

THE
GIOVANNI
CONSORT



2010

15th ANNIVERSARY
SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

The Giovanni Consort

One of Perth's premier vocal ensembles, The Giovanni Consort has been delighting audiences and critics alike since 1995.

What has always set the Giovanni Consort apart is the quality and depth of the musicianship displayed by the group and its commitment to refined yet exhilarating tone quality. As a result the Consort has been able to present complex and virtuosic choral works that are beyond the reach of many choirs and can otherwise only be heard in Perth on recordings.

The vast repertoire of the consort spans the full 1000 years of the Western classical choral tradition, ranging from mediaeval plainchant to works commissioned from West Australian composers, and every period in between. Although perhaps best known for its innovative programs of sacred music, the Consort is equally at home performing the secular repertoire of chansons, madrigals, folk songs and even arrangements of jazz and rock standards.

The Consort has also presented larger-scale choral works; *Dido & Aeneas* by Purcell, *Acis & Galatea* by Handel, the *Imperial Nelson Mass* of Haydn, *The Christmas Story* by Schütz, as well as Monteverdi's monumental *1610 Vespers*. It has also performed high-quality interpretations of important classics, including Britten's *Hymn to St. Cecilia* and *Ceremony of Carols*, Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* and the *Miserere* by Allegri.

The Consort selects singers of the high quality; many are trained at our local tertiary institutions and are experienced soloists in their own right. It is with pride that we note that a number of our singers have gone on to national and international careers: Rachelle Durkin, Taryn Fiebig, Iain Grandage, Andrew Moran, Stuart Haycock, Luke Gabbedy, Amber Lister, James Clayton, Kate Browton and Katja Webb have all graced the stage of opera houses and concert venues throughout the world.

Whether you are a loyal lover of exceptional classical music or a first time concertgoer we sincerely hope that you will allow the Giovanni Consort to lead you on a journey to familiar realms or perhaps to musical landscapes not previously explored.

Welcome

The Giovanni Consort is proud to present their 2010 Concert Subscription Series. The concert series celebrates its fifteenth birthday this year and to celebrate, three outstanding concert programs have been designed to present fine music sung by Perth's finest voices.

As part of our anniversary celebrations, the Consort will present a number of works that have become favourites for performers and audiences as well as new and exciting works that have rarely been in heard in Western Australia or have not yet featured on our concert programs.

As the centrepiece of our celebrations the Consort will perform two great choral masterpieces in one program in the final concert of the series, the *15th Anniversary Concert*. Don't miss an opportunity to hear the *Requiem* by Maurice Duruflé and the double choir motet *Singet dem Herrn* by Johann Sebastian Bach in this very special concert.



For our first concert, Giovanni joins with Pipe Organ Plus to present a fascinating concert of sacred music from the season of Lent and the festival of the *Resurrection* at Easter. As part of our commitment to diversity, the second concert in our series, *Serenade to Music*, moves to the Romantic period. This program features glorious melodies and choral songs accompanied by perhaps the most romantic of all instruments, the grand piano.

The Giovanni Consort would like to thank everyone one who has been associated with Consort since 1995 - performers, concert helpers, administrators, audience members and loyal subscribers. The Consort would also like to thank DCA for their support and funding. Finally, the Committee would like to thank those patrons and sponsors that have provided financial assistance to the organization since its inception. Without your support, Giovanni would not be able to celebrate such a milestone in 2010.

We hope you will enjoy the 2010 Giovanni Subscription Series!

David Gething
Artistic Director

Concert 1

Resurrection

Sunday 21 March, 2:30pm

The Basilica of St Patrick
Fremantle

Works include:

Tallis *Lamentations*, **Allegrì** *Miserere*,
de Brossard *Stabat Mater*, **Weelkes**
Gloria in excelsis



In 2010, Pipe Organ Plus and the Giovanni Consort both celebrate important musical milestones. In this concert they join together for a sublime musical reflection on the journey of Christ from Lent until Easter.



Featured in this program are the *Lamentations of Jeremiah* of Thomas Tallis, a masterpiece of Tudor polyphony and a deeply spiritual meditation for Good Friday. Few works have a more interesting history than the famous *Miserere* by Gregorio Allegri. Banned from publication for centuries by the Vatican, the soaring solo vocal line was originally sung by the famous *castrati* of the Papal Choir but is now a virtuoso showpiece for the soprano, an awe-inspiring test of technique, stamina and musicianship.

Also in the program is a little-known gem from the French Baroque period, the *Stabat Mater* by Sebastien de Brossard. Better known as the creator and compiler of the first French Music Dictionary in 1703, the *Stabat Mater* is an exquisite setting of the mediaeval text that reflects upon the Passion of the Christ on the Cross and the suffering of Mary, the mother of Jesus. This motet has become a favourite amongst audiences and singers fortunate enough to have heard of or performed this beautiful work.

This concert will feature plain chant sung by the Consort and superb organ music by Bach, De Grigny and Tournemire performed by Dominic Perissinotto that reflect both the agony of Christ's Passion and the joy of the Resurrection.

Concert 2

Serenade to Music

Saturday 28 August, 7:30pm

Cottesloe Civic Centre
Broome Street, Cottesloe

Works include:

Brahms *Vocal Quartets*, **Vaughan-Williams**
Serenade to Music, *In Windsor Forrest*, **Faure**
Pavane, *Madrigal* and *Cantique*

For its second subscription series concert, the Giovanni Consort will present an evening of glorious romantic melodies.

