

SCHOLA

Cantorum of Oxford

STEVEN GRAHL

Conductor

GAVIN ROBERTS

Organist

Cantos Sagrados

James MacMillan



Alongside works from:

Francisco López Capillas

Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla

Monday 29th November, 8.30pm

Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford

www.schola-cantorum.net

Tickets £15 / £5 students

Available on the door or online

From the Chairman of the Trustees

On behalf of the Trustees of Schola Cantorum it is a pleasure to welcome you to this concert in Christ Church Cathedral. This is Schola's first 'real' concert since February 2020 and we are delighted that they are finally able to perform to a live audience in this splendid setting.

The centre-piece of this evening's programme is James MacMillan's Cantos Sagrados. One of his most powerful works, it sets poems by Ariel Dorfman and Ana Maria Mendosa on the subject of political repression in Latin America combined with traditional religious texts in Latin. This will be performed alongside polyphonic works by Francisco López Capillas, and Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla. Schola Cantorum will be joined by Organist Gavin Roberts, Director of Music at St Marylebone Parish Church.

The Choir provides an exceptional opportunity for some of the most talented singers in the University. It has been particularly heartening to witness the renaissance of Schola following the restrictions of the pandemic. I hope you will feel similarly excited to hear them in person following so many months when it has been difficult or impossible for singers to perform 'live'.

The Trustees are very grateful to the friends and benefactors of the choir. They provide essential help in ensuring the future of this superb choral ensemble, so that it can continue to provide excellent opportunities for the musical development of its singers and enjoyment for its audiences.

I am sure you will have an uplifting evening.

Dame Hilary Boulding DBE

Chair of the Trustees, Schola Cantorum of Oxford



Cantos Sagrados

Ave Regina	Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla (1590-1664)
Circumdederunt me dolores mortis	Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla
Pasacalles 3° tono	Juan Bautista Cabanilles (1644-1712)
Cantos Sagrados	James MacMillan (1959-
Diferencias sobre 'El Canto del Caballero'	Antonio de Cabezón (1510–1566)
Aufer a nobis	Francisco López Capillas (1615-1673)
Alleluia. Dic Nobis, Maria	Francisco López Capillas
Salve Regina	Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla

Notes on the music

Ave Regina - Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla

Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla was born in Malaga, Spain, on 1590 but moved to Puebla, Mexico, in 1620, and was appointed *maestro de capilla* of Puebla Cathedral in 1628. He was a prolific composer (over 700 pieces survive) and his vast output includes many sacred motets, often for double choir, in the Renaissance style or *stile antico*.

Ave Regina caelorum	<i>Hail, Queen of Heaven.</i>
Ave Domina Angelorum,	<i>Hail, Lady of Angels</i>
Salve radix, salve porta,	<i>Hail, thou root, hail, thou gate</i>
Ex qua mundo lux est orta.	<i>From whom into the world, a light has arisen:</i>
Gaude, Virgo gloriosa,	<i>Rejoice, glorious Virgin,</i>
Super omnes speciosa,	<i>Lovely above all others,</i>
Vale, O valde decora!	<i>Farewell, most beautiful maiden,</i>
Et pro nobis Christum exora.	<i>And pray for us to Christ.</i>

Circumdederunt me dolores mortis - Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla

Circumdederunt me dolores mortis	<i>The sorrows of death surrounded me</i>
Et pericula inferni invenerunt me	<i>And the dangers of Hell found me</i>
In tribulatione mea, invocavi Dominum,	<i>In my distress I called upon the Lord</i>
Et a Deum meum clamavi	<i>And I cry to my God</i>

Cantos Sagrados - James Macmillan

Cantos Sagrados is one of Macmillan's most powerful works, setting poems by Ariel Dorfman and Ana Maria Mendosa on the subject of political repression in Latin America, and combining them with sections of traditional religious texts in Latin. The three movements are violently contrasting to one another: the first, 'Identity' contains rapid speech and complex rhythmic patterns, alongside a fierce organ accompaniment, but ends with an icy 'Libera animas omnium'. The second, 'Virgin of Guadalupe' by Ana Maria Mendosa, begins softly, in a meditative fashion, as a prayer to the Virgin of Guadalupe, while documenting the torture the native people of Latin America endured as they were being conquered by Western invaders. The final movement, 'Sun Stone', the poem with the most gravitas, again by Dorfman, details the execution of a prisoner by firing squad.

As MacMillan states in his preface to the score 'the title Sacred Songs is ...slightly misleading as the three poems are concerned with political repression in Latin America and are deliberately coupled with traditional religious texts to emphasise a deeper solidarity with the poor of that subcontinent'.

Identity

What did you say - they found another one?

