

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 Detterbeck 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 Jacomien de Klerk at 082 496 5510 or secretary@durbanchamberchoir.org.za

DURBAN CHAMBER CHOIR



conducted by Dr. AJ Bethke



Celebrating rhythm and rhyme from around the world

Concert Programme

Sunday 22 October 2023, 3pm

St Thomas Church, Musgrave

Sangena
Sangena, thina sangena
Sangena Mama, Sangena

Mzilikazi Khumalo (1932-2021)
We entered, we entered
We entered, mother, we entered

Nkosi Busis' iAfrika
Nkosi busis' iAfrika,
isize uyibonise okulungile nokufaneleyo,
ize yenze intando yakho.
Abantwana balomhlaba,
ekuhluphekeni kwabo,
baphe icebo wena themba labo,
yizwa imikhuleko yabo.

A.A. Khumalo (1879-1966)
*God bless Africa,
help show it what is right and proper,
until it does your will.
Children of this world,
in their suffering,
give them a plan, you are their hope,
hear their prayers.*

Viva la Musica
Long live the music!

Ivan Erod (1936-2019)

Festival Mass No 2
Gloria
Kyrie
Soloists: Jenny McCaul, Sarah Matter, Rainer Johannes, Richard Salmon
Sanctus
Agnus Dei
Soloist: Asanda Ntuli

Christopher Cockburn (1957-)

Nunc Dimittis
Lord, now let your servant go in peace.
Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation;
Which you have prepared in the sight of every people.
A light to lighten the nations;
And the glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Andrew-John Bethke (1982-)

Organ piece:
Allegretto
from **Organ Sonata no. 4, op. 65, no. 4**

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Bogoróditse Dyévo
Bogoróditse Dyévo, ráduisya,
Blagodátnaya Mariye, Gospód s tobóyu.
Blagoslovyéna ty v zhenákh,
i blagoslovyén plod chryéva tvoyevó,
yáko Spása rodilá yesí dush náshikh.

Arvo Pärt (1935-)
*Rejoice, virgin mother of God,
Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
for you have borne the Saviour of our souls.*

Karoonag
As die nag sy baadjie toeknoop
oor die veld en vlei,
en die diereriem sy blink
tot teen die Skerpioen laat lê;
as die Tweeling en die Kreef
kotteljons oor Beaufort-Wes,
en die maan sy beker skink
oor Graaff-Reinet:

Coenie de Villiers (1956-)
*When the night closes in
over the field and marsh,
and the zodiac lies bright
up against Scorpio;
when Gemini and Cancer
frolic over Beaufort West,
and the moon empties its cup
over Graaff-Reinet:*

God Be in My Head
God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

John Rutter (1945-)

Ruik jy katbos en kambro
as dit reën in die Kleinkaroo;
my Hantamwind, my optelkind,
Vanaand, hier vanaand

*You smell the wild asparagus and Cambro
when it rains in the Little Karoo;
my Hantam wind, my foundling,
tonight, here tonight*

In die môre as dit blou word
en die amber wolke roer
As die son sy eerste lig
oor die bitterboela stoot.
As die trein by Noupoot fluit
en dit weggaak in die wind,
en 'n tolbos iewers vaswaai
teen die rant.

*In the morning when blue appears
and the amber clouds stir.
When the first light of the sun
Shines over the wild watermelon.
When the train whistles by Noupoot
and it is lost in the wind,
and tumbleweed is blown somewhere
against the hill.*

The Great Amen
Asithi Amen Siyakudumisa
Baba, Amen

Peter Klatzow (1945-2021)
Hear us, amen, we praise your name
Father, hear us
Praise the name of the Lord

Geographical Fugue

Ernest Toch (1887-1964)

Organ piece:
Chorale Improvisation
on **“Nun danket alle Gott” op. 65, no. 59**

Sigfried Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

Please join us for tea and refreshments after the concert!