



16th May 2019

We had an exciting and hectic run up to the Andrea Bocelli and the Handel concerts – a full week of rehearsals and concerts – by the time we reached Good Friday's concert we were well and truly in 'singing mode', which is perhaps why the Messiah was so spectacular. Many in the audience remarked, that this was the most outstanding performance of the Messiah they had ever heard. Well – hard work and dedication always pays off! And wasn't Nic just fabulous? We shall miss him so much.

The next time you can hear the choir is in the always very popular

LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS charity concerts

– put on by Richard C Music Enterprises

at the Linder on Saturday 25th May @ 19:30 & Sunday 26th May @ 15:00.

- you have to hurry to secure tickets for these concerts – Sunday is almost sold out –

Book at Computicket

The next concert put on by the choir is just what you need to cheer you up on a cold winter's day:

*Antonio Vivaldi – Gloria and
John Rutter – Feel the Spirit
at the Linder Auditorium – 23rd June @ 15:00
Soloists: Magdalene Minnaar (soprano), Minette du Toit Pearce (contralto),
With the Johannesburg Festival Orchestra
and
Richard C on the podium.*

Both these works are up-beat and exciting – each in their own way. **Vivaldi** was of course one of the great baroque composers, and the Gloria is one of sacred music's most uplifting choral works. The title says it all : Glory !! A joyful hymn of praise and worship divided into 12 relatively brief movements, ranging from festive brilliance to profound sadness. Yet it's a mark of Vivaldi's skill that the work overall maintains a cohesive structure. From lilting soprano solos to solemn choral singing with duets and four part harmonies, this really is a masterclass in choral writing.

But Vivaldi, always the great instrumentalist, doesn't forget his musicians. There are opportunities for tender, lovely countermelodies played variously by the violin or the oboe. **John Rutter** is another master of choral writing and Feel the Spirit is no exception. Set for mezzo-soprano solo, mixed choir, and orchestra or chamber ensemble, it is a cycle of seven familiar spirituals, expertly arranged by John Rutter. The vivid and expressive arrangements can be performed individually, or as a complete cycle that showcases the rich heritage of the spiritual – you will of course be treated to the full work which brings new life to such well-loved titles as Steal Away, I Got a Robe, and When the Saints Go Marching in. Yet again a wonderful afternoon of glorious music not to be missed.

Booking for this concerts is through our administrator Debbie on 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. Also – if you don't, we have to conjure up tickets at a moment's notice, we usually succeed but – Please remember to book – it makes everything 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

E-mail:

scj@worldonline.co.za

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Web:

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18/11/13/4874