

## Personnel

### **Director**

Robert Webb

### **Recitative**

*Evangelist* Toby Ward

*Jesus* Jonty Ward

*Pilate* Richard Cressall

### **Arias**

*Soprano* Anna Snow

*Alto* Chris Herbert, Robert Webb

*Tenor* Toby Ward

*Bass* Jonty Ward

### **Chorus**

#### *Soprano*

Lyndsey Gartside

Monique Kershaw

Sally Goodman

Nicky Verity

Sue Jackson

#### *Tenor*

Chris Skidmore

Mike Cox

Alan Wingfield

Chris Faulkner

Martin Wallace

Rob Sturman

### **Orchestra**

#### *Flutes*

#### *Oboes*

#### *Bassoon*

#### *Violins*

#### *Viola*

#### *Cello*

#### *Double Bass*

#### *Harpsichord/organ*

#### *Alto*

Chris Herbert

Kate Graham

Rachel Wallace

Jenny Robinson

Susan Trinder

#### *Bass*

Chris Armitage

Simon Watkins

Mark Cadwallader

Ali Wood

Duncan Faulkner

Malcolm Jones

Judith Sumnall, Caroline Webb

Clare Hoskins, Dave Benfield

Charlotte Curwen

James Woodrow, Louise Jones

Alison Mordey

Sarah Evans

Richard Waldock

Charlie Dobson

# ST. JOHN PASSION

## J. S. BACH

**PINSUTI Chamber Choir**

**Conductor Robert Webb**

**Saturday 9th**

**March 2019**

**7.30pm**

**Christ Church,  
Skipton**

*Evangelist*

**Toby Ward**

*Jesus*

**Jonty Ward**

*Pilate*

**Richard Cressall**

***In memory of Jane Dobson***

*Proceeds from this concert will go to **Mind UK** and to **Mencap**, in recognition of Jane's work as a counsellor and music therapist.*

*Donations may also be made online at*

***<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/pinsuti>***

**[www.pinsuti.org.uk](http://www.pinsuti.org.uk)**

## J S BACH: PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN

*The following summary translation, describes passages of narrative as 'Scena'. In these passages, the music flows in the form of recitative shared between soloists depicting the main characters Jesus, Pilate and the Evangelist; and on occasion, short choral movements representing the 'crowd'. 'Coro' indicates longer choral movements.*

### PART 1

#### *Coro*

Lord our ruler, whose name is glorious in all the world: show us through your passion that you are glorified even in the greatest lowliness.

#### *Scena*

Judas betrays Jesus to the troops sent by the High Priest.

#### *Chorale*

O great love, beyond all measure, which has brought you to this way of martyrdom!

#### *Scena*

Jesus rebukes Peter for seeking to resist by force – “shall I not drink the cup my Father has given me?”

#### *Chorale*

Your will be done, O God, on earth as in heaven.

#### *Scena*

The soldiers bind Jesus and take him to Annas, son-in-law of the high priest Caiphas.

#### *Alto aria*

To release me from the bonds of my sin, my saviour is bound.

#### *Scena*

Peter follows Jesus along with another disciple [i.e. John].

#### *Soprano aria*

I follow you at once with joyful steps, my light and my life.

#### *Scena*

Peter denies Jesus. Annas questions Jesus about his teaching and one of his servants strikes him. Jesus replies “If I have spoken well, why do you strike me?”

**Pinsuti** is a group of about 25 performers, some of whom are semi-professional and trained singers. We take our name from the little-known Victorian composer **Ciro Pinsuti**. Sacred and secular unaccompanied music forms the core of our performances, which are individually tailored to each venue and audience. We perform four or five concerts each year in the Wharfedale - Airedale area. We also enjoy singing at weddings and other events.

We rehearse each Wednesday evening in Ilkley, and are open to new members in all voices; if you are interested please speak to Robert or a choir member; or email Susan Trinder via [info@pinsuti.org.uk](mailto:info@pinsuti.org.uk).



**Robert Webb** is a conductor and teacher from Leeds. After reading Music at Merton College, Oxford, where he was a choral scholar under Peter Phillips (Tallis Scholars) and Ben Nicholas (Reed Rubin Director of Music), Robert moved back to Leeds to train as a Music teacher. Robert has conducted numerous choirs across West Yorkshire, and as well as being Musical Director of Pinsuti, is also Musical Director of Skipton Choral Society, most recently directing a performance of John Rutter's Magnificat. He holds instrumental teaching posts at Horsforth and Roundhay School in Leeds, and was recently appointed Trumpet and Singing teacher at The Grammar School at Leeds. Robert works part-time in order to look after his son, Arthur, who doesn't really have a choice about being musical. In any spare time, Robert enjoys playing and watching American Football, and has even managed to convince his wife to start playing too!

