



Festival Singers

Musical Director
Jonathan Berkahn

Presents

Haydn's

CREATION

Rowena Simpson – Soprano

Karen Espersen – Alto

Tehezib Lathiff – Tenor

William McElwee – Baritone

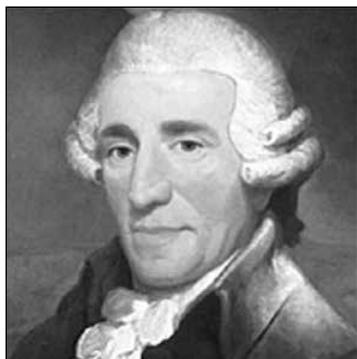
Heather Easting – Organ

Ingrid Schoenfeld – Deputy Conductor

2.00pm, Sunday 24 June 2018

**Khandallah Presbyterian Church
33 Ganges Road, Khandallah**

About this work



Joseph Haydn was well into his sixties when he composed *Creation* – a venerable age by 18th-century standards. After decades of hard work for the wealthy Esterhazy family, and two dazzlingly successful tours of England, his fortune and reputation made, he might have been expected to slow down a little and take things more easily. Baron van Swieten (a Viennese patron and lover of music) had other ideas.

He presented Haydn with a libretto of mysterious provenance, supposed to have been written for Handel (it may even have originally come from Charles Jennens, of *Messiah* fame), and goaded the weary Haydn to work.

This libretto has had a chequered history. The English original is lost: Haydn set a German translation of it by van Swieten, which the Baron then translated back to – very approximate – English.

Successive editions have improved the text at various points, but no

consensus has emerged as to the best version. For all its peculiarities, the libretto has two important qualities: first, it enables Haydn to present a brilliantly coloured picture of the entire cosmos, from the vast firmament to the worm that creeps with sinuous trace, and second, it has a clear and coherent shape.

From *Chaos* – one of the most original movements Haydn ever wrote – we hear the Spirit of God moving over the face of the waters, before creation begins with an explosion of C major light. The first Act concerns the creation of the heavens – the stars, the moon, and the very first sunrise, concluding with the oratorio's best known chorus: "The heavens are telling the glory of God."

The second Act depicts in loving and occasionally humorous detail the emergence of all different kinds of flora and fauna, culminating in the creation of humanity.

The third Act shows Adam and Eve leading all creation in a hymn of gratitude and praise. A brief recitative reminds us of what is about to come, but we finish with a good sing and a resounding "Amen."

If you have half as much fun listening as we have had learning this fresh and happy music, it will have been an afternoon well spent.

Jonathan Berkahn
Musical Director

Creation

PART I

1. Introduction — The Representation of Chaos

2. Recitative (Raphael, Uriel, Chorus)

Raphael: In the beginning God created the Heaven, and the earth; and the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

Chorus: And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said: Let there be Light, and there was Light.

Uriel: And God saw the Light, that it was good; and God divided the Light from the darkness.

3. Aria with Chorus (Uriel, Chorus)

Uriel: Now vanish before the holy beams the gloomy shades of ancient night. The first of days appears. Now chaos ends, and order fair prevails. Affrighted fly hell's spirits black in throngs; down they sink in the deep abyss to endless night.

Chorus: Despairing cursing rage attends their rapid fall. A new-created world springs up at God's command.

4. Recitative (Raphael)

And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so. Now furious storms tempestuous rage, like chaff, by the winds impelled are the clouds, by sudden fire the sky is inflamed, and awful thunders are rolling on high. Now from the floods in steam ascend reviving showers of rain, the dreary wasteful hail, the light and flaky snow.

5. Chorus with Soprano Solo (Gabriel, Chorus)

Gabriel: The marv'llous work behold amaz'd the glorious hierarchy of heaven; and to th' ethereal vaults resound the praise of God, and of the second day.

Chorus: And to th' ethereal vaults resound the praise of God, and of the second day.

6. Recitative (Raphael)

And God said: Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together to one place, and let the dry land appear; and it was so. And God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of waters called he seas; and God saw that it was good.

7. Aria (Raphael)

Rolling in foaming billows, uplifted, roars the boisterous sea. Mountains and rocks now emerge; their tops among the clouds ascend. Through th' open plains, outstretching wide, in serpent error rivers flow. Softly purling, glides on through silent vales the limpid brook.

