

THE HONG KONG
BACH  **CHOIR**
香港巴赫合唱團

For immediate release

Transformations

By The Hong Kong Bach Choir & Orchestra

The Hong Kong Bach Choir will present a concert on 8 October with a postmodern programme connecting Renaissance and Baroque music to the present day, featuring the Hong Kong premiere of Alfred Schnittke's *Requiem*. The concert will be held at 8pm at Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall.

The hallmarks of postmodern music are eclecticism and the embracing of both old and new simultaneously. With Schnittke's *Requiem*, this concert will feature a work by Sven-David Sandström alongside music by these modern composers' Renaissance and Baroque predecessors, Heinrich Schütz and Henry Purcell.

Schnittke is acknowledged as the most significant Russian composer since the death of Dmitri Shostakovich. His works are rarely heard in Hong Kong and his *Requiem* is arguably his greatest choral work. Schnittke coined the term 'polystylism' to describe his music, and indeed the juxtaposition of modern sounds such as drum kit and electric guitar with those of Renaissance and Baroque choral music are a powerful illustration of this in the *Requiem*. Sandström's interpretation of Purcell's *Hear my prayer* continues in this vein as the contemporary Swedish composer extends and transforms his 17th- century predecessor's unfinished work. One of the best-known choral works by Purcell himself, his *Funeral Sentences*, and Schütz's Psalm 84 '*How lovely is thy dwelling-place*' – a piece bridging two musical styles of its era – give depth and perspective to the programme, completing the transformation.

The Hong Kong Bach Choir & Orchestra will be conducted by Jerome Hoberman, and joined by sopranos Sandy Leung, Colette Lam, mezzo-soprano Melody Sze and tenor Oliver Lo.

Jerome Hoberman, Conductor

Music Director and Conductor of The Hong Kong Bach Choir and Orchestra since 1992, Jerome Hoberman has been enthusiastically received in China by the Shanghai Philharmonic, Shanghai Symphony, Hong Kong Sinfonietta and Hong Kong Chamber Orchestra; in Eastern Europe by the Muntenia Philharmonic (Romania) and the Ukraine State Symphony; and in the United States by the South Bend, Washington Idaho and Nittany Valley symphonies and the Immanuel Opera of Cincinnati. These collaborations have resulted in frequent re- invitations and offers of permanent posts. Festival appearances have included the Aspen Music Festival, Shanghai Spring International Music Festival and the Baguio Cathedral International Music Festival (Philippines), which he inaugurated in 2008 to remarkable acclaim.

The Hong Kong Bach Choir

The Hong Kong Bach Choir is one of Hong Kong's longest established vocal ensembles. Comprising a multinational membership of more than 100 singers, the choir has enjoyed the direction of a number of conductors over its 40-year history, from its earliest days with Carl Halter through productive associations with notable local musicians Peter Stevenson and Michael Ryan. Since 1992, the Choir has been under the musical leadership of Jerome Hoberman, with whom it has sung a diverse range of music. It now has the widest repertoire of any choir in Hong Kong, ranging from the 15th century to the present day.

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Demonstrating a flair for originality in programming, the Choir has performed a series of significant local premières. These include the first Asian performance of Otto Olsson's *Te Deum* and Ralph Vaughan Williams' *The First Nowell*, and the first Hong Kong performances of Berlioz's *Messe solennelle*, Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* and Tippett's *A Child of Our Time* (marking the composer's centenary in 2005). Recently, the Choir celebrated its 40th anniversary with a performance of Bach's B-Minor Mass with four international vocalists including Christoph Genz and Phyllis Pancella.

The Hong Kong Bach Orchestra was formed by Jerome Hoberman in 1995. Since then, the Orchestra has regularly shared the stage with the Choir and occasionally appears on its own. It features leading members of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and prominent local freelance musicians.

Transformations

The Hong Kong Bach Choir & Orchestra

Programme

Heinrich Schütz	Psalm 84 'How lovely is thy dwelling-place'
Henry Purcell	Funeral Sentences
Sven-David Sandström	Hear my prayer, O Lord
Alfred Schnittke	Requiem (Hong Kong premiere)

Details

Date: 8th October, 2011 (Saturday)

Time: 8pm

Venue: Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall

Tickets: HK\$240, \$160, \$80

Tickets available from 8 September onwards at all URBTIX outlets, on Internet and by credit card telephone booking.

Internet Booking: www.urbtix.hk

Ticketing Enquiries: 27349009

Credit Card Telephone Booking: 21115999

Programme Enquiries: 96598687 (Bach Choir: Mr Choi)

Discount schemes

50% off: Full-time students, senior citizens, people with disabilities and the minder, and CSSA recipients

5% off: Purchase of 6 to 9 tickets

10% off: Purchase of 10 or more tickets

For further information, contact Mr Choi on 96598687 (e-mail: info@bachchoir.org.hk), or visit the choir website: www.bachchoir.org.hk.

