



# **Hexham Orpheus Choir**

**Spring Concert 1993**

**Mozart - Solemn Vespers  
Poulenc - Gloria**

**Saturday May 15 7.30pm  
St Aidan's Church, Hexham**

**programme - 20 pence**



# **Hexham Orpheus Choir**

**Soloists:**

**Mary Miller**  
Soprano

**Margaret Watt**  
Contralto

**Les Hodgson**  
Tenor

**Jonathan Hewitt**  
Bass

**Conductor**  
**Dave Cave**

The Hexham Orpheus Choir is affiliated to the National Federation of Music Societies with funds provided by Northern Arts

## Mozart: Solemn Vespers

In 1772, at the age of 16, Mozart was appointed Konzertmeister to the Archbishop of Salzburg, Count Hieronymus Colloredo. Over the next few years he composed a number of masses and litanies for Salzburg Cathedral and other large churches in the Archbishop's dominions. However, by 1777 Mozart was finding life in rural Salzburg irksome. Court musicians were treated by the Archbishop as lowly servants. Mozart had been acclaimed as a youthful genius by royalty all over Europe, and his pride was naturally offended by this, to us disgraceful, treatment. Furthermore, Mozart yearned to move to the musical centre of Europe, Vienna. A break with the Archbishop shop was inevitable, and the *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore* of 1780 turned out to be the last religious work composed for Salzburg. Mozart went to Munich to produce his opera *Idomeneo* but was summoned by the Archbishop to Vienna. At a violent interview Mozart finally obtained release from the Archbishop's employ. This interview ended with one of humanity's greatest geniuses being kicked out of the door by the Archbishop's head domestic official, Count Arco. As Mozart did not complete either of the later choral works, the C minor Mass or the D minor Requiem, the Vespers stands as his last major complete religious composition.

Vespers was the seventh of the eight daily services of the Roman Catholic church, and corresponds to Evensong in the Anglican rite. In 17th and 18th century cathedrals such as Salzburg it was the most magnificent of these services, and the favourite for composers to set to music.

A complete Vespers setting consists of five psalms, which vary according to the liturgical occasion, and a Magnificat. Mozart composed two complete settings in 1780, the second of which was the Solemn Vespers. Both sets contain the same five psalms, in the modern numbering, numbers 110 to 113, and 117. Mozart uses the sequence of psalms to demonstrate the full range of his compositional ability. The first movement, "Dixit Dominus" is an energetic "Allegro Vivace" for full choir with brief sections for solo quartet at the start of the "Gloria". The second movement starts in a forthright manner as befits the words "Confitebor Tibi Domine" but has a more reflective solo section at "Memor erit in saeculum testamenti sui". Another energetic Allegro Vivace ("Beatus Vir") follows, again with contrasts between full choir and soloists. "Laudate Pueri" is a magnificent contrapuntal movement in which Mozart shows his considerable mastery of polyphony, accentuating the contrast with the loveliness of "Laudate Dominum" which is one of Mozart's most beautiful movements, a radiant soprano aria with alternating choral sections. The Vespers concludes with the Magnificat which was the high point of the service, and indeed of the whole liturgical day.

Mozart provides a grand setting, which was necessary to provide time for the extended processions and censing of altars which accompanied the Magnificat. Both sets of Vespers were popular in Mozart's lifetime. Mozart certainly used them in Vienna, as he sent to his father for a set of parts in 1783. Since then, the Solemn Vespers has proved to be one of Mozart's most enduring church compositions, and in view of the incompleteness of the C minor Mass and the Requiem, the most entirely successful. (NFMS - edited)

**The Latin text of the five psalms and the Magnificat is reproduced below, together with the English words as they appear in the Book of Common Prayer.**

1.

**Dixit Dominus** domino meo: Sede a dextens meis, donec ponam inimicos tuos scabellum pedum tuorum.

Virgam virtutis tue emittet dominus ex Sion: dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum.

Tecum principium in die virtutis tue in splendoribus sanctorum, ex utero ante luciferum genui te.

