

A Celebration of the Mass (through 5 centuries)

About our concert:-

The Mass in various forms has for centuries played a major part in the choral life of the nation. The **Mass** is a choral composition that sets out portions of the Eucharistic Liturgy ([Eucharistic liturgy](#)) principally that of the Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion and the Lutheran Church. Most masses are based on the five movements of the ordinary mass and usually include Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei.

Although some of the earliest written masses were written for the Gregorian Church, we start our journey with the Renaissance period and end it in the 21st century.

Our journey begins with the music of Palestrina. Palestrina wrote more than 90 masses and among the few in general use, the Missa Brevis remains a firm favourite. Missa Brevis means 'short Mass', a concise treatment of the mass which sets several lines to music or omitting certain sections completely.

The music of J.S. Bach typifies the Baroque period. A deeply religious man, many of his compositions reflect his beliefs. As well as his two Passions, he wrote over 300 Cantatas of which around 200 survive and several masses of which the most well-known is his B Minor Mass, but in this concert we perform one of his Lutheran masses - Mass in F Major.

The musical scene in the classical period reflected the changes occurring in society in which the music was being written. While music was still being composed for the church and the court, the advent of public concerts reflected the new view that music should be written for the enjoyment and entertainment of the common person. The mass continued to be an important form for entertainment but often involved orchestra, soloists, and choir in fully integrated works. In this concert, the choir sings The Little Organ Mass by Haydn.

Then followed the romantic period and the music of Schubert. Music of the Romantic period was full of emotion and colour. Schubert in his short life was a prolific composer of over 1500 works. He wrote seven masses and the chosen mass for this concert is Mass in G.

Our musical journey ends in the 21st Century with A Little Jazz Mass by Bob Chilcott, written originally for upper voices of a children's choir and first performed in the Crescent City Choral Festival in 2004 in New Orleans. The five movements embrace a variety of Jazz Styles resulting in an original setting of gorgeous soulful music.