Brisbane Chamber Choir: Tides of Ocean
1:00pm Thursday 21 September 2023
Program

Sounds of our South Land
Tides of Ocean                      Matthew Orlovich  (b. 1970)

Mountain Spring                   Stephen Leek       (b. 1959)

Water Music
As Wave Drives Wave               Andrew Schultz     (b. 1960)

Calm the waves of this heart      Matthew Orlovich  (b. 1970)

Composing Women
Gabriel's Message                 Eleanor Daley      (b. 1955)

There is no rose                   Alison Willis      (b. 1971)

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree       Elizabeth Poston   (1905–1987)

Music of the Heavens
Stars                               Ėriks Ešenvalds  (b. 1977)

A Spotless Rose                    Robert Boughen     (b. 1929)

Exultate Domino                   Nigel Butterley    (1935-2022)
Brisbane Chamber Choir

The Brisbane Chamber Choir is directed by its founding director Graeme Morton. One of Australia’s more eclectic choirs, the choir combines musicians from diverse backgrounds and regularly performs in all musical styles from Renaissance repertoire to contemporary music, including premieres and commissions. A regular feature of our annual season has become the Magnificent Bach services which highlights the cantatas, masses and passions of Johann Sebastian Bach.

The ensemble regularly collaborates with other organisations including premieres of the Vietnam Requiem and the Prisoner of War Requiem in Canberra for the Flowers of Peace in partnership with the Australian War Memorial. Earlier this year, the performance of Beethoven’s 9th Symphony with Chief Conductor Umberto Clerici signified another successful partnership with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, with previous performances under maestros Stephen Layton and Dane Lam.

The choir has released a number of recordings including, in 2016, Mass of the Dreaming, a celebration of Australian choral music. It features the premiere recording of the Ross Edwards’ title work, together with compositions of musical friends Stephen Leek, Matthew Orlovich, Andrew Schultz, Paul Stanhope, Keren Terpstra and Joseph Twist.

The Brisbane Chamber Choir regularly commissions new works. Composers of commissioned works being performed during 2023 include Carl Crossin, Matthew Orlovich, and Andrew Schultz. The choir is currently the resident Chamber Choir of St John’s Anglican Cathedral and an Affiliate Ensemble of the University of Queensland School of Music.
Dr Graeme Morton

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

Graeme 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 he 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 in the pursuit of 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.

Graeme 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.

Diana Tolmie

Diana Tolmie is an internationally recognized-performing musician, and Senior Lecturer in Professional Practice at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University. The Brisbane Chamber Choir is grateful to Diana for her participation in today’s concert as a guest saxophonist.
Tides of Ocean
Matthew Orlovich (b.1970)

I stand over tides of ocean,
An eager grace at my feet,
The rhythm of speed surrounds me
And my heart throbs with its beat.

The winds play at my nostrils,
And clear stars tremble near,
The taut twang of the bow-sprit
Sings music to my ear.

The tumbling waves dash madly
In the cauldron far below,
And creaking booms swing sadly
Obscuring the moonlit glow.

A moon path stretches ghostly
Across the sea its hand,
And flying fish flash sparks like jewels,
Like jewels in a mirrored band.

Night birds in a flowing land
Raucously fly the ship
As onward, on winged feet
We start our southward dip.

And now behold our course,
Rising from the dark of space,
A cross of gleaming stars reflects
The joy upon my face.

My body thrills with life,
My spirit wildly bounds,
My soul absorbs the triumph
Of all these joyous sounds.

Text by Victor Carell

Mountain Spring
Stephen Leek (b.1959)

Peace has an altar here. The sounding feet
Of thunder and the wildering wings of rain
Fire-rifted summits flash and beat,
Through grey upper gorges and swoop and strain,
Round that hallowed mountain-spring remain,
Year after year, the days of tender heat,
Gracious nights whose lips of flowers are sweet.

Text by Henry Kendall
As Wave Drives Wave
Andrew Schultz (b.1960)

Since I have embarked on
Endless sea and set my sails,
I now do know this:

As wave drives wave,
And each, pursued,
Pursues the next

For what was before is left behind;
And what was not, now is;
And each moment is new.

So time, flies on and follows,
Always, forever new,
And is always new.

For neither the river
Nor this tide can
Can stop their flow.

I say:
There is nothing
In the whole universe,
Nothing that persists.
For that which once was is now gone.

Ovid, Metamorphoses, Bk XV:176-198,
“Pythagoras’s Teachings: The Eternal Flux.”

Calm the Waves of this Heart
Matthew Orlovich (b.1970)

O Lord, calm the waves of this heart; calm its tempests!
Calm thyself, O my soul, so that the divine can act in thee!
Calm thyself, O my soul, so that God is able to repose in thee,
so that His peace may cover thee!

Yes, Father in heaven, often have we found that the world cannot give us peace,
O but make us feel that Thou art able to give peace:
let us know the truth of Thy promise:
That the whole world may not be able to take away Thy peace.

Text by Søren Kierkegaard
**Gabriel’s Message**  
Eleanor Daley (b.1955)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favoured lady,” Gloria!

“For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honour thee,  
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favoured lady.” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head  
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.  
“My soul shall laud and magnify His holy name.”  
Most highly favoured lady; Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,  
“Most highly favoured lady.” Gloria!

Rev. S. Baring-Gould

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**There Is No Rose**  
Alison Willis (b.1971)

There is no rose of such virtue  
As is the rose that bare Jesu:  
Alleluya.

For in this rose contained was  
Heaven and earth in little space:  
Res miranda.

By that rose we may well see  
That he is God in persons three:  
Pari forma.

The angels sung the shepherds to:  
“Gloria in excelsis Deo”,  
Gaudeamus.

Leave we all this worldly mirth,  
And follow we this joyful birth:  
Transeamus.

Anonymous
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 with 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.

Words from Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs, compiled by Joshua Smith

Stars  
Ēriks Ešenvalds (b.1977)

Alone in the night  
On a dark hill,  
With pines around me  
Spicy and still,

And a heaven full of stars  
Over my head,  
White and topaz  
And misty red;

Myriads with beating  
Hearts of fire  
The aeons  
Cannot vex or tire;

The dome of heaven  
Like a great hill  
I watch them marching  
Stately and still

And I know that I  
Am honored to be  
Witness  
Of so much majesty.

Text by Sara Teasdale
A Spotless Rose
Robert Boughen (b.1929)

A Spotless Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers’ foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
Where of Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid,
For through our God’s great love and might
The blessed Babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter’s night.

XIV Century text

Exultate Domino
Nigel Butterley (1935-2022)

Exultate Domino omnes terrae;
servitae domino cum laetitia,
Introite in conspectum ejus cum exultatione.
Scitote dominum esse deum
ipse fecit nos et ipsius sumus,
populus ejus et oves pascuae ejus
Introite portas ejus cum laude.
Atria ejus cum hymno;
celebrati eum, Benedicite nomini ejus.
Nam bonus est Dominus
in aeternum misere cordia ejus,
et in generationem, fidelitas ejus.

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands;
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God;
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise;
be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.
For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting;
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Psalm 100
Brisbane Chamber Choir conducted by Graeme Morton presents an exciting concert of sublime choral music. Old and new exist simultaneously, heard through the performance of works by Thomas Weelkes, Elizabeth Poston, Andrew Schultz and many more.

Saxophone | Diana Tolmie

Sunday, 24 September 2023 @ 3PM
St John's Anglican Cathedral,
373 Ann Street, Brisbane

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