

## HISTORY OF THE CECILIAN SINGERS

We began on December 18th, 1962 and we are one of the oldest mixed choirs in Hong Kong, singing a myriad repertoire from madrigals and world music to Mozart - in the style of "a cappella" harmonies or pieces with accompaniment. We are also a registered charity that sings for other charities and a significant percentage of profits from our concerts go to various charities chosen by the choir.

## OUR CONDUCTOR: ANDREW LEUNG

Andrew Leung, baritone and organist, is an active conductor in Hong Kong. He earned his degree in sacred music from Franciscan University of Steubenville, USA. He has also studied vocal performance, organ and conducting. Prior to his return to Hong Kong, he conducted choirs in Macau and in multiple locations in the USA. He has also been teaching courses and conducting choral workshops for over 200 church musicians in Hong Kong in the recent years. In addition to the Cecilian Singers, Andrew is also the music director of Vox Antiqua, which he founded and conductor of the Choir of the Standard Chartered Bank. He holds leadership positions at several churches in Hong Kong and sings with the Choir of St. John's Cathedral and Tallis Vocalis.

## SPRING 2019 SINGERS

**Basses:** Bernard Mok, Charles Goldsmith, Henry Tso, Hubert Lem, Ivor Morris, Julien Molinet, Joseph Bruener, Lindsay Ellens, Peter Yu Leung Kan, Pierre Gueneron, Tim Schuetz, Wesley Wong, Will Newman, Yussel de Kraa

**Tenors:** Andrew Dangerfield, Carlo Gioja, Hugo Wong, Lawrence Yeung Wing Lap, Leo Yeung, Miro Crame, Robert Quintin

**Altos:** Adrienne Walder, Alice Hui, Anki Leung, Callie Botsford, Diane Quick, Debbie de Varga, Dorothy Chern, Gina Littlefair, Janus Lai, Jenni Sparks, Johanna Leung, Julie Catton, Krystyna Kosciuszko, Lina Kao, Lindsay Lyons, Michelle Teasel, Rosa Wong, Sofia Suarez, Viania Fong, Zoe Baker

**Sopranos:** Amy Sly, Anna Vallesteros, Anna Verghese, Caroline Ireson, Christine Wasiowych, Eli Puttock, Eri Fukuda, Frances Nicholls, Helena Green, Helena White, Juliet Ide, Lara Simpson, Lina Cheung, Liz Sullivan, Louise Kwan, Lucy Colback, Mariam Alexander, Pearl Wong, Rebecca Wadsworth, Ruby Liang, Shirley Adrain, Simone Loke, Tzeitel Fernandes, Theadora Whittington

## OUR CONCERTMASTER: GARY NGAN

Gary Ngan is the Associate Concertmaster of the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong since 2010 and the Concertmaster of the Hong Kong SingFest. He is currently on faculty at the Hong Kong Baptist University and the Education University of Hong Kong while giving over 60 performances annually. An accomplished violinist, he received degrees from Yale University (M.M. with Fellowship and full scholarship) and Eastman School of Music (B.M). He also holds the Fellowship Diploma from Trinity College, London and was awarded the Doctoral full-tuition scholarship from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In Germany, Gary advanced his studies on Early Music and Chamber Music at Hochschule fur Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover.

## SPRING 2019 ORCHESTRA

<b>Violin I:</b>	**Gary Ngan, Terry Chan, Biffa Kwok	<b>Violin II:</b>	*Gui Li, John Sit	<b>Viola:</b>	*Yang Fan, Casper Lai
<b>Cello:</b>	*Winca Chan, Pun Chak-Yin	<b>Double Bass:</b>	Victor Lee	<b>Percussion:</b>	Rebecca Ng, Emily Cheng

\*\* Concertmaster \* Principal

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks go to our conductor, Andrew Leung, for his excellent conducting, insightful choral knowledge, and joyful and positive enthusiasm. Thanks go to our pianist and organist Jackie Fung. Special thanks go to Gary Ngan and the concert musicians for their excellent playing, the Cecilian Singers for their wonderful singing and playing of wine glasses, Dot Whittington for designing the poster and all the committee and choir members who have helped this year.

## THE CECILIAN SINGERS COMMITTEE MEMBERS: 2019

<b>Chair:</b>	Jenni Sparks	<b>Treasurer:</b>	Ivor Morris	<b>Secretary:</b>	Rebecca Wadsworth
<b>Librarian:</b>	Shirley Adrain	<b>Publicity:</b>	Liz Sullivan	<b>Events:</b>	Krystyna Kosciuszko
<b>Charity:</b>	Caroline Ireson				

For enquiries, email: [info@ceciliansingers.com](mailto:info@ceciliansingers.com) Website: [www.ceciliansingers.com](http://www.ceciliansingers.com)

New singers are always very welcome to sing with us; we also welcome concert sponsorship to help maximise our charitable donations.

The Cecilian Singers

PEACE

HOPE

& JOY



Conducted by Andrew Leung

Thursday 23rd May 2019, 7.30pm

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, GARDEN RD, CENTRAL

Asia Premiere of British composer, Paul Mealor's 'The Souls of the Righteous'  
& works reflecting themes of peace, hope & joy, including  
The Hallelujah Chorus, Do Not be Afraid & You'll Never Walk Alone.

