



Conducted by
Levi Alexander

MASS IN MODERN TIMES

Lutheran Church
Strand Street

7PM
27 April 2022

Mass in Modern Times

Mass is the word used to describe the central act of worship in a church in many Western Christian faiths. Mass is also about spending time in the presence of God and receiving his grace and blessings. The word mass comes from the Latin phrase *'Ite missa es'*, which is used at the end of the service and means *to send out*. In modern times the phrase *'Ite in pace glorificando vita vestra dominum'* - go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life - has been added.

The title of this concert, ***Mass in Modern Times***, pays homage to this poignant phrase with a beautifully curated programme of short works. The Symphony Choir of Cape Town invites you to share in this Mass and to go in peace. Peace is what is desperately needed in the modern world right now.

**There will be a 20 minute interval after the
Christopher Cockburn Mass**

Ola Gjeilo (Born 1978) - Northern Lights

Ola Gjeilo is a Norwegian pianist and composer now living in the United States. He writes choral music, and has written for piano and wind symphony.

Northern Lights was composed outside Oslo during Christmas of 2007 whilst looking out of his attic window at a wintry lake! "Set to the Latin *'Pulchra es amica*

mea' text from Song of Solomon, this a cappella work is about beauty.

The text and the music describe something serene and heartbreaking, a "terrible beauty," so profoundly reflected in the aurora borealis which, according to Gjeilo, is one of the most beautiful natural phenomena he has ever witnessed.

Adapted from Kathryn Louderback: A Pianist's Musings

Peter Klatzow (1945 – 2021) – Prayers and Dances of Praise from Africa

Peter Klatzow was born in Springs. He is one of the few South African composers to achieve international recognition, and has won prizes in Spain, the United Kingdom and Canada. His works have been performed in various European centres and in the United States. In South Africa he was awarded the prestigious Helgard Steyn prize for his piano suite *From the Poets*. Peter Klatzow's choral music reflects a deep personal Christian faith. Consequently his works are (with only a few exceptions) either spiritual in nature, appealing to a catholic Christian community, or they directly centre on the tradition of the Anglican Church.

One of Klatzow's most frequently performed works, the *Prayers and Dances of Praise from Africa* was published and first performed in 1996. A cappella voicing of the choir parts is interspersed with three dances of praise played by brass quintet. The combination is highly effective. A version for marimba duet was revised in 2000. This is what is being performed tonight.

The text is by Archbishop Desmond Tutu whose wording reflects memorable indigenous South African scenes.

Adapted from Marianne Feenstra: Klatzow' Choral Music; spirituality & liturgy.

We perform this work in tribute to the late Peter Klatzow and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Christopher Cockburn (Born 1957) – Missa Prima Lux Australis

Christopher Cockburn is a church and concert organist and choir director. He studied at the University of Cape Town and also in England. He is currently on the staff of the music department at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban. The "*Missa Prima Lux Australis* (Mass for a Southern Dawn) was composed in 1994 [the birth year of a democratic South Africa] for performance at the National Arts Festival service in Grahamstown Cathedral, where the composer was organist and choirmaster. It has subsequently been performed at two South African National Summer Schools of the Royal School of Church Music. It is written for SATB choir (with divisions) accompanied by melodic percussion instruments. The four movements are strongly contrasted in character, and the work combines modal counterpoint with elements of African music." *Classics.co.za*

Moses Hogan (1957 – 2003) – The Battle of Jericho

Moses Hogan was an American composer and arranger of choral music. He was best known for his settings of spirituals. Hogan was a pianist, conductor, and arranger of international renown.

Hogan's well-known, excitedly animated Traditional Spiritual: *The Battle of Jericho*, refers to the Old Testament book of Joshua, Ch. 6 and pays tribute to the Israelite army which overthrew the city of Jericho. "It is believed that slaves composed the song in the early 19th century, and it was first recorded by Harrod's Jubilee Singers in 1922". *The TabernacleChoir.com/articles*.

Robert "Bob" Chilcott (Born 1955) – A Little Jazz Mass

Robert "Bob" Chilcott is a British choral composer, conductor, and singer, based in Oxfordshire, England. He was a member of the King's Singers from 1985 to 1997, singing tenor.

Bob Chilcott's *A Little Jazz Mass* is "a highly original and effective concert setting of the Latin missa brevis in which the various movements embrace a variety of jazz styles. Chilcott's jazz influences truly come to the fore in *A Little Jazz Mass*: The Kyrie has real groove, the Gloria swings, the Sanctus sits right back while the Benedictus hums along, and the Agnus Dei draws inspiration from the blues. The voices are underpinned by a characterful piano accompaniment and bass and drums join ad lib, giving the flavour of an authentic improvised jazz trio. *A Little Jazz Mass* is one of Chilcott's most celebrated and popular choral works, and has received countless performances (both in concerts and as part of the sung liturgy) across the world, perhaps most notably in St Paul's Cathedral, London."

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There are five movements: Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Benedictus, Agnus Dei

What is the Missa Brevis?

Missa Brevis is Latin for "short Mass." The term usually refers to a mass composition that is short because part of the text that is usually set to music in a full mass, is left out or because its execution time is relatively short. The two Masses sung tonight are settings of the Missa Brevis where the Credo has been omitted.