- I can't hear you - this morning

another one floating

in the river?

talk louder - so you didn't even dare

no one can identify him?

the police said not even his mother

not even the mother who bore him

not even she could

they said that?

the other women already tried - I can't understand what you're saying,

they turned him over and looked at his face, his hands they looked at,

right,

they're all waiting together,
silent, in mourning,
on the riverbank,
they took him out of the water
he's naked

as the day he was born,
there's a police captain
and they won't leave until I get there?
he doesn't belong to anybody,
you say he doesn't belong to anybody?

tell them I'm getting dressed,

i'm leaving now

if the captain's the same one as
last time

he knows

what will happen

that body will have my name -

my son's my husband's

my father's

name

i'll sign the papers tell them

tell them I'm on my way,

wait for me

and don't let that captain touch him

don't let that captain take one step closer
to him.

tell them not to worry:

i can bury my own dead.

Ariel Dorfman (tr. Edie Grossman)

libera animas omnium fidelium
defunctorum de poenia inferni,
et de profundo lacu: Libera eas
de ore leonis ne absorbeat eas
tartarus, ne cadant in obscurum.

From the Requiem Mass

*Deliver the souls of all the faithful
departed from the pains of hell
and from the depths of the pit: deliver them
from the lion's mouth, that hell devour
them not, that they fall not into darkness.*

Virgin of Guadalupe

Sweet Virgin of Guadalupe,

Oh virgin of the gentle eyes,

Dark-eyed virgin,

Good Lady, my love, painted

By God's own hand

On the cloak of the Indian Juan Diego,

Sweet virgin, my love,

Who commanded the bishop

To build you a shrine,

Where my brothers the Indian lived

In Tapeyepac in Mexico,

Outside the city. Flogged and burned

Were these poor little ones,

Despised, deceived and mocked,

My brothers the Indians.

A thousand times mistreated,

A thousand thousand killed.

What did you say to the bishop?

"You will build me a house

Outside the cit, where I will wait,

Where I can hear the cries,

the pleas of my Indian children."

Sweet Virgin of Guadalupe,

Oh virgin of the gentle eyes,
Dark-eyed virgin, my girl,
My love, I want to ask you
This question, dear mother

Why is it that in Spain,
 On the far side of our hills and valleys,
 Across the sea,
Why is there
 Another Virgin of Guadalupe,
 Patron Saint of the Conquerors?
 Men with great beards,
Men on horses,
 Men with swords and fire,
Who crush and burn our homes,
 And the Indians,
 Your children,
 Still inside?

Why is it, Sweet Virgin,
 Sweet mother,
Why is there another Virgin of Guadalupe,
"Patroness of the Conquerors"?
Ana Maria Mendoza (tr. Gilbert Markus o.p.)

Salve Mater coeli porta
Virga florens et exorta
David ex prosapia
Latin hymn

*Hail Mother, portal of heaven
Flowering Virgin, sprung
from the line of David*

Sun Stone

They put the prisoner

Against the wall.

A soldier ties his hands.

His fingers touch him - strong,

gentle, saying goodbye.

- Forgive me, compañero -

says the voice in a whisper.

The echo of his voice

and of

those fingers on his arm

fills his body with light

I tell you his body fills with light

and he almost does not hear

the sound of the shots.

Ariel Dorfman (tr. Edie Grossman)

Et incarnatus est de spiritu sancto

Ex Maria Virgine, et homo factus est.

Crucifixus etiam pro nobis.

from the Creed

He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary,

and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified.

Aufer a nobis - Francisco López Capillas

Francisco López Capillas was born in Mexico City in 1614. He was *maestro de capilla* of Mexico City Cathedral from 21 April 1654, until his death.

Alleluia.

Alleluia.

Dic nobis, Maria, quid vidisti in via?

Tell us, Mary, what did you see on the way?

Sepulcrum Christi viventis
et gloriam vidi resurgentis.

*"I saw the tomb of the living Christ
and the glory of his rising,*

Angelicos testes, sudarium et
vestes.

*"The angelic witnesses, the shroud, and the
clothes."*

Surrexit Christus spes mea:
Praecedet vos in Galilaeam.

*"Christ my hope is arisen;
He will go before you into Galilee."*

Scimus Christum surrexisse a
mortuis vere:

We know Christ is truly risen from the dead:

Tu nobis, victor Rex, miserere.

On us, you conqueror King, have mercy.

Amen.

Amen.

Salve Regina - Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla

Salve, Regina, Mater misericordiae,
Vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.
Ad te clamamus exsules filii Hevae,

Ad te suspiramus, gementes et
flentes

in hac lacrimarum valle.

Eia, ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos
misericordes oculos ad nos converte;
Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris
tui,
nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo
Maria.

