

About the Durban Chamber Choir

The Durban Chamber Choir has been in existence for over 20 years. Its first members were mostly choristers from the Errol Slatter Chorale, who needed a new home when the late Errol retired from choral conducting. Rather than appoint a permanent choral director, it was decided to invite a different conductor to prepare a programme for each concert. Henry Moodie was the first conductor to try his hand with the newly formed choir, with great success. The model proved too onerous to continue, however, and David Smith was appointed musical director in 1994. He remained as choir director for several years and was succeeded by, among others, Cameron Upchurch, Markus Dettterbeck and Carol Stranex.

The choir's repertoire is wide-ranging from early plainchant to the contemporary choral repertoire, Renaissance to modern, sacred to secular, accompanied by organ, piano and small orchestral ensembles, or else unaccompanied. The Choir gives regular concerts in Durban and Pietermaritzburg, and has also visited several smaller towns in KwaZulu-Natal, performing in churches, school halls and retirement homes – wherever it can bring pleasure to lovers of choral music. It is made up of voluntary members of all ages and from all walks of life, united in their love for choral singing.

The choir's interim conductor is Andrew-John Bethke. Dr Bethke has degrees in music and theology from the University of Cape Town, Southern Methodist University and the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), as well as a Fellowship in organ performance from Trinity College (London) and a Diploma in choral conducting from the American Guild of Organists. He is an ordained priest in the Reformed Old Catholic Church. Before coming to Durban to take up an academic position at UKZN, he was director of music at Grahamstown Anglican Cathedral and conductor of the Rhodes University Chamber Choir (RUCC). Under his direction, the RUCC reached the semi-finals of the popular TV series Varsity Sing. He has performed as organ soloist to critical acclaim at the Grahamstown National Arts Festival, as well as around the country in several important concert venues.

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To join our mailing list or for more information about the choir, please contact Sue Latouf at 082 496 5150 or secretary@durbanchamberchoir.org.za

DURBAN CHAMBER CHOIR



conducted by Dr. AJ Bethke

Let Music Be the Food of Love

Concert Programme

Sunday 23 June 2024, 3pm
St Thomas Church, Musgrave

If music be the food of love

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

If music be the food of love, sing on till I am fill'd with joy
For then my listening soul you move with pleasures that can never cloy
Your eyes, your mien, your tongue declare that you are music everywhere
Pleasure invade both eye and ear, so fierce the transports are, so fierce they wound
My senses feasted are, though yet the treat is only sound
Sure I must perish by your charms, unless you save me in your arms

Can't Buy Me Love

Lennon and McCartney, arr. Abbs

I'll buy you a diamond ring, my friend, if it makes you feel all right
I'll get you anything, my friend, if it makes you feel alright
I don't care too much for money, money can't buy me love
Can't buy me love, everybody tells me so
I'll give you all I've got to give if you say you love me too
I may not have a lot to give but what I've got I'll give to you
Say that you need no diamond rings and I'll be satisfied
Tell me that you want the kind of things that money just can't buy

Organ piece:

March on a Theme of Handel, op. 15

Alexander Guilmant (1837-1911)

Rejoice in the Lord Alway

Unknown, 16th century

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice
Let your softness be known unto all men
The Lord is e'en at hand
Be careful for nothing, but in all prayer and supplication
Let your petitions be manifest unto God with the giving of thanks
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding
Keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen

Bogoroditsye Deyvo

Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943)

Bogoróditse Dyévo, ráduisya,
Blagodátnaya Mariye, Gospód s tobóyu.
Blagoslovyéna tyvzhenákhn,
i blagoslovýén plod chréva tvoegó,
yáko Spása rodilá esí dush náshikh.
*Rejoice, virgin mother of God,
Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed are thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
for thou hast borne the Saviour of our souls.*

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green
The trees of nature fruitless be, compared to Christ the apple tree
His beauty doth all things excel; by faith I know but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree
For happiness I long have sought and pleasure dearly I have bought
I missed of all, but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree
I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile
Under the shadow I will be of Jesus Christ the apple tree
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree

Organ piece:

Paraphrase on "Siyahamba"

John Behnke (1953-)

Daar Kom die Alibama

(trad. Afrikaans, arr. Edward Aitchison)

Daar kom die Alibama
Die Alibama die kom oor die see
Nooi, nooi die rietkooi nooi
Die rietkooi is gemaak
Die rietkooi is vir my gemaak
Om daarop te slaap
My voete loop na Wellington
Maar ek gaan Worcester toe
Vanaand gaan die volkies koring sny
My geliefde hang in die bos
My geliefde hang in die bitterbessiebos

*Here comes the Alibama
The Alibama is crossing the ocean
Maiden, maiden, the reed bed maiden
The reed bed has been made
The reed bed has been made for me
To sleep on
My feet are walking towards Wellington
But I am going to Worcester
Tonight the labourers will cut the wheat
My beloved hangs in the bush
My beloved hangs in the bitter berry bush*

Ntate

(trad. Sotho, arr. Derick Pule and Awie van Wyk)

Soloist: Mesuli Mhlongo

Ntate nkgodisetse bana baka
Mosadi yonao nketsetsa mathaiithai
Maobane o fihlile bosiu
Tsatsing lena o fihla hoseng hona

*Father, raise my children for me
My wife is unfaithful
Yesterday she arrived home late at night
Today she only arrived in the morning*

Tu tu mama

(trad. Xhosa, arr. A Tracey)

Soloist: Thembaletu Bhengu

Tu tu Mama lomntana ulahlekile
Tu tu mntana, ye mntana
Ulahlekele nguNina

*Hush hush, Mama, your baby is lost
Hush hush baby, oh baby
You have lost your mother*

Organ piece:

Fantasia in D minor, op. 57

Charles Villiers Stanford (1853-1924)

Coelos ascendit hodie

Charles Villiers Stanford (1853-1924)

Coelos ascendit hodie
Jesus Christus Rex gloriae
Sedet ad patris dexteram
Gubernat coelum et terram
Jam finem habent omnia
Patris Davidis carmina
Jam Dominus cam Domino
Sedet in Dei solio
In hoc triumpho maximo
Benedicamus Domino
Laudator Sancta Trinitas
Deo dicamus gratias. Amen

*Heaven ascended today
Jesus Christ the King of glory
He sits at the right hand of His father
He rules heaven and earth
Everything has an end
Father David's poems
The Lord came to the Lord
He sits on the throne of God
In this great triumph
Bless the Lord
Praise the Holy Trinity
Let us say thanks to God. Amen*

Please join us for tea and refreshments after the concert!