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PALISSANDER KAMERKOOR /
CHAMBER CHOIR
FEESJAAR / FESTIVAL YEAR
1992-2022

THIS
IS
US -
SING LIKE
A PLANET

Palissander

Palissander is 'n onafhanklike amateurkoor wat in 1992 gestig is en wye internasionale erkenning geniet. Die koor het tot dusver met groot sukses in Kanada, Noorweë, Denemarke, Nederland, Kenia, Frankryk, Italië, Duitsland, Spanje, Etland en Finland opgetree. Hoogtepunte van Palissander se oorsese toere sluit konserte in die Notre Dame in Parys en die Rock Church in Helsinki in, asook 'n impromptu uitvoering vir die wêreldbekende komponis van Etland, Arvo Pärt.

Die naam Palissander is 'n verwysing na Boerneef se vierde digbundel, *Palissandryne*, waarin die digter "palissandertaal" herhaaldelik as 'n sinoniem vir musiek gebruik.

Sarita Hauptfleisch, vandag steeds die koor se dirigent, het Palissander gestig met die doel om sielsmusiek te maak. Palissander doen dit deur 'n kooruitvoering in 'n gedeelde ervaring met die gehoor te omskep. Elke konsertprogram word om 'n sentrale tema gebou waarin die teks van die liedere 'n storielyn vorm. Sodoende word die gehoor nie slegs op die musikale vlak nie, maar ook op die intellektuele en emosionele vlak betrek.

The theme approach enables an extremely diverse repertoire to be drawn together into a cohesive whole. Since 2004, the annual themes have addressed topics such as peace, democracy, tolerance, our response to the HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 pandemics, and respect for the earth. In this way, Palissander has become an ambassador for love and peace, both locally and internationally.

Palissander is based in Pretoria and currently consists of 25 members. For the 30-year celebration concerts, the choir is joined by alumni for part of the programme.

Palissander's core values are passion, abundance, joy, respect and acceptance.

Sing like a planet

The unusual title for our 30-year festival programme was inspired by the fact that planets make irrepressible music as they move through space. Like the planets, every person also has a unique voice that must be heard. Everyone's song must be sung.

How to sing like a planet / Scientists say the Earth is humming. Not just noise, but a deep, astonishing music. Can you hear it?

Mark Morford, SF Gate Columnist
April 23, 2008

"Scientists now say the planet itself is generating a constant, deep thrum of noise. No mere cacophony, but actually a kind of music. Huge, swirling loops of sound, a song so strange you can't really fathom it, so low it can't be heard by human ears..."

How to sing like a planet Composer's note

How to sing like a planet was inspired by a news article by the same title, written by the gregarious San Francisco columnist Mark Morford. Using a recent science report as a springboard, Morford spun out a delicious riff about the irrepressible music that the earth makes just by being itself. His glorious, over-the-top phrases described "...all sorts of curious tonal phrases that bounce around the mountains and spin over the oceans and penetrate the tectonic plates and gurgle in the magma and careen off the clouds and smack into trees and bounce off your ribcage and spin over the surface of the planet in strange circular loops." Wow, I thought. Could we sing that kind of music?

While I didn't actually set Morford's words to music, his unfettered imagination and provocative title got me off and running. In addition to that, I had some other sources of inspiration. My son Oliver (who had studied earth science more recently than I had), helped me remember principles like harmonic motion and oscillation, as well as the four basic planetary forces: gravity, electricity, weak force and strong force. I also gleaned wisdom from my yoga teacher Paul Busch, whose radical notions include the convictions that (1) gravity is our friend and (2) wobbling is nothing to be embarrassed about.

