

# THE POPE'S CHOIR

## Cappella Musicale Pontificia Sistina



Cappella  
Musicale Pontificia  
**SISTINA**



## SACRED MUSIC CONCERT

also featuring the Voices of St. Michael's Choir School

St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica

Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 7:30pm





# The Papal Sistine Chapel Choir

With a history that stretches back some 1500 years, this is the oldest choir still active in the world today. Part of its significance lies in the fact that it has kept going down through the centuries, most importantly during the critically important period of the Renaissance, when it found its own natural “theatre” in the Sistine Chapel. With all its frescoes, this chapel stands as a monument to beauty, and its distinctive acoustic has influenced all the choir’s accumulated repertoire, one which strikes a perfect balance between tradition and modernity. A jewel that will be passed down to future generations with all its spiritual and artistic beauty intact.

But there is more to the Sistine Chapel Choir than just its cultural legacy: it plays an active part during the papal celebrations in St Peter’s Basilica, and in the Sistine Chapel itself. As the Holy Father’s personal choir, it is called upon to play an ecumenical role, and be part of the relationship between the various Christian confessions, contributing to bringing together in art what has been separated by history and politics. This mission has led us into dialogue with leading choirs around the world, to undertaking international tours and to making our work known through recordings of our repertoire on Deutsche Grammophone.



## Choirmaster Mgr. Massimo Palombella

Born in Turin on 25 December 1967, he was ordained priest in the Salesian Society on 7 December 1996.

On 16 October 2010 he was appointed director of the Sistine Chapel Choir by Pope Benedict XVI, and the appointment was confirmed by Pope Francis in 2015.

He is an expert member of the Board of the National Liturgical Office of the Italian Bishops’ Conference. On 14 January 2017 the Holy Father appointed him consultant to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.



Both with the Coro Interuniversitario di Roma, which he has directed since 2011, and the Sistine Chapel Choir, he has given numerous concerts in Italy and around the world, and has made a number of CDs and DVDs for Elledici, the Libreria Editrice Vaticana and Deutsche Grammophon, and the CD Cantate Domino won him the prestigious Echo Klassik award.



**ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL BASILICA**  
Archdiocese of Toronto

200 Church Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5B 1Z2  
T: 416-364-0234  
F: 416-364-6029  
[www.stmichaelscathedral.com](http://www.stmichaelscathedral.com)

It is no accident that music or chant is an important part of every religion. The purpose is always to attune and uplift, but each religion does this in ways unique to itself. Music is the most direct way we have of accessing the human spirit. It can transcend social and historical context and bypasses the doctrines and dogmas which divide us. It works directly on the emotions and uplifts consciousness. It also unifies the listeners as well as the performers.

Every religion has evolved forms that are uniquely its own. Through its sacred music, the Catholic Church reveals an incredibly rich history of music-making. And so, I am pleased to welcome the Cappella Musicale Pontificia Sistina, to St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica for this very special concert that marks the beginning of our new concert series. Commonly referred to as the "Pope's Choir," this highly accomplished group of 30 boys and 22 men, sing for the Holy Father's liturgies. The Sistine Chapel Choir is considered the most prominent and oldest choir in the world, dating back to the 7th century.

Music is the very language of the soul. In its most intimate and exalted expression, Sacred music is the blood and bone of our worship, the carrier of its organic life, the texture of its being, the architecture of its prayer. Whatever your religious affiliation, or even if you have none, I believe you will find this concert uplifting nourishment for your spirit.

Reverend Michael Busch  
Rector St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica







## About St. Michael's Choir School

Founded in 1937 with the purpose of providing sacred music for services at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica in downtown Toronto, St. Michael's Choir School is a centre for musical and academic excellence. It is one of only six choir schools in the world affiliated with the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music in Rome. Each student admitted to the Choir School is trained in vocal and instrumental music, and sings in at least one of the school's choirs. In addition to the annual Christmas concert, the choirs tour regularly and perform at many local events.



