



Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament



CBS Music

**Cathedral of the
Blessed Sacrament Music**

Don Whelan Musical Director

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Catholic Pro-Cathedral

Fauré Requiem

CBS Music this year celebrates All Saints' Day, November 1st with a 2 pm concert for choir, soloists and orchestra in the Catholic Pro-Cathedral, Manchester Street. Admission will be by programme \$30 and \$25, available at the door, with payment by cash or eftpos.

Although the Feast of All Saints, or All Hallows, has evolved into tricks and treats during the prior evening (Hallowe'en), the actual day is widely observed as a memorial for those who have died. The Pro-Cathedral 11 am Solemn Mass that morning will feature Mozart's **Missa Solemnis**, and the 2 pm concert will present two masterpieces which explore the mystery and challenge of death: **God's Time is Best** by J.S. Bach, and **Requiem** by Gabriel Fauré.

Bach's Cantata 106, **Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit**, is a profound meditation on death written by a 22-year-old during the year he spent as an organist in Mulhausen, 1707-8. As the Lutheran equivalent of a Catholic Requiem, it reflects the young artist's search for the meaning and value of death within a framework of Christian belief. Bach chose to set biblical verses intertwined with Lutheran chorales. Accompanying a small group of singers is a gentle combination of older instruments: originally recorders and viol da gambas, but no upper strings, and a simple continuo part. This cantata has elicited high praise from critics who consider "Actus tragicus to be a work of genius such as even great masters seldom achieve, and as a piece of world literature".

Fauré's **Requiem** is a perennial favourite for audience and performers and is frequently heard performed by the cathedral musicians in its correct liturgical context. Written between 1887 and 1888, the Requiem may have been inspired by the death of Fauré's parents. He was at the time choirmaster at the fashionable church of the Madeleine in Paris, where the work received its first performance during a funeral. Its sombre colourings and mellow texture derive partly from the orchestral accompaniment, which relies primarily on the dark tones of violas and cellos, and particularly from the composer's fastidious treatment of the text. It offers a gentle reflection upon death and affirms a serene acceptance of its finality.

The concert begins with another youthful composition. Written at the age of 20, Fauré won the composition prize in his final year at a church music training school in Paris with the **Cantique de Jean Racine**. Racine had translated the Latin hymn from the Roman breviary. With its haunting melody and simple appeal, the Cantique became as popular in France as its dedicatee, César Franck's **Panis Angelicus**.

For this concert, violin soloist will be Natalia M. Lomeiko, and musical director is Don Whelan, with associate conductor Henry Nicholson.

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 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, 6 December, and the Weber **Jubilee Mass in G** at Christmas Midnight Mass.