*Hail Holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To thee we do cry, poor banished
children of Eve,
To thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping*

in this valley of tears.

*Turn then, our most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us;
And after this our exile, show unto us the
blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.*

Steven Grahl - Conductor

Steven Grahl is a sought-after conductor and keyboard player, and has been Conductor of Schola since September 2017. He is the Director of Music and Tutor in Music at Christ Church, Oxford, and he is also an Associate Professor of Music at Oxford University. Steven served as Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral from 2014 to 2018, where he was responsible for training the Cathedral Choir, and for the re-pitching of the Hill Organ, on which instrument he has recently recorded a solo CD. Peterborough Cathedral Choir's recording of Cheryl Frances Hoad's Even You Song, made under Steven's direction, was released to critical acclaim in December 2017.



Previously Steven was Assistant Organist at New College, Oxford, and he combined this post with that of Organist and Director of Music at St Marylebone Parish Church, London. He has also been musical director of The Guildford Chamber Choir, Peterborough Choral Society, and The Stamford Chamber Orchestra. Recent conducting engagements include: Verdi Requiem with Peterborough Choral Society and Cathedral Choirs; Bach Magnificat and Handel Coronation Anthems with the Guildford Chamber Choir and Instruments of Time and Truth; and works by Escaich, Copland, Maw, and Whitacre with Cambridge University Symphony Chorus. Steven has worked with numerous other ensembles, including The English Cornett & Sackbut Ensemble, Guildford Philharmonic, New London Chamber Choir, and Prime Brass.

Steven was an interpretation finalist in the International Organ Competitions at St Albans (UK) in 2011, and in Dudelange (Luxembourg) in 2013, and is currently President of the Incorporated Association of Organists. He is a prizewinning graduate of Magdalen College, Oxford, and the Royal Academy of Music, gained the top prizes in the FRCO examination, and is also a holder of the Worshipful Company of Musicians' Silver Medallion. In 2010, he was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music.

Gavin Roberts – Organist

Gavin Roberts enjoys a varied career as a piano accompanist. He has partnered singers in recital at Wigmore Hall, the Barbican Hall and the Royal Festival Hall, and is Artistic Director of the recital series Song in the City. He has appeared at The Cheltenham Festival, Dartington International Festival, The Ludlow Weekend of English Song, The Ryedale Festival and The Oxford Lieder Festival. He works regularly with soprano Lucy Hall, with whom he was the winner of the Oxford Lieder Young Artist Platform, and actor Rosamund Shelley, with whom he performs her one-woman shows Novello & Son and War Songs.



Gavin studied piano with Andrew West and Eugene Asti at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, where he is now a Professor. He previously read Music at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he also held the organ scholarship. Following this, Gavin gained a Master's degree from King's College London. Gavin is Organist and Director of Music at St Marylebone Parish Church. More details: www.gavinroberts.org & www.songinthecity.org.

Schola Cantorum of Oxford

Schola Cantorum of Oxford is one of the longest established and most widely known chamber choirs in the UK. Founded by conductor László Heltay in 1960 as Collegium Musicum Oxoniense, Schola Cantorum has worked with many highly respected musicians, including former patrons Sir Michael Tippett and Yehudi Menuhin, as well as Leonard Bernstein, Gustav Leonhardt, John Nelson, Sir Colin Davis, Sir Mark Elder, and Sir Neville Marriner.

Schola Cantorum comprises around thirty singers, most of whom are students at Oxford University. Studying a broad variety of subjects across the Humanities and Sciences, the choir's members rehearse during term, and regularly perform in Oxford and elsewhere. The choir has developed a noteworthy international reputation, having given concerts in recent years in Argentina, China, France, Italy, Israel, Malta, Mexico and Spain. Closer to home, the choir has enjoyed the opportunity to sing numerous concerts in and around Oxford, such as Handel's Messiah in the Sheldonian Theatre alongside the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, and as part of the Oxford Lieder festival in 2018.

The Choir

Soprano

Ashlynn Chan
Sarah Chapman
Jessie Edgar
Beth Fitzpatrick
Amaryllis Hill
Saskia Jamieson Bibb
Jemima Kinley
Luke Marsh-Muir
Vivian Ng
Hannah Roberts
Melissa Talbot

Alto

Millie Cant
Izzy Cuquerella Mohan
Karol Jozwik
Will Prior
Vicky Taylor
Luca Wetherall
Lindsay Williams

Tenor

Jerric Chong
Jack Edis
Josh Kenney
Matthew Pope
Ally Trowell

Bass

Dan Gilchrist
Edwin Hughes
John Johnston
Maddie Lay
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