**TODAY'S PROGRAMME WILL BE SELECTED FROM THE
FOLLOWING WORKS/
ONS KIES VANDAG SE PROGRAM UIT DIE VOLGENDE WERKE
MUSIEK VAN DIE SFERE**

1. Stone

Jacob Narverud and Ryan Main

Words: Robert Bode

With electronic track and percussion

The text for Stone is a haiku: a minimalist form of poetry based on a solid, concrete idea. Haiku poetry, which originated in Japan, is a form of purposeful meditation which is used by poets to convey impressions and perceptions using only seventeen syllables per stanza. This particular setting of Robert Bode's haiku is an aggressive fusion of choral, electronica and percussion forces which uses the latest in digital instrumental sampling and non-traditional percussion effects.

Hard the ringing stone, heavy the flinting edges,
as cold as regret.

Volcano daughter, forged of slow and fiery breath,
cooled to hardest ice.

Pressed against the night, against the strongest darkness,
your iron heart is mine.

2. The spheres

Ola Gjeilo

From *Sunrise Mass*; sung in Latin

The spheres is the name of the first movement (Kyrie) from Gjeilo's 2008 Mass for choir and string orchestra. This, a cappella version of the first movement, will be the only a cappella piece derived from the Mass. Gjeilo used an overlapping fade-in/fade-out effect to give a sense of floating in space, in darkness and relative silence, surrounded by stars and planets light-years away.

Here, wees ons genadig, Christus, wees ons genadig

Moment

Laurinda Hofmeyr, verw. Sarita Hauptfleisch

Teks: Jean-Pierre Rawie



Solis: Otto Bester

Hierdie verwerking is gedoen vir Palissander se eerste oorsese reis in 2000 vir die wêreldkonferensie van die International Society for Music Education in Edmonton, Kanada. Die titel van die konferensie was *Music of the spheres*.

Soms hoor ek onverwags weer agter jou gewone woorde
'n soveel suiwerder en sagter asemrowende geluid
dat ek opnuut na jou moet kyk, asof vir die eerste keer

Laat die jare maar verstryk, solank ons dit mag bewaar
kan die tyd ons van niks ontnem
Weer vir die eerste keer met jou alleen
hoor ek die harmonie van die sferes deur die alledaagsheid heen



3. How to sing like a planet

Elizabeth Alexander

Let everything unfold in its own time.
Accept what's beyond your control.
Revel in simple harmonic motion.
Turn. Rotate.
Get charged up. Be weak. Be strong.
Don't fight friction.
Vibrate sympathetically.
Don't be afraid to get into a groove.
Let gravity have its way with you.
Revolve around something luminous.
Wheel, whirl, slide, collide, circle, cycle, amble, gambol, resonate,
radiate, innovate, renovate, oscillate, fluctuate, circumnavigate, flow.
Bloom periodically.
Hunker down when you must.
Wobble from time to time without apology.
Know that annihilation's possible any time,
But expect a bright tomorrow's coming anyway.

MUSIC OF THE SOUL



4. Muusika

Sung in Estonian

Pärt Uusberg

Somewhere there must be the first harmonic sound
Somewhere in the vastness of nature hidden
It is in its mighty spread and breadth
In the distances between galaxies
It is in the brilliance of the sun
In tiny flowers, in breezes through forests
In a mother's voice speaking music of the heart
In the water of tears
Somewhere there must be eternal life
Somewhere the first harmonic sound is there to be found
How else could it have appeared into the heart of a human being
As music?

5. Past life melodies

Sarah Hopkins

The melodic ideas of the work are simple in structure and reach deep into the soul. The first melody was one that haunted the composer for many years and came to her at moments of deep emotion. The second melody reflects her eight years of residence in Darwin in the north of Australia, where she had much contact with Australian Aboriginal art and music. The third section of the work uses harmonic overtone singing, which is as ancient a technique as singing itself. Here the separate harmonic voices weave and dart like "golden threads" above the earthy drone sustained by the main body of the choir.

