



ST PATRICK'S
CATHEDRAL

**A CELEBRATION
CONCERT OF
SACRED MUSIC**

WITH

**ANGELA BROWN
& SIMON O'NEILL**

4 & 6 JUNE 2008



CONCERT PROGRAMME

ANGELA BROWN SIMON O'NEILL

MORAG ATCHISON KATE SPENCE

James Ioelu Claire Filer Cameron Barclay

WITH THE AUCKLAND PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

HAYDN – The Creation

Representation of Chaos

Recitative *Raphael* James Ioelu

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.

Quartet

And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light', and there was light.

Recitative *Uriel* Simon O'Neill

And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

Recitative *Gabriel* Morag Atchison

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.

Air 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

Recitative *Uriel* Simon O'Neill

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.

Air In native worth and honour clad,

With beauty, courage, strength, adorn'd,

Erect, with front serene, he stands

A man, the lord and king of nature all.

His 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

The partner for him form'd

A woman, fair and graceful spouse

Her softly – smiling virgin looks,

Of flowery spring the mirror,

Resneak him love. and iov. and bliss.

MENDELSSOHN – Elijah

Then Shall the Righteous Shine Forth Simon O'Neill

Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun, in their heavenly Father's realm.

Joy on their head shall be everlasting, and all sorrow and mourning shall flee away for ever.

HANDEL – Samson

Total Eclipse Simon O'Neill

Total eclipse! No sun, no moon.

All dark amidst the blaze of noon!

O, glorious light! no cheering ray

to glad my eyes with welcome day!

Why thus depriv'd Thy prime decree?

Sun, moon and stars are dark to me.

VERDI – La forza del destino

La Vergine degl'angeli Angela Brown

First produced in the Imperial Theatre, St Petersburg on November 10th, 1862.

Leonora is fleeing from her family's vengeance after her love affair accidentally caused her father's death. She seeks refuge in a convent and sings *Madre pietosa* – appealing to the Virgin Mary for help. She kneels and prays in the moonlight, her clear impassioned singing being accompanied by the chanting of the religious within the convent.

VERDI – Act IV II Trovatore

D'amor sull'ali rose Angela Brown

First produced at the Apollo, Rome, January 19th, 1853.

Manrico, the lover of Leonara has been taken prisoner and is now lying in a cell condemned to death. Leonora finds her way to him and stands under the walls of the prison. She begs love to fly with rosy wings and comfort her lover in his prison cell.

Miserere Angela Brown & Simon O'Neill

The religious faithful are heard praying for the soul of the condemned man. She cries word of hope and love to him and he declares his love for her through the impenetrable prison walls.

VERDI – Requiem (Excerpts)

1873 the Italian poet, novelist and national hero Alessandro Manzoni died. Verdi, had been a lifelong admirer and was deeply affected by his death. He decided to write a Requiem in Manzoni's memory.

The first performance of the *Messa di Requiem* took place on 22nd May 1874, the first anniversary of Manzoni's death,

Recordare Angela Brown & Kate Spence

Remember kind Jesus that I am the reason for your life on earth. Do not let me be lost on that day. Though weary, you resolutely sought me. You redeemed me by your suffering on the cross. Let not such great labour be in vain. Judge who punishes justly, give me the gift of forgiveness before the day of reckoning.

Ingemisco Simon O'Neill

I groan like the guilty man. My face is red with guilt. Spare me, who kneel before you, O God. You, who absolved Mary Magdalen and favorably listened to the good thief – to me also, you give hope. My prayers are unworthy, but you, full of goodness; treat me kindly so that I will not burn in fire forever. Find a place for me amongst thy sheep and separate me from the loathsome goats and stand me on your right side.

Agnus dei Angela Brown & Kate Spence

Lamb of God who takest away the sins of the world, rest in peace.

VERDI – Tomb Scene from Aida

La fatale pietra; O terra addio Angela Brown & Simon O'Neill

First produced at the Teatro Kediaviale, Cairo, on December 24th 1871. Radames, an officer in the Egyptian army has unwittingly betrayed his country. He is condemned to be entombed alive. Standing in his living tomb, he sees stone after stone being placed over his head. Soon there will be only one last stone – then darkness and lingering death. As that last stone is lifted into its place he hears a sound in the darkness. It is Aida. She has crept in and concealed herself. Though so young and beautiful, she prefers to share the awful fate of her lover. In each others arms they say farewell to earth and glory in the joy of the everlasting love through the long years of the hereafter.