Balancing the sacred and the secular is customary for the school. St. Michael's Choir School is not only famous for its music program, but also is known for its academic achievement, consistently ranking at the top of Fraser Institute surveys. For 80 years, graduates of the Choir School have pursued studies in science, education, medicine, law, business, and, of course, music. In the last group are the Crew Cuts and Four Lads of the 1950s and present-day musical artists Michael Colvin, Stewart Goodyear, Kevin Hearn (Barenaked Ladies), John McDermott, Claude Morrison (The Nylons), Robert Pomakov, Michael Schade, and the late Michael Burgess.

For more information: [www.smcs.on.ca](http://www.smcs.on.ca)



**PETER MAHON** conducts the St Michael's Choir School Senior Choir at the Sunday Noon Mass at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica. He has held conducting positions at St. James Cathedral (Anglican) Toronto, Grace Church on the Hill, (Anglican) Toronto, Lorne Park Baptist Church, Mississauga Ontario and St. Thomas More (Anglican Ordinariate) Catholic Church in Toronto. Since 2003, he has been the Artistic Director of the Tallis Choir of Toronto. As a countertenor soloist, Mr. Mahon has appeared with Tafelmusik, Toronto Consort, Les Violons du Roy, Studio de musique ancienne de Montreal, Aradia Baroque Ensemble, Montreal Early Music Festival and the Montreal Chamber Music Festival as well as other ensembles and festivals across Canada. He has recorded for Hyperion, Naxos, Sony, Atma Classique, Marquis Classics as well as CBC Records, CTV and PBS in the United States.



**WILLIAM O'MEARA** Organist at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica and teacher at St. Michael's Choir School. Mr. O'Meara has performed at festivals and concert series throughout North and South America, Europe and Russia. His recently released recording, AWARI: Gems from Canada and Beyond, includes premiere recordings of several Canadian works for organ as well as organ and violin with Toronto Symphony assistant concertmaster Etsuko Kimura. His most recent performances include La Maison Symphonique in Montreal and the Calgary Organ Festival.



# Organ Preludes

William O'Meara, Organist

Fanfares

Calvin Hampton  
(1938-1984)

Suite (Opus 14)  
II. Choral

Paul de Maleingreau  
(1887-1956)

Rondo

Jan Janca  
(b. 1933)

Toccata in D

Marcel Lanquetuit  
(1894-1985)







## St. Michael's Choir School, Senior Select Choir

Peter Mahon, Conductor

### FACTUM EST SILENTIUM, Richard Dering (c.1580-1630)

Factum est silentium in caelo,  
Dum committeret bellum, draco.  
Cum Michael Archangelo.  
Audita est vox milia milium,  
Dicentium: Salus, honor et virtus,  
Omnipotenti Deo.  
Alleluia, Alleluia.

*There was silence in heaven whilst the dragon joined battle with the Archangel Michael. A cry was heard – thousands of thousands saying: 'Salvation and honour and power be to Almighty God'. Alleluia*

*Matins Responsory, Feast of St. Michael Archangel*

### AVE VERUM CORPUS, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Ave verum corpus natum de Maria Virgine:  
Vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine:  
Cujus latus perforatum unda fluxit cum sanguine:  
Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.

*Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary,  
Who having truly suffered, was sacrificed on the cross for mankind,  
Whose pierced side flowed with water and blood:  
May it be for us a foretaste (of the Heavenly banquet)  
In the trial of death.*

*14th century, Attributed to Pope Innocent VI*

### AND I SAW A NEW HEAVEN, Edgar L. Bainton (1880-1956)

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.  
And I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.  
And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.  
And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

*Revelation XXI, vv. 1-4*



## BEHOLD THE TABERNACLE, Healey Willan (1880-1967) Cdn

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,  
And the Spirit of God dwelleth within you:  
For the temple of God is holy,  
Which temple are ye:  
For the love of whom ye do this day  
celebrate the joys of the temple  
with a season of festivity.  
O how dreadful, is this place.  
This is the house of God, and this is the gate of heav'n