Programme note by Stephen Leek © Morton Music



6. Music animam tangens

Poem: Ryan Newstrom; sung in Latin

Joshua Shank

Music that touches the soul, seas of life pouring out
Rivers that free the heart all with love
Music that sounds, music that resounds, filling my essence
My soul overflows like a mountain submerged by waves, to touch
God

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD



7. Ilus hää! (Pragtige stem) Margrit Kits, verw. Laura Jēkabsone

In Letties gesing

Verwerking gedoen ter ere van Estonië se 100e verjaardag. 'n Liefde vir sang verenig Estland en Letland. Albei nasies het 'n ryk erfenis van volksmusiek, wat 'n beduidende invloed op kontemporêre musiek het.

Weerklink, vrygewige woude

In ruil vir my pragtige stem, in ruil vir my wonderlike lied
Waar my stem gehoor word, waar my lied gesing word



8. My name is Lamiya

Michael Bussewitz-Quarm

Text by Lamiya Safarova, age 9

There are around 14 million child refugees in the world today. This is one child's song.

My life, my destiny has been so painful,
so please don't call me "refugee".
My heart aches, my eyes cry,
I beg of you, please don't call me "refugee".
It feels like I don't even exist in the world.

As if I'm a migrant bird far away from my land
turning back to look at my village.
Oh, the things I've seen during these painful years,
the most beautiful days I've seen in my land,
I've dreamed only about our house,
I beg of you, please don't call me "refugee".
My name is Lamiya.



9. Prayer of the children

Kurt Bestor, arr. Andrea S. Klouse

For male voices

Kurt Bestor wrote this song out of frustration over the horrendous civil war and ethnic cleansing that took place in Yugoslavia.

Can you hear the prayer of the children on bended knee,
in the shadow of an unknown room?
Can you feel the hearts of the children aching for home,
for something of their very own?
Reaching hands with nothing to hold on to but hope for a better day.

Cryin': "Jesus help me to feel the love again in my own land,
but if unknown roads lead away from home,
give me loving arms, 'way from harm."
Can you hear the voice of the children
softly pleading for silence in their shattered world?"

PALISSANDERTAAL

*My blokfluit is van palissanderhout
daarom speel hy so palissander
en laat my fluitspel julle koud
die een bly tog maar anders as die ander
ek trek dit my nie in die minste aan
as niemand palissandertaal verstaan.
Boerneef*

Palissandertaal is ons onstuitbare sielsmusiek waardeur ons ons
ervaring van die lewe met mekaar en die gehoor deel. Oor die
afgelope 30 jaar het ons programme onder andere gehandel oor
geloof, liefde, die natuur, vreugde, vrede en vrywees.



10. Indodana

Verw. Michael Barrett en Ralf Schmidt

In Xhosa gesing

Die Here het Sy Seun geneem wat onder ons gewoon het
Die Seun van die Here God is gekruisig. Here God.

11. Hier tussen ons

Louis Brittz, verw. Sarita Hauptfleisch

Vir EngelA

Die liefde is 'n rooi gedig in versreël en kwatryn
wat jou met gawe oë sien in woorde sag en fyn

Die liefde is 'n spierwit duif met bloeisel in die mond
wat met sy koms die boodskap bring die liefde maak gesond.

Die liefde lê in sagte woorde wat oor my gees kom streef
en in die droë maande my hart tot hoop beveel.
Die liefde lê in sagte soene wat met die jare groei
en soos die Kaap se lelieblom jaar in en jaar uit bloei

Die liefde is 'n môrester, blink op die horison,

wat sê met ryke majesteit: “Ek het vir jou gekom”

Die liefde is 'n leë graf, 'n brokkie brood en wyn,
die liefde is 'n wegekruipplek teen hartseer en teen pyn.
Die liefde lê hier tussen ons.

12. Geantraí

Michael McGlynn

Sung in Irish

We will throw her up and up easily, hopefully she will not explode
She will dance and dance with pleasure, myself and her together
We will throw the child up and she'll come down tomorrow

13. I denna ljuva sommartid Traditional, arr. Kim André Arnesen

Sung in Swedish; for female voices

Soloist: Adré du Plessis

In this sweet summertime is a well-known traditional summer psalm in Sweden. The text is of German origin. The Swedish version is sung with different melodies. In this arrangement, Arnesen used a traditional melody from Malung in Sweden and three of the eight verses of the psalm, which describe summer as a gift from God.

