immortal Harps with golden wires*

Let Their Celestial Concerts

*Let their celestial concerts all unite,
Ever to sound His praise in endless morn of light.*

Concerto grosso, Op. 6 No. 11 in A major

*I. Andante larghetto
II. e staccato Allegro*

In Praise of the Divine

Sing Unto God

*Sing unto God and high affections raise, to crown his
conquest with unmeasured praise*

Hallelujah, Amen

*Rejoice, O Judah, and, in songs divine,
With cherubim and seraphim harmonious join!*

Hallelujah! Amen.

In Praise of Love

May No Rash Intruder

*May no rash intruder disturb their soft hours;
To form fragrant pillows, arise, oh ye flow'rs!
Ye zephyrs, soft-breathing, their slumbers prolong,
While nightingales lull them to sleep with their song.*

Endless pleasure, endless love

Soloist: Elodie Geertsema

*Endless pleasure, endless love,
Semele enjoys above!
On her bosom Jove reclining,
Useless now his thunder lies;
To her arms his bolts resigning,
And his lightning to her eyes.*

*Endless pleasure, endless love
Semele enjoys above!*

Mourn, all ye muses

*Mourn, all ye muses! Weep, all ye swains!
Tune, tune your reeds to doleful strains!
Groans, cries and howlings fill the neighb'ring shore:
Ah, the gentle Acis is no more!*

Organ Concerto No. 13 in F major

'The Cuckoo and the Nightingale'

In Praise of the Hero

See, the Conqu'ring Hero Comes

*See, the conqu'ring hero comes!
Sound the trumpets! Beat the drums!
Sports prepare! The laurel bring!
Songs of triumph to him sing!*

*See the godlike youth advance!
Breathe the flutes and lead the dance!
Myrtle wreaths and roses twine
to deck the hero's brow divine!*

*See, the conqu'ring hero comes!
Sound the trumpets! Beat the drums!
Sports prepare! The laurel bring!
Songs of triumph to him sing!
See, the conqu'ring hero comes!
Sound the trumpets! Beat the drums!*

Zadok the Priest

*Zadok, the Priest, and Nathan, the Prophet,
anointed Solomon King;
and all the people rejoic'd, and said:
God save the King, long live the King,
may the King live for ever!
Amen. Allelujah.*

Biographies

The **Brisbane Chamber Choir** is an auditioned vocal ensemble of up to twenty singers, established in 1997 and based in Brisbane, Australia. Under founding musical director Graeme Morton AM, it performs music of all styles and periods with a focus on Australian premiere performances and works of Australian composers. For more than 20 years the ensemble has delighted concert audiences at home and across Australia and has produced several landmark recordings.

In 2014 they were guest artists of Musica Viva in Sydney and collaborated with cornerstone Australian choral ensembles, the Adelaide Chamber Singers and the Sydney Chamber Choir, in *A Tale of Three Cities* in 2015. The ensemble regularly performs with leading instrumentalists including Camerata, the Badinerie Players, and The Adina String Quartet. In 2016, they released *Mass of the Dreaming*, a celebrated recording of Australian choral music, featuring the premier recording of the Ross Edwards' title work, together with compositions of musical friends Joseph Twist, Paul Stanhope, and Keren Terpstra. In their 20th anniversary year, the ensemble was privileged to work with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra under maestro Stephen Layton in a performance of J.S. Bach's *Mass in B Minor* – since broadcast twice on ABC Classic FM – and share the concert platform with internationally renowned saxophonist, Diana Tolmie.

The Brisbane Chamber Choir regularly commissions works and is currently the resident Chamber Choir of St John's Anglican Cathedral.

Graeme Morton AM is the founding Director of the Brisbane Chamber Choir.

He is a Senior Lecturer and Choral Conducting Fellow at the University of Queensland and the Director of Music at St John's Anglican Cathedral, Brisbane. For twenty-five years was Director of Music at St Peters Lutheran College, where he founded the renowned St Peters Chorale. During this time, he co-founded The Australian Voices with Stephen Leek and served as its inaugural Director.

Never tiring to pursue exciting new choral works for his singers and their audiences alike, Graeme is responsible for commissioning and recording many works now regarded as Australian choral classics. He tours and lectures on choral conducting, both in Australia and overseas. As a Churchill Fellow he observed choral leadership in both the United States and Canada.

He is a Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music and received a Prime Minister's Medal and in 2011 was the recipient of the Lord Mayor's Australia Day Cultural Award. Graeme holds a Master of Music (Organ) from the University of Queensland, and as a composer, is published by Augsburg Fortress, Kjos Music, and Morton Music.

Our next event...

ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL
PRESENTS



ST MATTHEW PASSION

by

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

A musical devotion for Good Friday

Sung in English. A powerful musical retelling of the Passion story, this masterpiece continues to move audiences nearly three centuries after it was composed.

Joshua Oxley (Evangelist)

Cathedral Chamber Choir

Boy and Girl Choristers of St John's Cathedral

Members of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra

directed by Graeme Morton

Good Friday, 10 April 2020, 7pm

St John's Cathedral

373 Ann Street, Brisbane 4000

Admission by programme: \$35, \$25 concession

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