8. Recitative (Gabriel)

And God said: Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit-tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth; and it was so.

9. Aria (Gabriel)

With verdure clad the fields appear delightful to the ravish'd sense; by flowers sweet and gay enhanced is the charming sight. Here fragrant herbs their odours shed; here shoots the healing plant. With copious fruit the expanded boughs are hung; in leafy arches twine the shady groves; O'er lofty hills majestic forests wave.

10. Recitative (Uriel)

And the heav'nly host proclaimed the third day, praising God and saying:

11. Chorus

Awake the harp, the lyre awake, and let your joyful song resound. Rejoice in the Lord, the mighty God; For he both heaven and earth has clothed in stately dress.

12. Recitative (Uriel)

And God said: Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven, to divide the day from the night, and to give light upon the earth; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and for years. He made the stars also.

13. Recitative (Uriel)

In splendour bright is rising now the sun and darts his rays; a joyful happy spouse, a giant proud and glad to run his measur'd course. With softer beams and milder light steps on the silver moon through silent night. The space immense of th' azure sky a countless host of radiant orbs adorns. And the sons of God announced the fourth day in song divine, proclaiming thus his power:

14. Chorus with Soloists

Chorus: The heavens are telling the glory of God. The wonder of his work displays the firmament.

Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael: How day unto day is speaking his praise; while night unto night his glory proclaims.

Chorus: The heavens are telling the glory of God. The wonder of his work displays the firmament.

Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael: In all the land resounds the word, never unperceived, ever understood.

Chorus: The heavens are telling the glory of God. The wonder of his work displays the firmament.

PART II

15. Recitative (Gabriel)

And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl, that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

16. Aria (Gabriel)

On mighty pens uplifted soars the eagle aloft, and cleaves the air in swiftest flight to the blazing sun. His welcome bids to morn the merry lark, and cooing, calls the tender dove his mate. From ev'ry bush and grove resound the nightingale's delightful notes. No grief affected yet her breast, nor to a mournful tale were tun'd her soft enchanting lays.

17. Recitative (Raphael)

And God created great whales, and ev'ry living creature that moveth; and God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful all, and multiply. Ye winged tribes, be multiplied and sing on every tree; multiply, ye finny tribes, and fill each wat'ry deep; be fruitful, grow, and multiply. And in your God and Lord rejoice.

18. Recitative (Raphael)

And the angels struck their immortal harps and the wonders of the fifth day sung.

20. Trio and Chorus (Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael and Chorus)

Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael: The Lord is great, and great his might. His glory lasts for ever and for evermore.

Chorus: The Lord is great and great his might. His glory lasts for ever and for evermore.

21. Recitative (Raphael)

And God said: Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind; cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind.

22. Recitative (Raphael)

Straight opening her fertile womb,
the earth obey'd the word, and teem'd
creatures numberless, in perfect forms and
fully grown. Cheerful, roaring, stands the
tawny lion. With sudden leap the flexible
tiger appears. The nimble stag bears up
his branching head. With flying mane, and
fiery look, impatient neighs the noble steed.
The cattle in herds, already seek their food
on fields and meadows green. And o'er the
ground, as plants, are spread the fleecy,
meek and bleating flocks. Unnumber'd
as the sands, in swarms arose the host of
insects. In long dimension creeps, with
sinuous trace, the worm.

23. Aria (Raphael)

Now heaven in fullest glory shone; earth
smil'd in all her rich attire. The room of
air with fowl is filled; the water swell'd by
shoals of fish; by heavy beasts the ground
is trod. But all the work was not complete.
There wanted yet that wond'rous being,
that, grateful should God's power admire,
with heart and voice his goodness praise.

24. Recitative (Uriel)

And God created Man in his own image.
In the image of God created he him. Male
and female created he them. He breathed
into his nostrils the breath of life, and Man
became a living soul.

25. Aria (Uriel)

In native worth and honor clad, with
beauty, courage, strength adorn'd, erect,
with front serene, he stands, a man, the lord
and king of nature all. The large and arched
brow sublime of wisdom deep declares
the seat. And in his eyes with brightness
shines the soul, the breath and image of his
God. With fondness leans upon his breast
a partner for him form'd, a woman fair and
graceful spouse. Her softly smiling virgin

looks, of flow'ry spring the mirror, bespeak
him love, and joy, and bliss.

