



I'm quite sure you agree with Beethoven – after all he knew a thing or two about music – that the Cherubini Requiem is just wonderful!! The choir thoroughly enjoyed singing it and I'm sure you enjoyed it too. Phil Cox was brilliant in the trumpet concerto -- and Nic is a most wonderful crooner – straight out of the 'Rat Pack'! All in all a different and exciting concert.

The next concert will be equally exciting:

*William Walton's Belshazzar's Feast
& John Rutter's Gloria
at the Linder Auditorium - Sunday, 8th October @ 15:00
with the Johannesburg Festival Orchestra
Soloist Njabulo Madlala (bass baritone)
and of course Richard on the podium.*

"Belshazzar's Feast? What is this now?" I hear you ask. Well, it is one of the most exciting and dramatic works written in the 20th century. It was first performed in 1931 with Malcolm Sargent on the podium. The work has remained one of Walton's most celebrated compositions. Walton is well known for his 'Spitfire Prelude and Fugue', 'Orb & Sceptre' and also wrote the 'Johannesburg Festival Overture'.

In the story of Belshazzar's Feast, the Jews are in exile in Babylon. During a feast at which Belshazzar, the Babylonian king, commits sacrilege by using the Jews' sacred vessels to praise the heathen gods, a hand appears and writes on the wall: Mene, mene tekel upharsin – Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting! Belshazzar is miraculously killed, the kingdom falls, and the Jews regain their freedom. To whet your appetite I've included a YouTube address with a 2011 performance conducted by Sir David Willcocks; go to this address <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EO6J386KyqA> to listen.

Right? Wonderful, exciting music! Now imagine it in live performance! Brilliant! Absolutely not to be missed!

John Rutter is well known and his Gloria is a musical setting of parts of the Latin Gloria. It resulted from a commission of Mel Olson for his choir in Omaha, Nebraska. Rutter composed it in 1974. He structured the text in three movements and scored it for choir, brass, percussion and organ, with an alternative version for choir and orchestra. Rutter conducted the premiere in Omaha on 5 May 1974. As always with Rutter it is a joy to sing and a joy to listen to.

Booking for these concerts is through Debbie 082 853 9709 or scj@worldonline.co.za or me on 011 788 2340 or news@symphonychoirofjohannesburg.co.za as usual.

Please remember that booking is essential – it makes the collection of your tickets so much easier.

We thank you once again for your generous support of the Choir. It is greatly appreciated!

Yours sincerely, on behalf of the Symphony Choir of Johannesburg,

Kate Pope

PO Box 91482 Auckland Park 2006

E-mail:

scj@worldonline.co.za

Registered Non-Profit Organisation

027-835-NPO

Tel: Debbie 082 853 9709

Web:

www.symphonychoirofjohannesburg.co.za

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