Ralph Vaughan-Williams wrote his celebrated *Serenade to Music* for a consort of soloists, many of whom were his close friends, so few works provide such a perfect artistic match for the Giovanni Consort. The lyrical melodies and sumptuous harmonies that highlight the *Serenade to Music* can also be heard in his choral cantata, *In Windsor Forest*. Created from music taken from his opera *Sir John in Love*, Vaughan Williams vividly recreates of the magical Shakespearean world, with its mysterious forests, drunken revelry and gorgeous love songs.

The choral and vocal music of German Romantic composer Johannes Brahms has been unjustly neglected in favour of his orchestral music. Brahms, perhaps the greatest of the Romantic masters, nevertheless maintained an interest in the human voice throughout his career. His *Vocal Quartets* are each superbly crafted miniatures, characterized by exquisitely shaped vocal lines expressive harmonies and virtuosic piano accompaniments.

Lighter in style, texture and mood than the *Quartets* by Brahms, the three choral songs by Gabriel Fauré, *Pavane*, *Madrigal* and *Cantique de Jean Racine*, are nonetheless polished, restrained and elegant, reflecting precisely the differences between the French and German late Romantic style. These stylistic differences caused enormous controversy towards the end of the 19th century but both can be enjoyed in this charming and delightful program.



Concert 3

15th Anniversary Concert

Friday 19 November, 7:30pm

St Mary's Cathedral, Perth

Works include:

Bach *Singet dem Herrn*, **Harris** *Faire is the Heaven, Bring us O Lord God*, **Brahms** *Geistliches Lied*, **Durufié** *Requiem and Four motets*

The final concert in the 2010 Subscription series is a celebration of the 15 years of fine choral music presented by the Giovanni Consort. This outstanding programme contains two of the greatest choral masterworks ever written, the *Requiem* by Maurice Durufié and the motet *Singet dem Herrn* by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Few composers have had such a complete understanding of the unique challenges and creative opportunities of writing for the pipe organ as French organist and composer Maurice Durufié. Using the full expressive resources of both the choir and the pipe organ, and inspired by plainchant melodies, Durufié created one of the great choral masterpieces of the 20th Century.

The exhilarating, majestic and uniquely challenging double choir motet *Singet dem Herrn* by Johann Sebastian Bach provides a unique counterpoint in this program to the profound and deeply moving *Requiem* by Maurice Durufié. Bustling with vigour and energy, *Singet dem Herrn* is a contrapuntal *tour de force* and Bach's crowning achievement in the motet genre.

This program also includes two miniature choral masterpieces by William Harris - *Faire is the Heaven* and *Bring us O Lord God*. Although written after the First World War, these works nostalgically evoke the mood of the halcyon days of Edwardian England and are amongst the most well-loved choral works of the extraordinary 20th Century English Choral repertoire.

Don't miss this unique concert!



Ticketing

Single tickets will be \$30 for Adults and \$25 for Concession card holders or Tertiary students in 2010.

Subscribing to the Consort

Subscribers enjoy a reduced ticket price for all three concerts. They are also guaranteed a seat in the event that a performance is sold out. Subscribe now to join our mailing list and keep up to date with all the Consort's activities. Subscription tickets make a unique and special gift for anyone who enjoys live music.

- Adult \$80
- Concession \$65

Becoming a Patron

The Giovanni Consort offers individuals, families or businesses wishing to support Western Australia's most talented vocalists the opportunity of becoming a patron.

We offer the following levels of support:

- Bronze \$200
- Silver \$300
- Gold \$500
- Platinum \$1000

For your donation, you will receive:

- Two sets of subscription tickets for the 2010 series
- Complimentary programmes at each concert
- Complimentary refreshments at interval
- Names of patrons appear in concert programs unless otherwise requested

Your patronage will help The Giovanni Consort continue its activities throughout 2009 and into the future.

Education with the Consort

In the spirit of promoting choral music to the youth, The Giovanni Consort invites school groups accompanied by teachers to attend concerts at a discounted rate of \$15 per student. For more information about this offer, please contact us on giovanniconsort@gmail.com.

Subscription form and mailing list

Title: Mr / Ms / Mrs / Dr / Other: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

_____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

I would like to be a member of the Giovanni mailing list (default to email)

		\$	Number	Total
Subscriptions	Full	80		
	Concession	60		
Patrons	Bronze	200		
	Silver	300		
	Gold	500		
	Platinum	1000		

Please find \$ _____ enclosed as payment.

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Card Number: _____

Name on card: _____

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Cheque made payable to 'The Giovanni Consort Inc.' and posted to:

The Giovanni Consort, PO Box 6545, East Perth WA 6892

All enquiries to: giovanniconsort@gmail.com or 0406 258 450



The Giovanni for the Future Fund

In 2008, The Giovanni Consort launched a new initiative to help us to continue to present concerts well into the future. Currently, we depend very much on funding to bring our audiences some of the projects such as commissioned works, regional concerts and collaborative projects as well as keeping our Consort professional.

We are looking for individuals or groups who see the need for the arts to exist in Perth and are willing to contribute to our future.

Donations to the 'Giovanni for the Future Fund' are used to fund a trust with which the Consort hopes to be able to support itself into the future. We are growing this fund over time until the Consort can be entirely self-supporting.

All donations to The Giovanni Consort are fully tax deductible. All donations will be acknowledged in our programmes.

All contributions from past donors have also been met with grateful appreciation by the singers as it allows us to continue in making the music we love and to contribute to arts in Western Australia.

If you know of individuals or companies who are interested in seeing the arts flourish in Perth, please encourage them to contact us so that we can share with them our vision of the future.

Mailing list

Whilst you can join the mailing list by using the detachable slip in this booklet, you can also now join by use of the 'Join mailing list' tab on the website. This is a simpler and more reliable system initiated last year.



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