

“ *Rejoice* ”

*St Stephens Cathedral,
Friday 25th August 2008 – 7.30pm*

Featuring

St Peters Chorale

Symphonic Winds

*Performing the world première of
An Exuberant Triptych – by Ralph Hultgren
(Commissioned by SPLC Symphonic Winds)*

Programme

St Peters Chorale

Conductor: Kathryn Morton
Organist: Graeme Morton

Rejoice in the Lamb –

Soloists: Katherine O’Ryan (Soprano), Ho-Ching Leung (Alto), Sam Mitchell (Tenor), Peter Clark (Bass).

Benjamin Britten

I Saw Eternity –

Song for Peace –

Sure on this Shining Night –

Violins: Ho Ching Leung and Stephanie Grenning

Soloist: Briana Yeo

Stephen Chatman

Allister MacGillivray

Z. Randall Stroope

INTERVAL

Symphonic Winds

Director: Grant Mason

First Suite in Eb for Military Band –

Chaconne

Intermezzo

March

Gustav Holst (Opus 28, No. 1)

An Exuberant Triptych

Ralph Hultgren

Rejoice in the Lamb

Words by Christopher Smart

Music by Benjamin Britten

The words of the Cantata – “Rejoice in the Lamb” – are taken from a long poem of the same name. The writer was Christopher Smart, an eighteenth century poet, deeply religious, but of a strange and unbalanced mind.

“Rejoice in the Lamb” was written while Smart was in an asylum, and is chaotic in form but contains many flashes of genius.

It is a few of the finest passages that Benjamin Britten has chosen to set to music. The main theme of the poem, and that of the Cantata, is the worship of God, by all created beings and things, each in its own way.

The Cantata is made up of ten short sections. The first sets the theme. The second gives a few examples of one person after another being summoned from the pages of the Old Testament to join with some creature in praising and rejoicing in God. The third is a quiet and ecstatic Hallelujah. In the fourth section smart takes his beloved cat as an example of nature praising God by being simply what the Creator intended it to be. The same thought is carried on in the fifth section with the illustration of the mouse. The sixth section speaks of the flowers – “the poetry of Christ”. In the seventh section Smart refers to his troubles and suffering, but even these are an occasion for praising God, for it is through Christ that he will find his deliverance. The eighth section gives four letters from an alphabet, leading to a full chorus in section nine which speaks of musical instruments and music’s praise of God. The final section repeats the Hallelujah.

Walter Hussey

Programme note: An Exuberant Triptych

The composer addresses his comments to the young people who will play for you and those who will listen, both the young and the young at heart!

“Youth is an exuberant time! Joy is everywhere; the future is bright; energy is infectious! Troubles may brew and worries might come but there are ways to address those concerns.

There must be a resolve in you to address the moral and ethical dilemmas which will confront you. When those stresses and strains beat upon you and you do not know which way to turn, then you must find peace in your heart and bring that peace to others. Most importantly, there is hope; hope in a world that has more good in it than bad, more wonderful people than those who use others, and more joy than sadness. Find that resolve, that peace and that hope where you can!

I have spoken with you of my faith, the faith your school is founded on. You may like to know my resolve comes from that faith; the peace that fills my heart comes from there too. And my hope is in Christ. In fact, the last line of the song that is heard in the third movement says, ‘Christ the babe is born for **you**’. Hope, peace and resolve, for me, reside right there, in Him.”

Ralph Hultgren

Ralph Hultgren

Mr Ralph Hultgren began his professional music career as a trumpet player in 1970. He has performed with the Central Band of the Royal Australian Air Force, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Brass Choir and as a freelance musician for the theatre, opera, cabaret and recording studio. Mr Hultgren is currently Head of Pre Tertiary Studies at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University where, as well as engaging in the academic pursuits noted below, he provides academic and artistic leadership to the Young Conservatorium.

Mr Hultgren’s conducting credits include the direction of musicals, operettas, studio recordings for radio, television and disc, and the concert stage. He has premiered a number of his own works in Australian centres and internationally, and has been proud to conduct the following groups, amongst others: the Australian Youth Wind Orchestra, the National Institute of Education (Singapore) Symphonic Band, Hong Kong Youth Symphonic Band, Queensland University of Technology Wind Symphony, University of Northern Iowa Wind Symphony, University of St Thomas Wind Ensemble and the Queensland State Youth Wind Ensemble. In his present position he conducts the Queensland Conservatorium Wind Orchestra, Queensland Conservatorium’s premiere wind group as well as lecturing in conducting and instrumental music education at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. He is in constant demand as a guest conductor and clinician throughout the Asian Pacific region.

Since commencing his composition life he has written works that span the broad spectrum of performance, from educational and amateur performing groups to the professional studio and stage. As composer/arranger in residence for the Queensland Department of Education’s Instrumental Music Program, he produced 185 works. His compositions have been performed widely within Australia and in recent years, performances have been given in the USA, Canada, Britain, France, Switzerland, Mexico, Singapore, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Norway, Korea, Taiwan and New Zealand, and have also been broadcast on radio and television both within Australia and overseas. Mr Hultgren has been nominated for the prestigious Sammy and Penguin Awards for his television soundtracks, and has twice won the coveted Yamaha Composer of the Year Award for works for symphonic band.

Appointments as a consultant in conducting, composition and music education have been entered into in Singapore, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Taiwan, and the USA and throughout Australia. Outside of his musical endeavours, Mr Hultgren is an avid reader and the leader of his church Men’s Fellowship.