

VOX COELESTIS

"Beautiful choral music in beautiful spaces, solely for charitable benefit"



CONCERT IN PERTH CATHEDRAL

As our concert on 5th September 2020 had to be postponed, we wanted to offer you a choral performance of some kind instead. It would have started a series of concerts as a 'Pilgrimage' around Scotland. It is therefore very appropriate that this motet was performed in The Priory Church of St Mary in South Queensferry. As well as being a location where the Mission to Seafarers Scotland (MtSS) is very active with crews at the oil and gas terminals and with cruise ships, but it is a few yards from the point where Queen Margaret of Scotland established a ferry for pilgrims on their way to St Andrews in Fife. Perth Cathedral is where the Bishop of St Andrews (currently an MtSS Trustee) has his seat, so this all has both connection and resonance.

THE CHOIR

Vox Coelestis began in 2005, and has performed in cathedrals, abbeys and churches across the UK, raising £1,000s for charities. The 7 singers performing the motet are just a few of the choir members - we normally have around 24 singers. They have sung in many cathedral and chamber choirs such as Westminster Abbey, St George's Chapel Windsor, plus Lincoln, St Albans and Salisbury Cathedrals, Tenebrae, the Monteverdi Choir and the Joyful Company of Singers. All of them give their time freely and cover their own expenses. Simon Filsell, the Choir Manager, and [Nigel Short](#), our Artistic Director, sang together as choristers in the Midlands and later established [Vox Coelestis](#) together. Nigel studied music at the Royal College of Music, and joined the world-renowned vocal ensemble the King's Singers before forming Tenebrae - a choir which has performed around the world and was the first-ever ensemble to be multi-nominated in the same category for the BBC Music Magazine Awards, securing the accolade of 'Best Choral Performance'. Simon was a finalist in the first ever Choirboy of the Year Final, and then moved from Coventry to live in St Albans and sang in its Cathedral Choir. 20 years later, he moved to Edinburgh and is now Vice Chair of Trustees for [Mission to Seafarers Scotland](#).



TANTUM ERGO

Anton Bruckner composed the motet in 1845 at the beginning of his time at St. Florian's Abbey in Austria - where 2 of the singers in the video were privileged to sing, 3 years ago. "Tantum Ergo" is part of a Medieval Latin hymn sung at the point of consecration at a Communion:

"Hence so greatly the Sacrament; Let us venerate with heads bowed [cernui] and let the old practice [documentum] give way to the new rite; Let faith provide a supplement for the failure of the senses. To the Begetter and the Begotten be praise and jubilation, Hail, honour, virtue also, and blessing too: To the One proceeding from Both let there be equal praise. Amen."