

N A N T W I C H C H O R A L S O C I E T Y

CATRIN LEY, soprano
JEAN ATKIN, contralto
WILLIAM MUNKS, organ

conducted by
STEPHEN BUCKMAN

GLORIA (RV 589)

Antonio Vivaldi

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| 1. | Gloria in excelsis Deo | (chorus) |
| 2. | Et in terra pax hominibus | (chorus) |
| 3. | Laudamus te | (soprano & contralto) |
| 4. | Gratias agimus tibi | (chorus) |
| 5. | Propter magnam gloriam tuam | (chorus) |
| 6. | Domine Deus | (soprano) |
| 7. | Domine Fili Unigenite | (chorus) |
| 8. | Domine Deus, Agnus Dei | (contralto & chorus) |
| 9. | Qui tollis peccata mundi | (chorus) |
| 10. | Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris | (contralto) |
| 11. | Quoniam tu solus sanctus | (chorus) |
| 12. | Cum Sancto Spiritu | (chorus) |

In March 1703 Antonio Vivaldi was ordained priest. His first employment, however, was as violin teacher at the Venetian orphanage/conservatoire known as the Pieta. Vivaldi's duties did not include the composition of choral music.

Between 1713 and 1719 the Pieta found itself without a Maestro di Coro. The governors approached their violin teacher with a request for help. Vivaldi accepted the challenge, and set about his new task with great enthusiasm. By 1719 Vivaldi's reputation as a composer had stretched far beyond the confines of the Pieta.

The Gloria (RV 589) is one of two settings, in D major, by Vivaldi. Stylistic evidence would suggest that RV589 was the later composition. The Gloria is an extended setting of a text from the Ordinary of the Mass in twelve movements contrasted in key, tempo and style.

EXSULTATE, JUBILATE (K 165)

W. A. MOZART

- I N T E R V A L -

CORONATION ANTHEMS

G. F. HANDEL

ZADOK THE PRIEST (from I Kings 1)

MY HEART IS INDITING (from Psalm 45)

LET THY HAND BE STRENGTHENED (from Psalm 89)

THE KING SHALL REJOICE (from Psalm 21)

Handel's Four Coronation Anthems were composed for the Coronation of King George II and Queen Caroline, which took place in Westminster Abbey on 11th October 1727. The phenomenal popularity of these miniature masterpieces has remained constant: indeed, it is worth noting that Zadok the Priest has been sung at every Coronation since that of George II.

The singers (all male) at the original performance comprised the 10 boys and 26 men of the Chapel Royal augmented, for the occasion, to a total strength of 47: 12 trebles, 14 altos, 7 tenors and 14 basses.

The discovery in Lambeth Palace Library of a printed Order of Service (with amendments in the hand of William Wake, then Archbishop of Canterbury) shows the Anthems were sung in the following order:

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|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. The King shall rejoice | - after the Recognition |
| 2. Zadok the Priest | - at the Anointing |
| 3. Let thy hand be strengthened | - between the Enthronement and the Homage |
| 4. My heart is inditing | - after the Anointing and Coronation of the Queen |

As well as for the order of performance we can thank Archbishop Wake for his notes concerning the performance of all the music in the Service. These include:

- (a) An anthem and a hymn (not Handel's) were omitted "by the negligence of the choir of Westminster".
- (b) Zadok the Priest, which should have followed the Anointing Prayer, was sung during the Anointing thereby causing the hymn "Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire" to be omitted.
- (c) Of The King shall rejoice: "The anthem's in confusion: all irregular in the music".

We hope you find none of this negligence, confusion and irregularity in this evening's performance.