

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert  
Faculty of Theology**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Stellenbosch University International Choral Conducting Symposium

**VOICES OF SOUTH AFRICA**

The 4<sup>th</sup> International Federation for Choral Music Multicultural Choral Conference

Concert 3

2 April 2009

**Messiah**

(highlights)

**Canticum Novum**

**University of Stellenbosch Symphony Orchestra**

Conductor:

*Louis van der Watt*

Soloists:

*Vanessa Tait-Jones (Soprano)*

*Minette du Toit-Pearce (Alto)*

*Willem Bester (Tenor)*

*Barend van der Westhuizen (Bass)*

“Whatever the source or style, whatever its source of appeal, music is the *sound* art. Once we have valued a pattern of sound for its own sake, a musical event has occurred....These patterns of sound that we call *music* are not just “interesting” from an intellectual point of view. They also can produce within us emotions of varying degrees and kinds. The way we respond to them is controlled mainly by the particular music we are hearing, but also by our individual personalities and past experiences.”

William Thomson (Music for Listeners)

## Programme

Highlights from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel  
(1685 - 1759)

### Part One (Prediction of the Coming of Christ)

1. Comfort ye my people (Is. 40: 1-3)

*Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness; prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

2. Every valley shall be exalted (Is. 40: 4)

*Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain and hill made low; the crooked straight and the rough places plain.*

3. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed (Is. 40: 5)

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

4. For unto us a child is born (Is. 9: 5)

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.*

5. Pifa ("Pastoral Symphony")

6. He shall feed his flock (Is. 40: 11; Matt. 11: 28, 29)

*He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come unto Him that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

### Part Two (Christ's Passion and Triumph)

7. Behold the Lamb of God (John 1: 29, 36)

*Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.*

8. He was despised (Is. 53: 3)

*He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.*

9. Surely, He hath borne our griefs (Is. 53: 4)  
*Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows! He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him.*
10. And with his stripes we are healed (Is. 53: 5)  
*And with His stripes we are healed.*
11. All we like sheep have gone astray (Is. 53: 6)  
*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way. And the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*
12. Lift up your heads (Ps. 24: 7-10)  
*Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, The Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.*

#### INTERVAL

13. Why do the nations so furiously rage (Ps. 2: 1, 2)  
*Why do the nations so furiously rage together, and why do the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against His anointed.*
14. He that dwelleth in Heaven shall laugh them to scorn (Ps. 2: 4)  
*He that dwelleth in Heav'n shall laugh them to scorn; The Lord shall have them in derision.*
15. Thou shalt break them (Ps. 2: 9)  
*Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.*
16. Hallelujah (Rev. 19: 6; 11: 15; 19: 16)  
*Hallelujah: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.*

#### Part Three (From the Anglican Burial Service)

17. I know that my Redeemer liveth (Job 19: 25, 26; 1 Cor. 15: 20)  
*I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.*

18. Since by man came death (1 Cor. 15: 21, 22)  
*Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.  
For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*
19. Behold, I tell you a mystery (1 Cor. 15: 51, 52)  
*Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.*
20. The trumpet shall sound (1 Cor. 52-54)  
*The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*
21. Worthy is the Lamb (Rev. 5: 12-14)  
*Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. Blessing and honour, glory and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever. Amen.*
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Canticum Novum, originally the Studentekerk (Student Church) choir, is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009. The choir is the only student choir in South Africa with a repertoire dedicated exclusively to sacred music. While being part of the Dutch Reformed Church of Stellenbosch on a full time basis, the choir is also a concert choir with a broad repertoire. Besides presenting an annual a cappella repertoire covering music from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present day, it is also one of the few choirs to perform works for choir and orchestra on a regular basis. Works performed include the Bach's Magnificat, Handel's *Dixit Dominus*, *Messiah* and *Dettingen Te Deum*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, *Credo* and *Magnificat*, the *Requiem* by Mozart, the *Mass in E-flat* by Schubert and Rossini's *Stabat Mater*.

**Louis van der Watt** has been the conductor of Canticum Novum since 1996. During his 4 years at the University of the Free State he was First Violinist in the Free State/PACOFs Symphony Orchestra, member of the Student's Representative Council, Chairperson of the University Choir and Vice-Warden of one of the men's residences. He continued his studies at the Stellenbosch University, receiving both his BTh and Lic Theol degrees *cum laude*. He furthered his violin studies under Eric Rycroft and passed the UNISA Teacher's Licentiate as well as the Royal School's Performer's and Teacher's Licentiate with distinction. He was also Concert Master of the US Symphony Orchestra. At the same time, he was Vice-Chairperson of the University Choir, Warden (Primarius) of Majuba men's residence and member of the Theological Students Representative Council. He was a part-time member of the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra for many years and was Head of Strings at the Hugo Lambrechts Music Centre before his appointment as string lecturer at the US in 2000. He is conductor of the Canticum Novum choir, guest conductor of the USSO, and a former conductor of the Mecer City of Tygerberg Choir.