

SACRED CHORAL STORIES 2025

A JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE



Celebrating St. Cecilia's Choir's Diamond Anniversary

Church of Sts. Peter & Paul

Featuring

Pilgrims of Hope . Laudate, Laudate Dominum . O God Beyond all Praising

Performed by

St. Cecilia's Choir . Créatus Chamber . Sancti Petri et Pauli Choir

FOREWORD

Where are we headed to in our busy lives? We often look towards tomorrow - making plans, assuming a likelihood of getting there.

Hope. It is what keeps humanity focused on what's destined for the future. Without hope, one would spiral into disarray or despair. We lose faith, and give in to a resignation of despondency. To embrace hope, one needs courage to believe. And beliefs lead one to take action. This evening, we witness the courage that has fuelled the ministry of St. Cecilia's Choir these past six decades!

As we meet again for Sacred Choral Stories, may the stories and the songs uplift you with courage , so that you may rediscover the hope that you might have lost sight of. We are all on a journey somewhere - at some place, and at some time, we may meet again - wherever *hope* brings us.

To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.

*To you we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping,
in this valley of tears.*

*Turn your merciful eyes toward us,
And show us Jesus, the blessed fruit of thy womb,
after our exile..*

Kenneth Wee

Music Director

Creátus Chamber

PROGRAMME

Opening Song.

Presented by combined choir

Laudate, Laudate Dominum

Part One

Presented by Creátus Chamber

Hear My Prayer, O Lord

Ad Te Clamamus

O Sacrum Convivium

Part Two

Presented by St. Cecilia's Choir

For Unto Us A Child is born

Ubi Caritas

Were You There

Regina Caeli Laetare

Part Three

Presented by Creátus Chamber

There Is No Rose

Sweet By-and-By

Jubilee Year Song.

Presented by combined choir

Pilgrims of Hope

Final Song.

Presented by combined choir

O God Beyond All Praising

The Choirs

CREÁTUS CHAMBER



Creátus Chamber was formed in 2016 primarily to explore and study Sacred Polyphony. As most of its repertoire was used in a liturgical setting, Creátus Chamber aims to share a more spiritual interpretation of the music for various audiences; as well as its history and how it remains to be beautiful and relevant for the modern listener.

The group has been a regular participant at the Voices of Singapore festival and has had collaborations and joint concerts with various singing groups in Singapore: Cappella Martialis, The Crescendos, Vox Camerata as well as around the region with the Byrd Consort (Australia/UK) and Ottophony (Malaysia).

The Choirs

ST. CECILIA'S CHOIR



St. Cecilia's Choir was founded in 1965 by Mr. James Lim Teck Liang, with the support of the late Emeritus Archbishop Nicholas Chia, the choir started as a humble group of parishioners dedicated to serving the liturgy through song. Since then, it has grown into a vibrant community where generations of members have found common ground in their faith, music, and companionship.

For over six decades, a shared love for God and music has sustained the choir through every season, including the challenges of the global pandemic when singing together was not possible. Despite those times, the hearts of the members remained united in prayer and hope. Today, the choir continues to thrive, strengthened by lasting friendships and the profound joy of praising God in song, all while inspiring one another in service to the parish.

The Choirs

SANCTI PETRI ET PAULI CHOIR



Founded in 1984, **Sancti Petri et Pauli Choir** serves the Saturday 5:30pm Mass at the Church of Sts. Peter & Paul, Singapore. The choir is a close-knit, vibrant community united by a love for sacred music. Their repertoire of choral and Gregorian chant, curated from the Church's treasury of music spans over 10 centuries. SPP Choir takes pride and care in sharing its music, with the aim of enriching the liturgical experience, creating a prayerful atmosphere that resonates with the congregation.

Being part of a parish choir is more than singing—it's about building a faith-centered community that serves, celebrates, and grows together. Whether you're a seasoned musician or simply curious about sacred music, SPP Choir offers a welcoming space to explore Catholic liturgical music traditions.



PILGRIMS OF *Hope*

This evening marks the 60th Anniversary of St. Cecilia's Choir, celebrated together with the Sancti Petri et Pauli Choir and Créatus Chamber. For six decades, St. Cecilia's Choir has been more than a ministry of music—it has been a community of faith and friendship, united in service and sustained by a shared love for God expressed through song. Founded in 1965, the choir's legacy continues to inspire new generations to glorify God through sacred music.