Go forth, my heart, and seek delight,
while summer reigns so fair and bright, view God's abundance daily.
The trees with spreading leaves are blessed,
the earth her dusty rind has dressed in green so young and tender
The lark soars upward to the skies
and from her cote the pigeon flies her way to woodlands winging.

14. Khutsho (dreunsang vir vrede) Mokale Koapeng en Roderick Williams

In Sotho en Latyn gesing

Here, gee vrede hier in Afrika.
Lam van God, wat die sonde van die wêreld wegdra,
wees ons genadig.

15. Shalom!

Tradisioneel, verw. Elio Bucky

In Hebreus gesing

Vrede vir julle
Vrede, vriende, tot ons weer ontmoet



16. Dies irae

Michael John Trotta

Sung in Latin

Day of wrath and doom impending.

David's word with Sibyl's blending, heaven and earth in ashes ending.

Think, kind Jesu! My salvation caused Thy wond'rous incarnation.

17. Bohemian rhapsody Freddie Mercury, arr. Pentatonix and Ben Bram

Bohemian rhapsody is a song by the British rock band Queen, released as the lead single from their fourth album, *A night at the opera* (1975). It is one of the few progressive rock songs of the 1970s to achieve widespread commercial success and appeal to a mainstream audience. It depicts the life of a 'bohemian', whose original meaning is 'artist' while 'rhapsody' is a fantasy or a vision. Earlier this year, after thousands of votes, Gold radio listeners voted *Bohemian rhapsody* as the greatest song of all time.

Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy?

Caught in a landslide, no escape from reality

Open your eyes, look up to the skies and see

I'm just a poor boy, I need no sympathy

Because I'm easy come, easy go, little high, little low

Any way the wind blows doesn't really matter to me

Mama, just killed a man, put a gun against his head

Pulled my trigger, now he's dead

Mama, life had just begun, but now I've gone and thrown it all away

Mama, didn't mean to make you cry, if I'm not back again this time tomorrow, carry on as if nothing really matters

Too late, my time has come,

sends shivers down my spine, body's aching all the time

Goodbye, ev'rybody, I've got to go,

gotta leave you all behind and face the truth

Mama, I don't wanna die, I sometimes wish I'd never been born at all

Lede/Members

Soprano

Sandra Botha, Adré du Plessis, Ina Hugo

Alte Tania Coetzer, Laetitia Crause, Melani Fouché,
Lullu Krugel, Elle van Rooyen, Chantal Verster

Tenore George de Bruin, Marco Hellberg, Joubert
Krugel, Jaques Kruger, Thinus Pretorius,
Graeme Wilkinson

Basse Otto Bester, David Haywood, Joseph
Lawrence, Llewellyn Jackson, Deon Main,
Quintin McKenzie, Johan Scheepers

Klavier/piano: David Haywood

Palissander

Conductor: Sarita Hauptfleisch

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Om persoonlik na toekomstige optredes
uitgenooi te word, skandeer asb. hierdie
QR kode

SING LIKE A PLANET - CD RECORDING

We will soon release a CD with the title *This is us - sing like a planet.*



Here is the preliminary track list:

MUSIC OF THE SPHERES

Moment

Laurinda Hofmeyr

How to sing like a planet

Elizabeth Alexander

MUSIC OF THE SOUL

Muusika

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LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

Ilus hää

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My name is Lamiya

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PALISSANDERTAAL

Indodana

Verw. Michael Barrett en Ralf Schmidt

Concert for choir - Part 1

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Mae-e

Kentaro Sato

Gabriella's song

Arr. Sarita Hauptfleisch

Shalom!

Arr. Elio Bucky

Dies irae

Michael John Trotta

Sing gently

Eric Whitacre



To be informed when the CD is available on electronic platforms and in hard copy, please scan this QR code