*Words from antiphons of the Feast of Dedication*







# Cappella Musicale Pontificia Sistina

Mgr. Massimo Palombella, Choirmaster

## GAUDETE IN DOMINO, Gregorian Chant

Gaudete in Domino semper:  
iterum dico, gaudete.  
Modestia vestra nota sit omnibus hominibus:  
Dominus prope est.  
Nihil solliciti sitis:  
sed in omni oratione  
petitiones vestrae  
innotescant apud deum.

*Rejoice in the Lord always:  
and again I say, rejoice.  
Let your moderation  
Be known unto all men.  
The Lord is at hand.  
Be careful for nothing;  
but in every thing  
by prayer and supplication  
with thanksgiving  
let your requests  
be made known unto God.*

## BENEDIXISTI, DOMINE, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525 c. – 1594)

Benedixisti, Domine, terram tuam,  
avertisti captivitatem Iacob;  
remisisti iniquitatem plebis tuae.

*Lord, thou hast blessed thy land:  
thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.  
Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people.*

## MAGNIFICAT PRIMI TONI, Orlando di Lasso (1532 – 1594)

Magnificat anima mea Dominum  
et exsultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo,

quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae.  
Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes,

quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est,  
et sanctum nomen eius,

et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies  
timentibus eum.



*MAGNIFICAT PRIMI TONI (continued)*

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo,  
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui;

deposuit potentes de sede  
et exaltavit humiles;

esurientes implevit bonis  
et divites dimisit inanes.

Suscepit Israel puerum suum,  
recordatus misericordiæ suæ,

sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,  
Abraham et semini eius in sæcula.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.  
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc et semper,  
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

*My soul doth magnify the Lord  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
Because he hath regarded the humility of his handmaid;  
for behold from henceforth all generations  
shall call me blessed.  
Because he that is mighty hath done great things to me;  
and holy is his name.  
And his mercy is from generation unto generations,  
to them that fear him.  
He hath showed might in his arm:  
He hath scattered the proud in the conceit of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seats,  
and hath exalted the humble.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things;  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He hath received Israel his servant,  
being mindful of his mercy:  
as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his seed for ever.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.*







## SUPER FLUMINA BABILONIS, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Super flumina Babylonis  
illic sedimus et flevimus,  
dum recordaremur tui Sion.  
In salicibus in medio eius  
suspendimus organa nostra.

*By the rivers of Babylon,  
there we sat down, yea,  
we wept,  
when we remembered Zion.  
We hanged our harps  
Upon the willows  
In the midst thereof.*

## MISERERE, Gregorio Allegri (1582 c. - 1652)

Miserere mei, Deus,  
secundum magnam misericordiam tuam;

R. et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum,  
dele iniquitatem meam.

Amplius lava me ab iniquitate mea,  
et a peccato meo munda me.

R. Quoniam iniquitatem meam ego cognosco,  
et peccatum meum contra me est semper.

Tibi soli peccavi, et malum coram te feci;  
ut iusti ceris in sermonibus tuis,  
et vincas cum iudicaris.

R. Ecce enim in iniquitatibus conceptus sum,  
et in peccatis concepit me mater mea.

Ecce enim veritatem dilexisti;  
incerta et occulta sapientiæ tuæ manifestasti mihi.

R. Asperges me hyssopo, et mundabor;  
lavabis me, et super nivem dealbabor.

Quoniam si voluisses sacrificium, dedissem utique  
holocaustis non delectaberis.

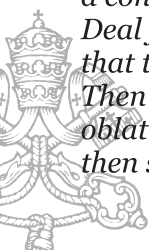
R. Sacrificium Deo spiritus contribulatus;  
cor contritum et humiliatum, Deus, non despicies.