Juravit Dominus et non poenitebit eum: tu es sacerdos in aeternum secundum ordinem Melchisedech.

Dominus a dextris tuis confregit in die irea suae reges.

Judicabit in nationibus, implebit ruinas, conquassabit capita in terra multorum.

De torrente in via bibet, propterea exaltabit caput.

Gloria patri et filio et spiritui sancto, sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in saecula saeculorum. Amen

2.

**Confitebor tibi Domine** in toto corde meo in consilio justorum et congregatione.

Magna opera Domini exquisita in omnes voluntates ejus.

Confessio et magnificentia opus ejus, et justitia ejus manet in saeculum saeculi.

Memoriam fecit mirabilium suorum misericors et miserator et justus escam dedit timentibus se.

Memor erit in saeculum testamenti sui.

Virtutem operum suorum annuntiabit populo suo: ut det illis hereditatem gentium.

Opera manum ejus veritas et judicium.

Fidelia mandata ejus in veritate et aequitate. Confirmata in saeculum saeculi.

Redemptionem misit Dominus populo suo, mandavit in aeternum testamentum suum. Sanctum et terribile nomen ejus.

### **Psalm 110**

The Lord said unto my Lord: Sit thou on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

The Lord shall send the rod of thy power out of Sion: be thou ruler, even in the midst among thine enemies.

In the day of thy power shall the people offer thee free-will offerings with an holy worship: the dew of thy birth is of the womb of the morning.

The Lord swear, and will not repent: Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedech.

The Lord upon thy right hand shall wound even kings in the day of his wrath.

He shall judge among the heathen: he shall fill the places with the dead bodies: and smite in sunder the heads over divers countries.

He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up his head.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

### **Psalm 111**

I will give thanks unto the Lord with my whole heart: secretly among the faithful, and in the congregation.

The works of the Lord are great: sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. His work is worthy to be praised, and had in honour: and his righteousness endureth for ever.

The merciful and gracious Lord hath so done his marvellous works: that they ought to be had in remembrance.

He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he shall ever be mindful of his covenant.

He hath shewed his people the power of his works: that he may give them the heritage of the heathen.

The works of his hands are verity and judgment: all his commandments are true. They stand fast for ever and ever: and are done in truth and equity.

He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his Name.

Initium sapientiae timor Domini.  
intellectus bonus omnibus facientibus  
eum, in laudatio ejus, manet saeculum  
saeculi.

Gloria patri et filio et spiritui sancto, sicut  
erat in principio et nunc et semper et in  
saecula saeculorum. Amen

3.

**Beatus vir** qui timet Dominum, in  
mandatis ejus volet nimis.

Potens in terra erit semen ejus. Generatio  
rektorum benedicetur.

Gloria et divitiae in domo ejus, et justitia  
ejus manet in saeculum saeculi.

Exortum est in tenebris lumen rectis,  
misericors et miserator et justus.

Jucundus homo qui miseretur et  
commodat disponet sermones suos in  
judicio.

Quia in aeternum non commovebitur. In  
memoria aeterna erit justus, ab auditione  
mala non timebit.

Paratum cor ejus sperare in Domino. Non  
commovebitur donec despiciat inimicos  
suos.

Dispersit dedit pauperibus, justitia ejus  
manet in saeculum saeculi.

Cornu ejus exaltabitur in gloria.

Peccator videbit et irascetur, dentibus suis  
fremet et tabescet, desiderium peccatorum  
peribit.

Gloria patri et filio et spiritui sancto, sicut  
erat in principio et nunc et semper et in  
saecula saeculorum. Amen

4.

**Laudate pueri** Dominum.

Sit nomen Domini benedictum ex hoc  
nunc et usque in saeculum.

A solis ortu usque ad occasum laudabile  
nomen Domini. Excelsus super omnes  
gentes

Dominus et super coelos gloria ejus.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of  
wisdom: a good understanding have all  
they that do thereafter; the praise of it  
endureth for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and  
to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the  
beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

**Psalm 112**

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord:  
he hath great delight in his  
commandments.