The Christopher Cockburn Mass is structured according to the Anglican tradition in which the Gloria precedes the Kyrie whereas the Bob Chilcott Mass uses the traditional Catholic format in which the Kyrie is sung first.



LEVI ALEXANDER

(MMus (c.l.) Cho. Cond. (US), BMus Sax Perf (UCT), LTCL (Sax) graduated cum laude with a Masters in Music, specialising in Choral Conducting.

His thesis from Stellenbosch University, under the mentorship of Dr Martin Berger, addressed the “Plight of Anglican Music in the

Western Cape”, aiming to ascertain whether traditional music was under threat of disuse and if so, what measures could be implemented to preserve its heritage for future generations of Anglican worshippers. He conducted the Stellenbosch University Schola Cantorum Choir which performed the Durufle *Requiem* and the Monteverdi *Vespers* as part of the practical component of his master’s degree.

Levi began formal musical tuition in saxophone at the Hugo Lambrecht’s Music Centre in 2007 while attending The Settlers High School, and his involvement in eleven musical groups led him to study towards a Bachelor’s Degree in Music at the South African College of Music (UCT) in 2010. His majors included both baritone saxophone performance and conducting. He toured Europe with various chamber music ensembles throughout his high school and university studies.

Levi has extensive teaching and conducting experience gained while conducting the National Youth Wind Ensemble & Orchestra, The Cape Philharmonic Youth Wind Ensemble & Orchestra, Artscape Youth Jazz Festival, Artscape National Youth Music Competition, University of Cape Town Symphony Orchestra and Amici Choir. Levi was appointed Director of the Symphony Choir of Cape Town in 2021.

FRANK MALLOWS was born in Cape Town and received his early musical training at Diocesan College (Bishops) Rondebosch. Whilst still in his teens Frank started performing professionally as a percussionist with the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra and the CAPAB Orchestra, and was later appointed Sub Principal Percussionist and Assistant Manager of the latter orchestra.

Frank has had a long association with Peter Klatzow. He was the soloist in the performance of Klatzow’s *Concerto for Marimba and Strings* at the National Arts Festival Grahamstown in 1990. In 2012 Frank commissioned Peter Klatzow to compose a double concerto for vibraphone, marimba and strings which was premiered in 2013, and in 2014 he performed Peter Klatzow’s *Concerto for Flute, Marimba and Strings*. Frank performs regularly in a wide range of musical genre, from orchestral classical, shows and musicals, to jazz vibraphone, drums and keyboards in various Cape Town bands and ensembles.

ERGONOMIX is a Percussion Ensemble which has been directed by Frank Mallows since 1998. It consists of a group of young percussionists who have a passion for performing new and interesting percussion ensemble works. The group has collaborated with a number of local senior schools and choirs, and has accompanied international artistes.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church, Strand Street originated in the 1760's and has functioned as a church from 1780. All the original detail is in the remarkable carvings by 18th C sculptor Anton Anreith. Notice the tall Gothic-arched windows, the stinkwood and yellowwood panelled galleries, and of course, the pulpit which is the Church's masterpiece.

If you wonder why there are limited or no sight-lines in the gallery, thank our ancestors. Slaves in the Cape Colony had to sit upstairs, and were only allowed to see "die predikant op die Preekstoel." www.outsiderswithin.co.za



The Lutheran Swan

Jan Hus (1370-1415) whose surname means 'goose', in the Bohemian language, had a strong influence on Martin Luther and the Reformation. He was excommunicated for his beliefs and burned at the stake in July 1415. Just prior to being burned, he was ordered to recant his teachings. He responded: 'You are now going to burn a goose, but in 100 years you will have a swan which you can neither roast nor boil.'

Almost exactly 100 years later, in October 1517, Martin Luther posted his theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg, and the Reformation was born.

Lutheran art frequently portrays Luther with a swan.



FAZIOLI

We are delighted and extremely privileged to have been loaned the beautiful FAZIOLI Grand Piano for tonight's concert. Our grateful thanks to Ian Burgess-Simpson Pianos www.ianburgess-simpson.com

We also offer thanks to The Woodbridge Charitable Trust for its annual sponsorship of the choir as well as to several anonymous donors for their generous donations.

Our ability to continue as a choir and to be able to perform choral music for music lovers of Cape Town is entirely dependent on the generosity of our sponsors.

Should you wish to become a sponsor please contact us (details below)

A Sobering Thought from Riccardo Mutti

"A **symphony** orchestra costs less than one footballer today. What legacy do we expect to leave to our children? Culture does not exist to make profit but to educate. If this does not change, superficial and very dangerous people will prevail in future generations."

The Symphony Choir of Cape Town is a non-profit organisation of classical music enthusiasts.

Rehearsals take place at the Rondebosch United Church.

Levi Alexander is the choir's director and Warren Patientia is the accompanist.

We are always looking for new members. If you are interested please apply online via our website

Email: symphonychoircapetown@gmail.com

www.scct.co.za

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Special thanks to Gretchen van der Byl for the artwork
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