In this **Jubilee Year 2025**, guided by the theme **"Pilgrims of Hope,"** the concert invites all to embark on a musical pilgrimage—a journey through the liturgical seasons of the Church. From the quiet anticipation of Advent to the radiant joy of Easter, each season reveals a moment in the story of salvation and a glimpse into the mystery of God's presence in the lives of His people.

Through this evening's program, the choirs extend an invitation to prayer, reflection, and renewed hope. May the music uplift hearts, strengthen faith, and remind all present that the journey of song and service continues, filled with gratitude, joy, and trust in God's enduring faithfulness.

LAUDATE, LAUDATE DOMINUM

Christopher Walker

[Chorus]

Laudate, laudate Dominum

Omnes gentes, laudate Dominum

Exsultate, jubilate peranos Domini

Omnes gentes

Laudate, laudate Dominum

Omnes gentes, laudate Dominum

Exsultate, jubilate peranos Domini

Omnes gentes

[Verse 1]

In the faith of Christ, we walk hand in hand

Light before our path as the Lord has planned

Shining the torch of faith in our land

In the name of Christ Jesus]

[Verse 2]

In the name of Christ, we will spread the seed

Share the Word of God with all those in need

Faithful in thought and word and deed

In the name of Christ Jesus

[Verse 3]

In the pow'r of Christ, we proclaim one Lord

All who put on Christ are by faith restored

Sharing new life, salvation's reward

In the name of Christ Jesus

PART *One*

The 1st part presents three sacred works that trace a path from lament to longing, and finally to quiet joy.

Henry Purcell's *Hear My Prayer, O Lord* sets a single line from Psalm 102, building voices layer upon layer into an intense wave of sound that stops abruptly—capturing the ache of prayer that longs for, yet awaits, an answer.

Michael John Trotta's *Ad te clamamus*, taken from the *Salve Regina*, contrasts restless, weaving lines with serene, hymn-like passages. The music reflects the journey from confusion and sorrow to clarity and faith.

The set concludes with **Giovanni Croce's *O Sacrum Convivium***, a Renaissance motet of serene simplicity. In four-part harmony, it contemplates the Eucharist as both holy banquet and profound mystery, ending with a gentle Alleluia—a musical banquet for the soul.

HEAR MY PRAYER, O LORD

Henry Purcell (1659 - 1695)

*Hear my prayer, O Lord,
and let my crying come unto thee.*

AD TE CLAMAMUS

Michael John Trotta (1978)

Latin

*Ad te clamamus, exsules filii
Evæ.*

*Ad te suspiramus, gementes et
flentes, in hac lacrimarum
valle.*

*Eia ergo, Advocata nostra, illos
tuos misericordes oculos ad
nos converte.*

*Et Jesum, benedictum fructum
ventris tui, nobis post hoc
exsilium ostende.*

O clemens: O pia: O dulcis.

English

*To thee do we cry, poor
banished children of Eve.*

*To thee we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this
valley of tears.*

*Turn then, most gracious
Advocate, Your merciful eyes
towards us.*

*And show us Jesus, the blessed
fruit of thy womb after our
exile.*

O clement: O loving: O sweet

O SACRUM CONVIVIUM

Giovanni Croce (1557 - 1609)

Latin

*O sacrum convivium,
in quo Christus sumitur;
recolitur memoriam Passionis
ejus;
mens impletur gratia;
et futurae gloriae
nobis pignus datur.*

Alleluia.

English

*O sacred banquet !
in which Christ is received;
the memory of His Passion
renewed,
the mind is filled with grace;
and a pledge of future glory to
us is given.*

Alleluia.

ABOUT THE *Composers*



Henry Purcell (1659–1695)

Often regarded as one of England's greatest composers, whose music bridged the late Renaissance and early Baroque styles with remarkable originality. Though his life was short, Purcell left an enduring legacy of sacred choral works, operas, and instrumental music, celebrated for their expressive harmonies and emotional depth.



Michael John Trotta (b. 1978)

An American composer and conductor whose music has gained international recognition for its accessibility and depth. Rooted in the choral tradition yet infused with modern sensibilities, his works are known for their lyrical beauty, rich textures, and emotional resonance. Trotta's compositions often set sacred texts to contemporary harmonies, bridging the past and present to create music that is both timeless and fresh.