*Alto aria*

It is accomplished – consolation for troubled souls. This sad night marks the final hours [of our redemption]; Judah's hero triumphs in the battle.

*Scena*

Jesus bows his head and dies.

*Bass aria with choir*

My dear saviour, am I now free from death? You bow your head and answer silently “Yes”.

[Choir: Jesus, you who were dead now live for ever. Give me only what you have earned, I desire no more.]

*Scena*

The veil of the temple is split in two and the earth shakes.

*Tenor arioso*

My heart, when the whole world suffers for Jesus' death, what will you do?

*Soprano aria*

Overflow with tears, my heart, to honour the highest one; proclaim to earth and heaven “your Jesus is dead”.

*Scena*

The soldiers pierce Jesus' side with a lance and blood and water issue forth.

*Chorale*

Help me, Lord, to meditate on your death and its cause.

*Scena*

Joseph of Arimathia asks Pilate for the body of Jesus and buries it near the cross.

*Chorus*

Sleep well, holy limbs, that I no longer must weep for, and bring me also to peace. The grave which is prepared for you opens to me the gate of heaven.

*Chorale*

When I die, may your dear angel bring my soul to Abraham's bosom. Then awaken me, so that I may see you in all joy. Hear me, Lord Jesus Christ; I will praise you for ever!

*Chorale*

Who has struck you, Lord? You are no sinner, unlike us and our children.

*Scena*

Peter denies Jesus twice more. As the cock crows, Peter weeps bitterly.

*Tenor aria*

Where shall I flee? My heart is sore because the servant has denied the master.

*Chorale*

Peter thoughtlessly denies his master, but weeps bitterly at Jesus' reproach.

……+++interval, approx. 20mins.+++……

## PART 2

*Chorale*

Christ, who knows no sin, was taken in the night like a thief, brought before godless people and falsely accused, mocked and spat on – as the Scripture foretold.

*Scena*

The Jews bring Jesus to Pilate and asks the Romans to put him to death. Pilate asks Jesus “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus replies “My kingdom is not of this world”.

*Chorale*

O great King, great for all time, how can I worthily proclaim this truth?

*Scena*

Pilate asks “Are you a King?” “You say I am a king: I came into the world to bear witness to the truth” “What is truth?” Pilate then goes out and says that he finds no fault in Jesus and proposes to release him. The mob ask instead for the murderer Barabas to be released. Pilate has Jesus scourged.

*Bass arioso*

Look on Jesus, my soul: the thorns that pierce him are your keys to heaven.

*Tenor aria*

After the floods of our sin, the lovely rainbow stands as sign of God's grace.

### Scena

The soldiers mock Jesus with the crown of thorns. Pilate brings him before the Jews ("behold the man!" and again says that he finds no fault in him, but the crowd bay "Crucify! Crucify!" "What has he done?" "He must perish, because he claimed to be the Son of God.") Pilate is afraid and questions Jesus again: "do you not realise that I have power to crucify you or release you?" "You would have no power were it not given from above."

### Chorale

Your imprisonment, Son of God, is the route to our freedom.

### Scena

Pilate tries to free Jesus but the crowd shout "If you let this man go you are no friend of Caesar's". Pilate again shows Jesus to them but they still cry "Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" "We have no king but Caesar!" Then Pilate delivered Jesus to be crucified; and he carried his cross to the place called Golgotha.

### Bass aria with chorus

"Come, oppressed souls, make haste!" "Where?" "To Golgotha!"

### Scena

They crucify Jesus between two others. Pilate writes a title "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews". The high priests complain "Say rather he claimed to be King of the Jews". Pilate retorts "What I have written, I have written."

### Chorale

In my hour of need may I recall how you, so mild, bled to death.

### Scena

The solders cast lots for Jesus' coat. Jesus asks the beloved disciple [John] to care for his mother.

### Chorale

Jesus made provision for his mother at his hour of death; we should do likewise.

### Scena

Jesus drinks vinegar and says "It is accomplished." ["Es ist Vollbracht."]

J.S. Passio. secūda Joānē. à 4 Voi. 2 Oboe. 2 Violini Viola e Contr. di J. S. Bach.

Soprano  
Alto  
Tenore  
Basso  
Flauto  
Oboe  
Violino  
Viola  
Violoncello e Contrabasso

Biblioteca Regia Berolincensis

Autograph from Bach's original score

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