26. Recitative (Raphael)

And God saw every thing that he had
made, and behold, it was very good. And
and the heavenly choir, in song divine, thus
closed the sixth day.

27. Chorus

Achieved is the glorious work; the Lord
beholds it, and is pleas'd. In lofty strains
let us rejoice! Our song let be the praise of
God.

27A. Trio (Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael)

Gabriel, Uriel: On thee each living soul
awaits; from thee, O Lord, all seek their
food; thou openest thy hand, and fillest all
with good.

Raphael: But when thy face, O Lord, is
hid, with sudden terror they are struck;
Thou tak'st their breath away; they vanish
into dust.

Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael: Thou sendest
forth thy breath again, and life with vigour
fresh returns; revived earth unfolds new
strength and new delights.

27B. Chorus

Achieved is the glorious work; our song
let be the praise of God. Glory to his name
forever; he sole on high exalted reigns.
Hallelujah.

PART III

28. Introduction — Morning

Recitative (Uriel)

In rosy mantle appears, by music sweet
awak'd, the morning, young and fair.
From heaven's angelic choir pure harmony
descends on ravished earth. Behold the
blissful pair, where hand in hand they go:
their glowing looks express the thanks that
swell their grateful hearts. A louder praise
of God their lips shall utter soon; then let
our voices ring, united with their song.

29. Duet (Eve, Adam and Chorus)

Eve and Adam: By thee with bliss, O
bounteous Lord, both heaven and earth are
stor'd. This world, so great, so wonderful,
thy mighty hand has fram'd.

Chorus: For ever blessed be his power,
His name be ever magnified!

Adam: Of stars the fairest, pledge of day,
that crown'st the smiling morn; And thou,
bright sun, that cheer'st the world, thou eye
and soul of all;

Chorus: Proclaim in your extended course
th' almighty power and praise of God!

Eve: And thou, that rul'st the silent night,
and all ye starry hosts, ev'rywhere spread
wide his praise in choral songs about.

Adam: Ye mighty elements, by his power
your ceaseless changes make; ye dusky
mists, and dewy streams, that rise and fall
thro' th' air...

Eve, Adam: ...Resound the praise of God
our Lord!

Chorus: Resound the praise of God our
Lord!

All: Resound the praise of God our Lord!
Great his name, and great his might.

Eve: Ye purling fountains, tune his praise;
and wave your tops, ye pines. Ye plants,
exhale, ye flowers, breathe to him your
balmy scent!

Adam: Ye, that on mountains stately tread,
and ye, that lowly creep; ye birds that sing
at heaven's gate, and ye that swim the
stream...

Eve, Adam: ...Ye creatures all, extol the
Lord!

Chorus: Ye creatures all, extol the Lord!

All: Him celebrate, him magnify!

Adam, Eve: Ye valleys, hills, and shady
woods, made vocal by our song, from morn
till eve you shall repeat our grateful hymns
of praise!

Chorus: Hail, bounteous Lord! Almighty,
hail! Thy word call'd forth this wond'rous
frame. Thy heavens and earth thy power
adore; we praise thee now and evermore.

30. Recitative (Adam and Eve)

Adam: Our duty we have now perform'd,
in offering up to God our thanks. Now
follow me, dear partner of my life, thy
guide I'll be; and every step pours new
delight into our breasts, shows wonders
everywhere. Then mayst thou feel and
know the high degree of bliss the Lord
allotted us, and with devoted heart His
bounties celebrate. Come, follow me, thy
guide I'll be.

Eve: O thou for whom I am, my help,
my shield, my all, thy will is law to me.
So God, our Lord, ordains; and from
obedience grows my pride and happiness.

33. Chorus with Soloists

Sing the Lord, ye voices all, magnify his
name thro' all creation, celebrate his power
and glory, let his name resound on high.
Praise the Lord. Utter thanks. Jehovah's
praise for ever shall endure. Amen.

Rowena Simpson — Soprano

Rowena Simpson is a graduate of Victoria University (musicology and linguistics) and the Royal Conservatoire in The Netherlands (singing).