Proceeds to The Samaritan Befrienders Hong Kong

[www.ceciliansingers.com](http://www.ceciliansingers.com)

**Conductor: Andrew Leung, Concertmaster: Gary Ngan, Pianist: Jackie Fung**

Featuring the Asia premiere of Paul Mealor's "*Requiem – The Souls of the Righteous*" and favourites such as "*Hallelujah Chorus*" and "*You'll Never Walk Alone*" as well as other favourites, the Cecilian Singers Spring Concert is a great way to show how the power of music can help raise our spirits and through supporting "The Samaritan Befrienders Hong Kong" help some of those most in need in Hong Kong.

## **Spring Concert 2019, Programme**

**Welcome Message** by Jenni Sparks, Chairperson of Cecilian Singers

1. **Requiem – The Souls of the Righteous**, Paul Mealor (b.1975)  
– Soloist: Anki Leung, Lawrence Yeung Wing Lap, Liz Sullivan, Wesley Wong

**Interval (10 minutes)**

**Charity Talk** – Clarence Tsang from "*The Samaritan Befrienders Hong Kong*"

2. **Laudate Dominum**, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)  
– Soloist: Helena Green
3. **Do Not Be Afraid**, Philip Stopford (b.1977)  
– Soloist: Louise Kwan
4. **Prayer of St. Francis**, Robert Delgado (1919-1999)
5. **A Gaelic Blessing**, John Rutter (b.1945)
6. **So Take This Song of Joy**, Greg Gilpin (b.1964)  
– Soloist: Caroline Ireson
7. **Hallelujah Chorus**, Georg Frideric Handel (1685-1759)
8. **You'll Never Walk Alone**, Mark Hayes (b.1953)

**Closing thanks**

### **Our chosen charity for this concert – The Samaritan Befrienders Hong Kong**

SBHK is a Hong Kong based voluntary agency established in 1960. SBHK reflects the generosity and benevolence of the Good Samaritan in the Bible who always stretched forth a helping hand to the distressed and helpless. Through the giving of support and rendering emotional counselling to those in need, we help them to help themselves.



The Samaritan Befrienders Hong Kong  
香港撒瑪利亞防止自殺會

The Cecilian Singers are also singing tonight with encouragement/hope for all who suffer/struggle with mental and emotional health in their lives, and those who support them.

### **Our sponsors for this concert**

Sponsored by the social enterprise, **RISE**  
Video and photography kindly donated by **Wave Production**  
Live streaming kindly donated by **Phantom Production**

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## Paul Mealor's Programme Notes for Requiem – The Souls of the Righteous

Composed to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War, *Requiem: The Souls of the Righteous* is a meditation upon the terrors of war; on human suffering and on the power of the human spirit to transcend darkness. Over the last two years, the poet Grahame Davies and I have been writing our tribute to the fallen of World War I, and this Requiem blends together the traditional mass for the dead (sung in Latin) with new poems by Grahame (sung in English) which seek to celebrate peace and reconciliation.

Those who fought in the Great War undoubtedly experienced horror and pain, but through their letters it is clear that they still managed to find friendship and humanity and we felt it was important to have something pertinent and special in this work to reflect this. We were also acutely aware that in this centenary period, it is important that we remember the impact not only of the war but how it has shaped our relationship with peace.

From our own University of Aberdeen community, there was a battalion of young men who never came home and whose names are inscribed in our Chapel. As a teacher myself, it is hard to look upon my students and imagine them having to face such horror at such an early stage in their lives. We both hope the Requiem can provide a lasting University tribute to the courage they - and the millions of other from across all nations displayed and to the ongoing struggle for peace.

The work is in ten movements and lasts approximately 40 minutes. The tolling bells and lilting strings which open the work act as aural signposts throughout, constantly calling us to prayer and, in their own way, representing the passing of time - both unstoppable and most of the musical material employed structurally and harmonically throughout the piece, with one or two exceptions. One particularly being the third movement, "The Beatitudes." Here, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount acts as an interlude, a moment on which to reflect upon what "righteousness" truly is.

The music is constantly reflective and meditative but, twice, joyfulness in peace and friendship bursts out - in the "Gloria" and in the seventh movement, "Blessed be the Stranger." Here, the warrior and the victim, the friend and enemy are treated as one; as brothers and sisters. The penultimate movement, "If Ye Love Me," sets Jesus' words in the form of his final commandment. These are profound words. They are set very simply with off-stage voices - as if we are being spoken to from beyond.

The final movement brings back aspects of the first; but, this time, the choir is asked to play tuned wine-glasses. In my imagination, this represents a heavenly chord - music from beyond music, timeless, everlasting and forever.

The words for the final movement, written by Grahame Davis are:

"And let all those who leave our company, together or alone, find the strange road they follow takes them home

And let there be a heaven for those who find their way through hell and let there be forgiveness for those who broke before they fell.

A mystery all the greater for the answer, a darkness all the deeper for the star, a sunlight all the purer for the shadow, a beauty made more perfect by the scar."

Followed by the Communion from the Requiem Mass

"Let eternal light shine upon them, Lord, with your saints in eternity, because You are Holy"

*Requiem: The Souls of The Righteous* is dedicated, with great admiration, to Margaret Carlaw and Professor Derek Ogston CBE who have been wonderful champions of music in Aberdeen and of my own work, and it is also dedicated to all those who lost their lives in the Great War and all conflict.

### IN MEMORIAM

The Cecilian Singers are also dedicating this concert to those close to us who have taken their own lives, including:

**Anne-Marie CF, Bella Wai, Harry Thomas Foster, Jean De Neverlee, Leslie Cheung, Lottie Goodman, Matthew Beeson, Mike Tovell, Nina Maidment, Rachel Collins, Rachelle Wing Yan Chau, Rahul Joseph Abraham, Rose Ireson and Tony Sin**