INTERMISSION

CARTER – Cantata of Spirituals Angela Brown

R. STRAUSS – Allerseelen Simon O'Neill
& Rosemary Barnes

Place on the table the fragrant mignonettes,
Bring here the last of red asters,
And let us speak again of love,
As long ago in May.
Give me the hand that I may secretly clasp it,
And if it is observed by others, I will not mind;
Give me one of your sweet glances,
As long ago in May.
Today each grave is flowering and fragrant,
Once a year is All Soul's day,
Come to my heart that I again may have you,
As long ago in May.

SCHUBERT – Wiegenlied Simon O'Neill
& Rosemary Barnes

Slumber my sweetest baby,
Softly cradled while mother sings.
All good angels hover over thee,
Spreading shelter with their silken wings.

BACH / GOUNOD – Ave Maria Simon O'Neill
& Rosemary Barnes

MALOTTE – The Lord's Prayer Angela Brown
& Rosemary Barnes

MASCAGNI – Cavalleria Rusticana
Ave Maria Angela Brown

Opera in One Act by Mascagni. First produced at the Costanzi, Rome, May 17th, 1890. It is a passionate Sicilian love tragedy, told in two scenes. This famous Intermezzo is played between the two scenes. Here we have the Ave Maria prayer added to the melody.

WAGNER – Parsifal
Nur eine Waffe taugt Simon O'Neill

Be whole, absolved and healed! Now I shall perform your office.
O blessed be your suffering, that gave compassion's highest
power and purest wisdom's might to the timid fool! The Holy
spear – I bring it back to you!
Oh! The highest joy of this miracle!

From this weapon that has healed your wound, I see the holy
blood flowing in yearning for the kindred fount that flows and
surges in the Grail. Never more shall it be closed; uncover the
Grail! Open the shrine!

FRANCK – Panis Angelicus Simon O'Neill

The "Bread of Angels" is often used as a Benediction hymn.
It directs us to contemplate the mystery of the Eucharist.

BIZET – Agnus Dei Simon O'Neill
Many composers have written melodies for this hymn and this
Bizet rendition is one of the more spectacular.



ANGELA BROWN

Angela Brown personifies the ideal American dramatic soprano: sheer vocal power; luxurious finesse; shimmering, high pianissimos; and a charming personality larger than life. Her highly successful Metropolitan Opera debut in 2004 sparked a media excitement with reviews from The New York Times, the Associated Press, CBS Evening News and features on the front page of The New York Times and in Oprah Magazine, Essence Magazine, Ebony Magazine, Classical Singer, Reader's Digest, and Psychology Today.

Angela returned to the Metropolitan Opera to sing the 2007 season premiere and fall performances of *Aida* and the 2008 spring performances of *Amelia* (*Un Ballo in Maschera*). Other engagements this season include Indianapolis Symphony's opening gala, *Aida* in Bilbao, Spain, *Tosca* for Florida Grand Opera, recitals for Dayton Opera, Wartburg College, Highland Park Methodist Church in Dallas and an appearance as the featured soloist for the National Bicentennial Celebration of Abraham Lincoln presented by The Library of Congress. This spring, Angela debuts the role of Leonora in *La Forza del Destino* for the Cincinnati May Festival with Mo. James Conlon. Future engagements include a return to National Opera of Paris, her debut at Vienna State Opera, Deutsche Opera Berlin, and The Atlanta Opera.



SIMON O'NEILL

One of the most gifted and distinguished singers of his generation, Simon O'Neill has rapidly established himself as a tenor in great demand on the international stage. A native of New Zealand, he is a principal artist with the Metropolitan Opera, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and the Salzburg Festival appearing with such illustrious conductors as James Levine, Riccardo Muti, Valery Gergiev, Antonio Pappano, Sir Charles Mackerras, Seiji Ozawa, Lorin Maazel, Donald Runnicles and Christoph Eschenbach amongst many others.

This season, a year of debuts include the title role of *Lohengrin* at Covent Garden and *Sergei* in Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* for Opera Australia. Simon will also tour Europe with Daniel Barenboim and the East West Divan Orchestra for performances of the first act of *Die Walküre* with further performances later in the year with the Hong Kong Philharmonic and Edo de Waart.

On the concert stage Simon performs *Caesar* in Barber's *Antony and Cleopatra* with New York City Opera at Carnegie Hall, *Ferdinand* in Martin's *Der Sturm* at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Mahler's *Eighth Symphony* in Montreal with Kent Nagano, returns to the Bundaleer Festival in Adelaide and makes his BBC Proms debut performing the *Glagolitic Mass* with Pierre Boulez. Simon will also record his debut CD of operatic arias for EMI with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.