

 Bucks County Choral Society

SINGS

MOZART

Saturday, May 12, 1979

8:00 p. m.

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, DOYLESTOWN

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART
1756 - 1791

When he was only three years old, Wolfgang started harpsichord lessons with his older sister Nannerl. A year later, he played minuets and composed little pieces, some of which still survive.

At the age of six, "Wolferl" sang, composed and played the harpsichord, violin and organ. By the time he was eight, he had sat on the lap of Empress Maria Theresa, charmed the court of George III, and written his first symphony.

He was not yet 14 when he received a commission at Milan to write an opera. The first rehearsal of MITRIDATE, RE DI PONTO settled all doubt as to the capacity of a German child to write an Italian opera and to control the orchestra of La Scala, the largest in Europe. The opera had a continuous run of a record 20 performances and established the boy as a master needing no apologies.

One has to understand Mozart's childhood to understand the polarity of his character. Wolfgang was guided and exploited by a father who nurtured and stood in awe of his child's gift. The son grew into a small man, not handsome. His delicate constitution, aggravated by the continuous hardship of constant eighteenth-century travel throughout Europe, gave his face a certain pallor. Although always ready for gaiety and practical jokes, he was given to depression and "bad temper."

His lust for life was accompanied by a touching faith in the kindness of death. Thus, Mozart's music is a picture of the man himself. It ranges from a mood of simple, almost slapstick humor to a mood of noble tragedy; from childlike simplicity to elegant brilliance; from dilettante court music to celebrations of the brotherhood of man. Only this can explain how he could write, with equal conviction, DON GIOVANNI as well as THE MAGIC FLUTE; EINE KLEINE NACHTMUSIK as well as the AVE VERUM.

Fame came early to Mozart, but fortune always eluded him. His extant works are catalogued by Köchel in 626 items, beginning with minuets written at the age of four and ending with the unfinished REQUIEM.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died at the age of 35 and was buried in a pauper's grave.

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GUEST ARTISTS

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ARMEEN DISHTCHEKENIAN	MEZZO SOPRANO
KENNETH GARNER	TENOR
KEVIN McDOWELL	BARITONE
DAVID BAKER	TYMPANI

STRING ENSEMBLE FROM THE
NEW SCHOOL OF MUSIC

I

Ave Verum Corpus, K. 618

1791

An exquisite prayer of tender devotion, only 46 bars long, composed for a Corpus Christi service in June 1791, just six months before Mozart died.

Adoramus Te, K. 327

1779

This brief piece was preserved among Mozart's sketches and is an example of a work, possibly by his teacher Padre Martini, that he copied for a study of counterpoint.

Christ, we adore Thee.
We bless Thee.
Thou, Who on the Sacred Cross
Hast redeemed the world.

II

Mass No. 14 in C Major, K. 317

1779

KYRIE

Lord have mercy on us.
Christ have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest
And on earth, peace to men of good will.
We praise Thee
We bless Thee
We worship Thee
We give thanks for Thy great glory
God the Father almighty.

....

Lord, have mercy on us,
For Thou only art Holy.
Amen.

CREDO

I believe in One God, Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth....
And in one Lord Jesus Christ....
God of God,
Light of Light,
Very God of Very God....
And in the Holy Spirit
Which, with the Father and the Son
Is worshipped and glorified....

SANCTUS	Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Sabaoth. Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.
BENEDICTUS	Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
AGNUS DEI	Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world Have mercy on us And grant us peace.

This mass was composed in celebration of the annual pilgrimage to the shrine of Maria Plain near Salzburg. Mozart's inexhaustible gift of melody and symmetry are most evident in this work, composed when he was only 23 years old.

III

Serenade No. 13 in G, K. 525	1787
"Eine Kleine Nachtmusik"	
Allegro	Minuetto
Andante romanza	Rondo

Mozart himself gave the title EINE KLEINE NACHTMUSIK ("A Little Nightmusic") to what has since become the best-known of all his lighter orchestral works.

IV

SCENES FROM OPERA

Don Giovanni, K. 527	1787
"All you lasses who like to be courted"	

Soprano, Baritone and Chorus

Così fan Tutte, K. 588

1790

"See here, Dorabella"

Soprano and Mezzo

"May breezes blow lightly"

Soprano, Mezzo and Tenor

The Magic Flute, K. 620

1791

"O Image, angel-like and fair"

Tenor

"O Isis and Osiris"

Male Chorus

Finale Excerpts

Soloists and Chorus

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Elma Heckler, Director
Joan Gurniak, Organist

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