Giovanni Croce (1557–1609)

A Venetian Renaissance composer who served as choir master at St. Mark's Basilica, one of the most influential musical centers of his time. A contemporary of Gabrieli, Croce was admired for the clarity, balance, and devotional quality of his sacred works, which often combined polyphonic richness with simplicity of expression. His music reflects both the grandeur of Venetian liturgy and the intimate spirituality of Renaissance sacred song.



PART *Two*

Our pilgrimage then leads to Christmas with **Unto Us a Child Is Born**, where hope takes flesh in the Incarnation—God with us, Emmanuel.

It continues in Ordinary Time with **Ubi Caritas**, reminding us that hope is lived out step by step in discipleship and in the love we share.

In Lent, **Were You There** carries us to the foot of the Cross, where hope is refined through repentance and the promise of renewal.

Finally, in Easter, **Regina Caeli Laetare** bursts forth in joy, proclaiming the victory of Christ's Resurrection, where love triumphs and life conquers.

Together, these **seasons and songs** remind us that hope is the heart of our faith—ever present, ever alive.

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

G.F Handel (1685 - 1795)

For unto us a Child is born,

unto us a Son is given,

and the government shall be upon His shoulder;

and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor,

the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father,

the Prince of Peace

(Isaiah 9:5)

UBI CARITAS

Victor C. Johnson(b.1978)

Latin

*Ubi caritas et amor.
Ubi caritas Deus ibi est.*

*Ubi caritas et amor
Ubi caritas Deus ibi est.*

*Congregavit nos in unum Christi
amor*

Exultemus et in ipso jucundemur.

Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

*Ubi caritas et amor.
Ubi caritas Deus ibi est.*

*Ubi caritas et amor
Ubi caritas Deus ibi est*

English

*Where there is charity and love
God is there*

*Where there is charity and love
God is there*

*The love of Christ has gathered us
together
Let us rejoice and be glad in it*

*And from a sincere heart let us love
one another*

*Where there is charity and love
God is there*

*Where there is charity and love
God is there*

WERE YOU THERE

Arranged by: Marques L.A Garrett

[Verse 1]

*Were you there? Were you there?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

[Verse 2]

*Were you there? Were you there?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh were you there? Sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?*

[Verse 3]

*Were you there? Were you there?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.*

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, were you there when they crucified my Lord?
They crucified my Lord.
They nailed him to the tree.
They pierced him in his side.
The blood came streamin' down.
They laid him in the tomb.
Then he rose that day!
Now, he reigns on high!
Oh, were you there?*

REGINA CAELI LAETARE

Arranged by: Julianna Horton
Charnigo

Latin

Regina coeli, laetare, laetare.

Regina coeli, laetare, laetare, alleluia.

Quia quem meruisti portare, portare,

Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia.

Resurrexit sicut dixit, Resurrexit, alleluia.

Ora pro nobis Deum, Ora pro nobis Deum alleluia.

English

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

Has risen, as he said, alleluia.

Pray for us to God, alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.



PART *Three*

From lament, longing, and quiet joy, we now journey to two works that carry this faith across centuries.

Though separated by time and place, the next 2 pieces express the enduring hope of faith in song.

There Is No Rose comes from the 15th-century Trinity Carol Roll, blending English and Latin in honour of the Virgin Mary. In his setting, Philip Stopford creates shimmering harmonies that capture the mystery of the Incarnation.

Sweet By-and-By, written in 19th-century America by Joseph P. Webster and Sanford Bennett, was born from a moment of consolation and quickly became a beloved hymn of eternal reunion and hope. Joel Raney's arrangement lifts it into a joyful celebration of promise fulfilled.

