



Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament



CBS Music

**Cathedral of the  
Blessed Sacrament Music**

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St Mary's Pro-Cathedral

# Heavenly Airs

Celestial music for choir, wind and brass to mark the bi-centennial Bruckner year will be heard in the Catholic Pro-Cathedral, Manchester Street. on Sunday, November 3, at 2 pm. Admission will be by programme \$30 and \$25, available at the door, with payment by cash or eftpos.

The concert opens with Bruckner's magnificent **Ecce Sacerdos Magnus**, written as a processional to celebrate the thousandth anniversary of Linz Diocese. It will be directed from the gallery by Matthew Harris. With imaginative harmony and splendid sonorous effects from organ and a trombone trio, it is well suited to a special occasion, and in 2023 heralded the coronation of King Charles in Westminster Abbey.

A totally contrasting work will be Stravinsky's short **Mass**, written in 1948 in reaction against some second-hand Mozart Mass scores he had found in a Los Angeles bookstore. His personal faith and fascination with the treasury of church music led him to invoke Byzantine chant, Russian Orthodoxy, and the early Catholic polyphonic repertoire, aiming for "absolutely cold music that will appeal directly to the spirit". This fascinating piece will be directed by Naomi Hnat, who has recently returned to Christchurch after choral conducting studies in England with Simon Halsey, described as "a trusted advisor on choral singing to the world's greatest conductors, orchestras and choruses."

CBS Musical Director Don Whelan will conduct the major work on the programme Bruckner's **Mass in E Minor**, written at the request of his friendly and supportive Bishop Franz-Josef Rudigier to celebrate the first section to be completed of his ambitious new Linz Cathedral. Scored for 8-part choir, accompanied by wind and brass, it was acclaimed by musical conservatives who heard austere echoes of Palestrina, and its blend of devotion, profundity, richness of harmony and bold expression make it the finest piece of Catholic liturgical music from the Romantic era.

The cathedral musicians maintain an extensive repertoire of masses and motets, sung on Sunday at the 11 a.m. Solemn Choral Mass. New members are welcome to the 7.30 pm Wednesday evening rehearsal at the CBS Music Centre. Sight reading ability is expected. Those interested are invited to contact the CBS Musical Director, Don Whelan, phone 358-5873

The CBS musical year will conclude with their annual **Messiah** at 1.30 pm on Sunday, 1 December, and a performance of Bruckner's **Mass in D Minor** at the Christmas Midnight Mass.