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請盡快刊登本稿件

〈蛻變〉

香港巴赫合唱團及樂團

香港巴赫合唱團將於 10 月 8 日，獻上一場連接文藝復興及巴羅克時期音樂與當代音樂的後現代主義節目，當中包括施尼特凱《安魂曲》的香港首演。音樂會將於晚上 8 點在香港大會堂音樂廳舉行。

後現代主義音樂的特點是折衷主義和對新舊風格的包容。這場音樂會將上演施尼特凱(Alfred Schnittke)和斯文-大衛·桑德斯特倫(Sven-David Sandström)最近的作品，伴以文藝復興和巴羅克時期的先驅舒茨(Heinrich Schütz)和浦賽爾(Henry Purcell)的音樂，和諧呈現。

施尼特凱被認為是自蕭斯達高維契逝世後最傑出的俄羅斯作曲家。他的作品在香港極少演出，他的《安魂曲》無疑是他最偉大的合唱作品。施尼特凱將他的作品描述為多風格，在這首《安魂曲》中，鼓和電結他等現代聲效與文藝復興和巴羅克合唱和聲並置，對作品的多風格做出了有力詮釋。桑德斯特倫對普賽爾的《求你俯聽我的祈禱，上主》的解讀承續了原作的血脈，是當代瑞典作曲家在對 17 世紀先驅未完成作品的延伸和變革。浦賽爾本人最知名的合唱作品《葬禮音樂》，以及舒茨的《神的居所如此可愛》——一部跨越當時兩種音樂風格的作品——為節目帶來不同深度和視角，使變革趨於圓滿。

何博文將指揮香港巴赫合唱團及樂團演出。表演者還有女高音梁少瑩，林穎穎，女中音史韶韻及男高音盧思彥。

何博文 指揮

何博文自 1992 年起出任香港巴赫合唱團及管弦樂團的音樂總監兼指揮，曾於中國內地指揮上海愛樂樂團、上海交響樂團、香港小交響樂團及香港室樂團，在羅馬尼亞指揮過蒙特尼亞特爾戈維什愛樂樂團，在基輔指揮過烏克蘭國家交響樂團，又在美國指揮過印地安納州南灣交響樂團、華盛頓—愛達荷交響樂團、尼達尼谷交響樂團和辛辛那提伊瑪紐歌劇團，備受讚賞，再三獲邀重返舊地演出或擔任常設職位。何博文也活躍於各地的音樂節，曾於上海之春國際音樂節演出，於 2008 年更成立菲律賓碧瑤主教座堂國際音樂節，贏得好評如潮。

香港巴赫合唱團及樂團

香港巴赫合唱團是本港歷史最悠久的合唱團之一，現時有百多名不同國籍的成員，四十年來曾與多位指揮合作：初期有荷爾達博士，後期有本地知名音樂家如史提芬遜及賴恩。由 1992 年開始，合唱團由音樂總監何博文帶領，此後曲目更多元化，橫跨十五及廿一世紀之間，堪稱本港合唱界中曲目最廣的合唱團。

合唱團在揀選曲目時，注重創新精神，曾為多齣作品作重要的本地首演，其中包括奧遜《讚主頌》及佛漢威廉士《初報佳音》的亞洲首演，以及白遼士的《莊嚴彌撒曲》、伯恩斯坦《奇切斯特詩篇》、布烈頓《聖尼古拉斯清唱劇》及狄伯特《我們時代的孩子》（2005 年狄伯特出生百週年紀念演唱）的香港首演。合唱團最近慶祝四十週年紀念，與四位國際知名的獨唱家(其中包括根茲及潘徹拉)合作演出巴赫的《B 小調彌撒曲》。

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香港巴赫管弦樂團由何博文於 1995 年成立，此後樂團經常與合唱團同台演出，間中亦作獨立表演。樂團既有來自香港管弦樂團的成員，也有出色的本地獨立樂手。

〈蛻變〉

香港巴赫合唱團及樂團

曲目

舒茨	詩篇第 84 首《神的居所如此可愛》
浦賽爾	《葬禮音樂》
桑德斯特倫	《求你俯聽我的祈禱，上主》
施尼特凱	《安魂曲》(香港首演)

節目詳情

日期： 2011 年 10 月 8 日(星期六)

時間： 晚上 8 時正

地點： 香港大會堂音樂廳

票價： \$240、\$160 及 \$80

門票於 2011 年 9 月 8 日起於各城市電腦售票處、網上及電話訂票熱線發售。

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