



The Music Makers

Catholic Music Publishers

Penitential Mass for Eight Voices

music by Jeremy de Satgé

is to be performed at

The Oxford Oratory

on the

Second Sunday of Lent

4th March 2012

at the

11.00 am Solemn Mass

The Music Makers are hoping that as many people as possible attend this second known full UK liturgical performance. Please spread the word. See below for further details about the music.

Further information

We do not know how many performances of this Mass there have been in the past as copies have been sold in several countries. However, the UK Premiere was held during Lent 2008 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Mayfair.

Following the Premiere, these are some of the written comments received by the composer: -

- We are just writing to say how much we enjoyed the performance of your Penitential Mass. We thought that it was an excellent addition to the Catholic repertoire of liturgical music. (MMcC & JD)
- You've captured the sombre, penitential mood terrifically well in your Mass, and I think it's a highly effective and imaginative piece. (P.S. - a cathedral organist)
- I was much impressed by your setting and thought it had a gripping performance. (J.E. retired church organist)
- Your composition was truly impressive and perfect for the season of Lent. (J.B.)
- I hope the Mass gets into circulation. (Fr W.P.)
- It was brilliant and I can't even describe it. But just wonderful, rich and polyphonic and very stirring. (L.P.)

Following the Mass's publication in 2002, **Choir & Organ Magazine** wrote the following review: -

".. Being penitential, the Mass has no Gloria, but all the other movements are carefully crafted and use the possibilities of the eight-part texture well. The part writing poses no note difficulty, although you'll need singers capable of sustaining high tessitura notes and sopranos capable of top Cs. The harmonic language is modal in flavour but accessible, with a great deal of beauty." (Nicholas Danks, 2002)

The composer's own Performance Notes on the piece read as follows: -

Penitential Mass for Eight Voices is an *a cappella* Latin Mass setting without Gloria, primarily intended for the seasons of Advent and Lent, although it may be used at other times of the year, particularly where the 'flavour' of a Mass is penitential. There are three movements: Kyrie, Sanctus & Benedictus and Agnus Dei.

The Mass is technically rather easier to perform than it might look at first sight! It does require, however, sopranos who can sing up to top C and a top tenor line with a firm high A. The soprano and tenor parts of the Benedictus may be sung as a solo quartet. The music is dramatic and has an international flavour, particularly in the Agnus Dei where some of the melodic line has a distinctly Middle Eastern sound. The Mass is dedicated to Patrick Russill and the Choir of the London Oratory. Dynamic markings are for guidance only and are intended to indicate the varying intensity of the music. The acoustics of different buildings and the number of singers in a choir may necessitate variance from the dynamic markings suggested.