While based in Europe for eight years, she performed with professional ensembles and was a soloist in music of the baroque and classical repertoires. Since her return to New Zealand in 2006, Rowena has developed a freelance career in chamber music and opera. She has sung with Chamber Music NZ and Stroma New Music Ensemble and toured two shows written and directed by Jacqueline Coats.

She is a member of the NZ Opera chorus and has also appeared with Pinchgut Opera (Sydney), Days Bay Opera, and most recently in Anthony Ritchie's opera *The Eagle has Landed* for Cubadupa 2018. She has performed as an oratorio soloist with Bach Musica NZ, CBS Music Trust and The Bach Choir.

Tehezib Lathiff — Tenor

Palmerston North tenor Tehezib Lathiff studied at the Guildhall in England in 2015.

Before he left, Tehezib won the Musica Viva Young Performers Scholarship.

He was a finalist in the 2017 New Zealand Aria Awards.

William McElwee — Baritone

William has appeared with most choral and operatic institutions in the Wellington region, including NZ Opera, Orpheus Choir, Days Bay Opera, and Eternity Opera. Some of his recent highlights include Handel's *Messiah* and Bach's *St Matthew Passion* with the Wairarapa Singers, and the title role in *The Marriage of Figaro* with Eternity Opera.

He is Acting Director of Music at St James Church, Lower Hutt, and accompanist for Northern Chorale. On top of his PGDip and BMus from NZSM, he holds a BSc in Mathematics and a BA(Hons) in Latin and English Language.

Heather Easting — Organ

Heather pursues a wide variety of musical passions as a freelance organist, choral conductor, accompanist, and teacher. Recent engagements include Handel's *Messiah* and Bach's *St Matthew Passion* with the Wairarapa Singers, and *The Prodigal Son* with Kapiti Chorale.

She is currently Sub Organist at Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, organist for St Mark's Church School, accompanist for the Local Vocals, and also runs a private teaching studio. In 2016-2017 she was of Director of Music at St James Church, Lower Hutt. She holds a BMus(Hons) First Class in Music Studies, a BMus in Musicology, and a BA in Latin and Classics.

Dr Jonathan Berkahn — Musical Director

Jonathan first encountered the Festival Singers as a young student, singing with the basses under Guy Jansen in 1990 and 1991. In 1999 he renewed the acquaintance, becoming accompanist to the choir, a position he held until 2013. He has conducted the Festival Singers since then.

On Sundays he is director of music at Onslow Anglicans (St Barnabas, Khandallah), playing organ, piano, accordion, and occasionally preaching as necessary. In the many years he has spent there, he has got into the habit

Festival Singers

Musical Director: Jonathan Berkahn

Accompanist: Ingrid Schoenfeld.

Sopranos: Madeleine Crump, Heather Garside, Diana Helen, Carol Inge, Lalene Roberts, Christine Taylor, Megan Ward, Cynthia Wratt.

Altos: Rosemary Biss, Heather Collins, Karen Espersen, Jan Hamill, Adrienne Leuchars, Wendy Nelson, Margaret Pearson, Liz Sutherland, Irene Swadling, Rita Urry.

Tenors: Michael David, Joe Fecteau, Paul Kilford, Hajime Komatsu, Alan Spinks.

Basses: Wayne Crump, Philip Garside, Ian Livingstone, Brian Patchett.

of writing music for the service. Most of this is congregational (he published two books of these songs in 2013) but some has also been sung by the Festival Singers.

In particular he has written two substantial works for the choir, a *Te Deum* (2004), recorded on the Festival Singers CD *Spirited People* and *The Third Day*, which we recorded for our *The People of the Light* CD in 2015, as well as a variety of smaller pieces sung at our concerts.

During the week he is active around town as an accompanist, performer and music teacher.

Festival Singers is a Wellington-based community choir founded in 1976 with a history and practice of singing to the glory of God, working alongside the Christian church, promoting the development of new music and prayerfully supporting one another.

The choir enjoys collaborating with other choirs. Our public concerts include large scale classical works – oratorios, cantatas and masses – as well as smaller pieces from all over the world – hymns, shorter choral pieces and spirituals. We also support local composers and expose exciting new repertoire by commissioning and performing NZ compositions.

Website:

www.festivalsingers.wordpress.com

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