His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the  
generation of the faithful shall be blessed.  
Riches and plenteousness shall be in his  
house: and his righteousness endureth for  
ever.

Unto the godly there ariseth up light in the  
darkness: he is merciful, loving and  
righteous.

A good man is merciful, and lendeth: and  
will guide his words with discretion.

For he shall never be moved: and the  
righteous shall be had in everlasting  
remembrance.

He will not be afraid of any evil tidings:  
for his heart standeth fast, and believeth in  
the Lord.

His heart is established, and will not  
shrink: until he see his desire upon his  
enemies.

He hath dispersed abroad, and given to the  
poor: and his righteousness remaineth for  
ever: his horn shall be exalted with  
honour.

The ungodly shall see it, and it shall grieve  
him: he shall gnash with his teeth, and  
consume away: the desire of the ungodly  
shall perish.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the  
beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

**Psalm 113**

Praise the Lord, ye servants: O praise the  
Name of the Lord.

Blessed be the Name of the Lord from this  
time forth for ever more.

The Lord's Name is praised: from the  
rising up of the sun unto the going down  
of the same.

The Lord is high above all heathen: and  
his glory above the heavens.

Quis sicut Dominus Deus noster, qui in  
altis habitat.  
Et humilia respicit in coelo et in terra ?

Suscitans a terra in opem et de stercore  
erigens pauperem..ut colloceat cum  
principibus populi sui.

Qui habitare facit sterilem in domo,  
matrem filiorum laetantem.

Gloria patri et filio et spiritui sancto, sicut  
erat in principio et nunc et semper et in  
saecula saeculorum. Amen

5.

**Laudate Dominum** omnes gentes,  
laudate eum omnes populi.  
Quoniam confirmata est super nos  
misericordia ejus et veritas manet in  
aeternum.

Gloria patri et filio et spiritui sancto, sicut  
erat in principio et nunc et semper et in  
saecula saeculorum. Amen

6.

**Magnificat** anima mea Dominum et  
exaltavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari  
meo.  
Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae,  
ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes  
generationes.  
Quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est, et  
sanctum nomen ejus.  
Et misericordia ejus a progenie in  
progenies timentibus eum.  
Fecit potentiam in brachio suo, dispersit  
superbos mente cordis sui.

Deposuit potentes et exaltavit humiles.

Esurientes implevit bonis et divites dimisit  
inanes.

Suscepit Israel puerum suum, recordatus  
misericordiae suae.  
Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,  
Abraham et semini ejus in saecula.  
Gloria patri et filio et spiritui sancto, sicut  
erat in principio et nunc et semper et in  
saecula saeculorum. Amen

Who is like unto the Lord our God, that  
hath his dwelling so high: and yet  
humbleth himself to behold the things that  
are in heaven and earth ?

He taketh up the simple out of the dust:  
and lifteth the poor out of the mire:  
That he may set him with the princes: even  
with the princes of his people.  
He maketh the barren woman to keep  
house: and to be a joyful mother of  
children.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and  
to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the  
beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

**Psalm 117**

O praise the Lord, all ye heathen: praise  
him, all ye nations.  
For his merciful kindness is ever more and  
more towards us: and the truth of the Lord  
endureth for ever.  
Praise the Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and  
to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the  
beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

**Magnificat.**

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my  
spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his  
handmaiden.  
For behold, from henceforth all  
generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him:  
throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm: he  
hath scattered the proud in the imagination  
of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their  
seat: and hath exalted the humble and  
meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good  
things, and the rich he hath sent empty  
away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen  
his servant Israel: as he promised to our  
forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for  
ever.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and  
to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the  
beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

**Mozart : Alleluia, from the motet "Exsultate Jubilate**  
- for solo soprano and piano -

Mozart wrote the motet "Exsultate Jubilate" for the male soprano Rauzzini in 1773, when he was only 17 years old, and it has often been described as a concerto for voice and orchestra. Certainly the voice part is brilliantly operatic in style, but it never loses musicality or spirituality. The third movement, Alleluia, is one of Mozart's most famous movements, a lengthy aria based on the single word alleluia.

