



Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament



CBS Music

**Cathedral of the  
Blessed Sacrament Music**

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St Mary's Pro-Cathedral

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **New Zealand Choir & Orchestra to perform free Concert In Meongdong Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 8 pm Saturday 6 October 2012.**

The Choir and Orchestra of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Christchurch, New Zealand, have performed concerts and Masses in most of the great cathedrals of the world since they began international touring in 1990. They were invited to lead the congregation which filled St Peter's, Rome, for the Papal Christmas Mass inaugurating the 2000 Jubilee Year.

Their beautiful cathedral, which was ruined by the recent earthquakes in Christchurch, was regarded as the best example of classical architecture in the southern hemisphere. The choir and orchestra are now based in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, where they await decisions on the future of their home building. They perform at the Solemn Mass every Sunday, exploring a wide repertoire through orchestral, contemporary, polyphonic and plainsong Mass settings, together with a busy concert schedule of concerts and recordings.

During their sixth international tour, over 40 performers are presenting Masses and concerts in the cathedrals of Hong Kong, Beijing, Seoul, Nagasaki, Hiroshima, Kyoto and Tokyo. As most of these Cathedrals are dedicated to Mary, and it is therefore appropriate to present representative settings of the **Magnificat**, her prayer of expectation that she will bear a saviour, and the inspiration for many settings intended for the ancient liturgical rite of Vespers, and continued in the Anglican tradition of Evensong.

The supportive acoustic of the Cathedral will be explored during the first choral bracket, sung from different locations, and in procession: **A Sound Came From Heaven** by Douglas Mews, **Jubilate Deo** by Palestrina, and the plainsong **Salve Regina**, which announces the Marian theme, echoed by Bruckner's **Ave Maria** and Britten's **A Hymn to The Virgin**.

The cathedral orchestra is a vitally important part of the regular music programme, and are always featured on tours. On this occasion, they accompany Mozart's famous **Ave Verum** and a joyful anthem in honour of St John the Baptist: **Inter Natos Mulierum**. Three settings of the **Magnificat** will be presented, each very different in nature. Buxtehude's joyous version for choir and orchestra complements a contemporary version accompanied by string orchestra specially written for the CBS group by Christchurch composer Chris Archer. The third piece was written by Vivaldi. His **Magnificat** is a vigorous and varied work, with many opportunities for virtuosic vocal display. It was last presented by the CBS Choir and Orchestra to open their concert in the church Santa Maria della Pieta, Venice, on New Year's Day, 2000.

Admission will be free, and the group wish to reach out in friendship to their audience, and encourage interest in their country.