



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE

Easter Festival 2024

THE CIVIL SERVICE CHOIR

Tuesday 26 March, 1.05pm

PROGRAMME

Joseph Haydn (1732 - 1809)

Missa brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo, Hob. XXII: 7 18'

Franz Schubert (1797 - 1828)

Mass in G, D167 22'

PROGRAMME NOTES

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732 – 1809) was born in Rohrau, Austria, to Matthias, a wheelwright, and to Maria, a cook. Although his parents could not read music, his father was a folk musician who had taught himself to play the harp. Haydn's ability manifested itself from an early age and, following a period of apprenticeship with a relative, Matthias Frankh, and stints as a music teacher and street serenader, in 1752 he became valet-accompanist to the Italian composer Nicola Porpora, from whom he learned "the true fundamentals of composition". Haydn spent almost 30 years of his career as court musician for the Esterházy family at their castle. His enormous output includes 104 symphonies and 14 masses.

The *Missa Brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo*, popularly known as the *Kleine Orgelmesse (Little Organ Mass)* was composed in 1774/5 for the Barmherzige Brüder, a Holy order based in Eisenstadt. The Mass acquired its nickname because of the prominent organ solo in the Benedictus, in accompaniment to the soprano soloist; Haydn was the organ soloist in its first performance. The Benedictus is the longest movement. The Mass's brevity is largely achieved by assigning different passages from the text of the Gloria and the Credo to different parts simultaneously.

Franz Peter Schubert (1797 – 1828) was born near Vienna to a musical family. He received violin and piano lessons from his father and elder brother, but it soon became apparent that his prodigious talent would need professional guidance. After spending five years of study at the Stadtkonvikt school, his compositional skills were further honed by the composer Sallieri, with whom Schubert studied privately for at least 3 years. The composer's rise to prominence in Viennese society was enhanced by his admission, as a performing member, to the *Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde* in 1821. In his short life, Schubert composed a vast number of works including symphonies, sacred choral pieces, piano and chamber music, as well as over 600 secular vocal works.

The *Mass No. 2 in G Major* was composed when Schubert was just 18, in March 1815. It was completed in less than a week and first performed in the Viennese parish church of Lichtental. The original scoring for strings and organ was subsequently added to by Schubert's brother, Ferdinand, who wrote parts for woodwind, brass and timpani. Also, a set of parts discovered at Klosterneuburg in the 1980s included parts for both trumpet and timpani, perhaps suggesting that Schubert's final thoughts were on a larger scale. However, the original scoring will be used for this performance, and this chamber scoring is perhaps best suited to the work's intimate character. The last movement, a poignant *Agnus Dei*, is particularly noteworthy in displaying a maturity that belies Schubert's youthful age.

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The Civil Service Choir has delighted audiences at St John's Smith Square for over a decade, most recently with the spectacular *Will Todd Choral Jazz* concert in November 2023 and a full-scale performance of the *Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem* in collaboration with the Kensington Philharmonic Orchestra just over a week ago. The Civil Service Choir is no ordinary workplace choir: un-auditioned, it boasts nearly 200 members, and a reputation for remarkable performances. While the full choir took on the considerable challenge of the Brahms Requiem, a chamber contingent of the choir additionally prepared the repertoire for this opening concert of the Easter Festival, maintaining the long-standing tradition of bringing audiences at St John's Smith Square a free lunchtime Easter concert. In this concert, we are delighted to be performing once again with our own bespoke orchestra, with leader Christian Halstead. To date the choir has raised over £45,000 for charity and continues to fundraise for The Cardinal Hume Centre, the Charity for Civil Servants, and St John's Smith Square.

The Civil Service Choir is proudly supported by SPARTA Sports and Recreational Association.

ARTISTS

STEPHEN HALL OBE

Stephen Hall, Music Director and Co-Founder of the Civil Service Choir, is a government statistician at DEFRA. Starting out with just 4 singers in an office basement in 2009 (his first experience of leading a choir), Stephen has developed and led the choir from strength to strength, through the challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic, to giving its 175th performance nine days ago. In 2018, Stephen was appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) for voluntary and charitable service.

ROSS FETTES

Ross Fettes is a Scottish bass-baritone studying in his first year of Opera School at the Royal College of Music, having completed a Masters under the tutelage of Brindley Sherratt and Graeme Broadbent. His most recent opera performances include the roles of Pasaquariello (Don Giovanni), Figaro (Le Nozze di Figaro), The Conductor (Barnum's Bird), Colline (La Bohème) and Larbe (L'enfant et Les Sortilèges). Ross has performed in productions by the Royal College of Music and a number of London opera companies.

MADELEINE PERRING

Madeleine Perring started her musical career as a chorister at Wells Cathedral where she discovered her love of music. After graduating from the Royal College of Music with first class honours, she is thrilled to be studying with Rosa Mannion and is grateful to continue her Masters studies at the RCM as a Brooks Anderson Award holder. Her professional life spans opera, oratorio and choral works.

SAM HARRIS

Sam Harris is a British tenor. In 2023 he was a finalist in the Kathleen Ferrier awards, and a Verbier Festival young artist. Recent operatic roles include Ottavio (Don Giovanni), Ferrando (Così fan Tutte), Il Principe (La Bella Dormiente nel Bosco) and Pluto (Orpheus in the Underworld). In concert, he has performed with the LSO, Hanover Band, and choir of King's College London, among many others.

ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN I

Christian Halstead
Stephen Brown
Tristan Caulfield
Alison Collins
Francis Dickinson
Catherine Vincent

VIOLIN II

Izzie Craig
Rachel Moyce
Cathy Payne
Chris Terry
Charlotte Town

VIOLA

Mollie Koenigsberger
Jeremy Cook
Rosemary Cook

CELLO

Christopher Humphrey
David Rawlings
Steve Seeley

BASS

Penelope Halnan
Susan Moss

ORGAN

Matthew Blaiden



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CIVIL SERVICE CHOIR TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Kyrie

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
Adoramus te, glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
Miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
Suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus sanctus, tu solus Dominus,
Tu solus altissimus,
Cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris, Amen.

Glory to God in the highest,
And peace on earth to men of good will.
We praise You, we bless You,
We worship You, we glorify You.
We give You thanks for Your great glory.
Lord God, King of Heaven,
God the Father Almighty.
Lord only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.
You who take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.
You who take away the sin of the world,
Hear our prayer.
You who sit at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord,
You alone are the Most High,
With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father, Amen.

Credo

Credo in unum Deum, Patrem omnipotentem,
factorem coeli et terrae,
visibilium omnium et invisibilium.
In unum Dominum Jesum Christum,
Filius Dei unigenitum, 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.
Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato,
passus et sepultus est. Et resurrexit tertia
die secundum Scripturas, et ascendit in coelum,
sedet ad dexteram Patris, et iterum venturus est cum
gloria, judicare vivos et mortuos, cujus regni non erit
finis. Credo, credo in Spiritum Sanctum Dominum,
et vivificantem, qui ex Patre Filio procedit,
qui cum Patre et Filio simul adoratur,
et conglorificatur, qui locutus est per Prophetas.
Confiteor unum baptisma in remissionem peccatorum,
mortuorum, et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen.

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
In one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally
begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father; through Him all things
were made. For us and our salvation He came down
from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He became
incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He
suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose
again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into
heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; He
will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of Life, who
proceeds from the Father and the Son; with the Father
and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken
through the prophets. I acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins; of the dead, and the life of the world to
come. Amen.

Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosannah in the highest.

Benedictus

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Osanna in excelsis.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosannah in the highest.

Agnus Dei

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

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.