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- interval -

- refreshments will be available -

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**Poulenc: "C"**

- song for solo soprano and piano -

The song, a setting of a poem by Louis Aragon, recalls the dark days of 1940 and the tragic exodus of the French population as it fled before the invading forces. In a tone of extreme melancholy, the poet speaks of crossing the river Loire at a place called 'Les ponts du Cé', and describes all that this journey through the confusion of a forsaken France brings to his mind.

J'ai traversé les ponts de Cé  
C'est là que tout a commencé  
Une chanson des temps passés  
Parle d'un chevalier blessé.  
D'une rose sur la chaussée  
Et d'un corsage délacé.  
Du château d'un duc insensé  
Et des cygnes dans les fossés  
De la prairie où vient danser  
Une éternelle fiancée  
Et j'ai bu comme un lait glacé  
Le long lai des gloires faussées  
La Loire emporte mes pensées  
Avec les voitures versées  
Et les armes desamorcées  
Et les larmes mal effacées.  
O ma France, ô ma délaissée  
J'ai traversé les ponts de Cé.

I have crossed the bridges of Cé  
it is there that it all began  
a song of bygone days  
tells of a wounded knight  
of a rose on the carriageway  
and an unlaced bodice  
of the castle of a mad duke  
and swans on the moats  
of the meadow where an eternal  
betrothed comes dancing  
and I drank like iced milk  
the long lament of false glories  
the Loire carries away my thoughts  
with the overturned cars  
and the unprimed guns  
and the ill-dried tears.  
O my France, O my forsaken France  
I have crossed the bridges of Cé.

## Poulenc: Gloria

Poulenc was born in Paris in 1899, lived and worked there most of his life and died there in 1963. He is perhaps the most popular composer among "Les Six", that group of musicians in Paris in the 1920s. The group never claimed to be a school of musicians, rather a band of friends. They all opposed the Romantic ideals of the late 19th century, and tried to open the ears of the public to a sharper, wittier style of music. Poulenc's family were devout Catholics, but he himself had spurned any religious commitment until the sudden death of a close friend in the mid-1930s. He went on a pilgrimage to Rocamadour, and immediately began to compose his *Litanies à la Vierge Noire* (1936). Poulenc remained a fervent Catholic thereafter and continued to write major religious works.

The Gloria was first performed in 1961. Contrasts of mood are vividly expressed, ranging from the joyful and high spirited opening movements "Gloria" and "Laudamus Te" to the reverent and mysterious "Domine Deus" and "Domine Deus Agnus Dei". The solo soprano part is usually an unobtrusive line - an ethereal commentary upon the four chorus parts. The whole atmosphere of this piece is one of dedication to the rhythm and meaning of the words.  
(NFMS)

### The Latin text of the Gloria and its English translation are reproduced below

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.** et in terra pax  
hominibus bonae voluntatis.

Glory be to God on high and on earth  
peace, good will to men.

**Laudamus te.** Benedicimus te.  
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te. Gratias  
agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.

We praise thee, we worship thee, we  
glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy  
great glory.

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

O Lord God, King of Heaven, God the  
Father Almighty.

**Domine Fili unigenite.** Jesu Christe.

O Lord the only begotten Son Jesu Christ.

**Dominus Deus.** Agnus Dei, Filius  
Patris. Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere  
nobis. Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe  
deprecationem nostram.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the  
Father. Thou that takest away the sins of  
the world, have mercy upon us. Thou  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.

**Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris.**  
miserere nobis. Domine Jesu. Quoniam  
tu solus Sanctus. Tu solus Dominus. Tu  
solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe. Cum  
Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God  
the Father, have mercy upon us. O Lord  
Jesu. For thou only art holy, thou only art  
the Lord, thou only, O Christ, art most  
high. With the Holy Ghost in the glory of  
God the Father. Amen.