*MISERERE (continued)*

Tunc acceptabis sacri cium iustitiæ,  
oblationes et holocausta;  
  
tunc imponent super altare tuum vitulos.

*Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to thy great mercy.  
And according to the multitude of thy tender mercies  
blot out my iniquity.  
Wash me yet more from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my iniquity,  
and my sin is always before me.  
To thee only have I sinned,  
and have done evil before thee:  
that thou mayst be justified in thy words  
and mayst overcome when thou art judged.  
For behold thou hast loved truth:  
the uncertain and hidden things of thy wisdom  
thou hast made manifest to me  
Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be cleansed:  
thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow.  
To my hearing thou shalt give joy and gladness:  
and the bones that have been humbled shall rejoice.  
Turn away thy face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.  
Create a clean heart in me, O God:  
and renew a right spirit within my bowels.  
Cast me not away from thy face:  
and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation,  
and strengthen me with a perfect spirit.  
I will teach the unjust thy ways:  
and the wicked shall be converted to thee.  
Deliver me from blood, O God, thou God of my salvation:  
and my tongue shall extol thy justice.  
O Lord, thou wilt open my lips:  
and my mouth shall declare thy praise.  
For if thou hadst desired sacrifice, I would indeed have given it:  
with burnt offerings thou wilt not be delighted.  
A sacrifice to God is an afflicted spirit:  
a contrite and humbled heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.  
Deal favourably, O Lord, in thy good will with Sion:  
that the walls of Jerusalem may be built up.  
Then shalt thou accept the sacrifice of justice,  
oblations and whole burnt offerings:  
then shall they lay calves upon thy altar.*







## VERE LANGUORES, Tomas Luis da Vittoria (1548 – 1611)

Vere languores nostros ipse tulit,  
et dolores nostros ipse portavit;  
Cujus livore sanati sumus.  
Dulce lignum, dulces clavos,  
dulcia ferens pondera,  
quae sola fuisti digna  
sustinere Regem coelorum et Dominum.

*Truly He Himself bore our griefs,  
and He Himself carried our sorrows;  
by His wounds we are healed.  
Sweet cross, sweet nails,  
sweetly bearing the weight,  
you alone were worthy  
to bear the King of heaven and the Lord.*

## ADORAMUS TE CHRISTE, Orlando di Lasso

Adoramus te, Christe  
et benedicimus tibi.  
Quia per sanctam crucem tuam  
redemisti mundum.  
Domine, miserere nobis.

*We adore thee, O Christ,  
and we bless thee,  
because by thy holy cross  
thou hast redeemed the world.  
O Lord, have mercy upon us.*

## SICUT CERVUS, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum,  
ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.

*As the heart panteth after the fountains of water;  
so my soul panteth after thee, O God.*



## EXSULTATE DEO, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Exsultate Deo adiutori nostro;  
jubilate Deo Jacob.  
Sumite psalmum, et date tympanum;  
psalterium jucundum cum cithara.  
Buccinate in neomenia tuba,  
in insigni die solemnitatis vestræ.

*Sing joyfully to God our strength;  
sing loud unto the God of Jacob!  
Take the song, bring forth the timbrel,  
the pleasant harp, and the viol.  
Blow the trumpet in the new moon,  
at the time appointed for our feast day.*

## TU ES PETRUS, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram  
ædificabo Ecclesiam meam,  
et portæ inferi non prævalebunt adversus eam,  
et tibi dabo claves regni cœlorum.  
Quodcumque ligaveris super terram,  
erit ligatum et in cœlis:  
et quodcumque solveris super terram,  
erit solutum et in cœlis.  
Et tibi dabo claves regni cœlorum.

*Thou art Peter; and upon this rock  
I will build my church,  
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.  
And I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven.  
And whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth,  
it shall be bound also in heaven.  
And I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven.*











[www.smcs.on.ca](http://www.smcs.on.ca)