THERE IS NO ROSE

Philip W J Stopford (b.1977)

In Traditional Middle English with inserted Latin

[Verse 1]

*There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu,
Alleluia.
For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space:
Res miranda. (English: "a wondrous thing")*

[Verse 2]

*By that rose we may well see
There be One God in Persons three.
Pares forma. (English: "equal in form")*

[Verse 3]

*The angels sungen the shepherds to;
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gaudeamus. (English: "let us rejoice")*

[Verse 4]

*Leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth;
Transeamus. (English: "let us go across" / "let us pass over")*

SWEET BY-AND-BY

J P Webster (1819- 1875)

Arranged by: Joel Raney (b.1965)

*There's a land that is fairer than day
And by faith we can see it afar;
For the Father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there*

[Chorus]

*In the sweet by and by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet by and by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore*

[Verse 2]

*We shall sing on that beautiful shore
The melodious songs of the blessed;
And our spirits shall sorrow no more
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest*

[Chorus]

*In the sweet by and by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet by and by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore*

[Verse 3]

*To our bountiful Father above
We will offer our tribute of praise
For the glorious gift of His love
And the blessings that hallow our days*

ABOUT THE *Composers*



Philip W. J. Stopford (b. 1977)

A contemporary British composer and conductor, widely admired for his accessible yet deeply expressive sacred choral works. Formerly Director of Music at St. Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, and later at Christ Church Bronxville, New York, Stopford has written music that is performed by choirs around the world. His lyrical melodies and rich harmonies reflect both the English cathedral tradition and a sensitivity to modern worship settings.



Joseph Philbrick Webster (1819–1875)

An American composer and songwriter of the 19th century, J. P. Webster is best remembered for his hymn tunes and popular songs. Born in Massachusetts, he wrote over a thousand works, marked by simple, heartfelt melodies that resonated deeply with communities of his time. His legacy endures in the devotional and musical life of America.



Joel Raney (b.1956)

Joel Raney began playing piano in childhood and has since built a versatile career as composer, arranger, and producer. He has written music across many genres, including soundtracks for over 2,000 commercials and numerous film scores. His sacred choral works, cantatas, handbell and piano arrangements remain widely performed and beloved. Raney lives in the Chicago area with his wife, Susie, and their three sons.



PILGRIMS OF HOPE

PIERANGELO SEQUERI,
FRANCESCO MENEGHELLO

[Chorus]

*Like a flame my hope is burning,
may my song arise to you:
Source of life that has no ending,
on life's path I trust in you.*

[Versus 1]

*Ev'ry nation, tongue, and people
find a light within your Word.
Scattered fragile sons and daughters
find a home in your dear Son.*

[Versus 2]

*God, so tender and so patient,
dawn of hope, you care for all.
Heav'n and earth are recreated
by the Spirit of Life set free.*

[Versus 3]

*Raise your eyes, the wind is blowing,
for our God is born in time.
Son made man for you and many
who will find the way in him.*

O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING

Michael Perry, Gustav Holst

[Verse 1]

*O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end.
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your Word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.*

[Verse 2]

*The flower of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown,
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.*

[Verse 3]

*Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.*

Our Conductors

KENNETH WEE Dip.LCM (Conducting) has been serving at the Church of Sts. Peter & Paul as a pipe organist since 1999. Serving as Music Director since 2016, the community choir has grown from 12 members to 50 members in just under 2 years. He is also the Music Director of Creátus Chamber (a performing acapella ensemble studying sacred polyphony).

He was previously the Asst. Conductor for VOCE Singapore Men's Choir and has toured with them to various destinations including the Festival Coros de Verão (Portugal).

Kenneth is also a member of the Choral Directors' Association Singapore. He has previously studied under Reuben Lai (voice), Dr. Evelyn Lim (Pipe Organ), Dr. Darius Lim (Conducting), and Dr. Aloysius Leong (Conducting).



Kenneth has been building a practice in Financial Services since 2002, accumulating multiple awards while specialising in Corporate Risk. In addition to his responsibilities as a ROVER NSmen, he is an avid fitness enthusiast and is married with 2 children.

Our Conductors



Anne Teng
Choir Director



Gabriel Khoo
Choir Conductor

St Cecilia's Choir celebrates its Diamond Jubilee this year, marking sixty years of song and service. More than a choir, it has been a family bound by faith, friendship, and a shared love for God expressed through music.

Today, under the direction of Anne and the baton of Gabriel, the choir continues its ministry, leading the congregation in worship at the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass at the Church of Sts. Peter and Paul.



THANK YOU

We are deeply grateful for everyone who has supported
Creátus Chamber, St. Cecilia's Choir & SPP Choir on our
journey to bring meaning to sacred music.



Do you love to sing?

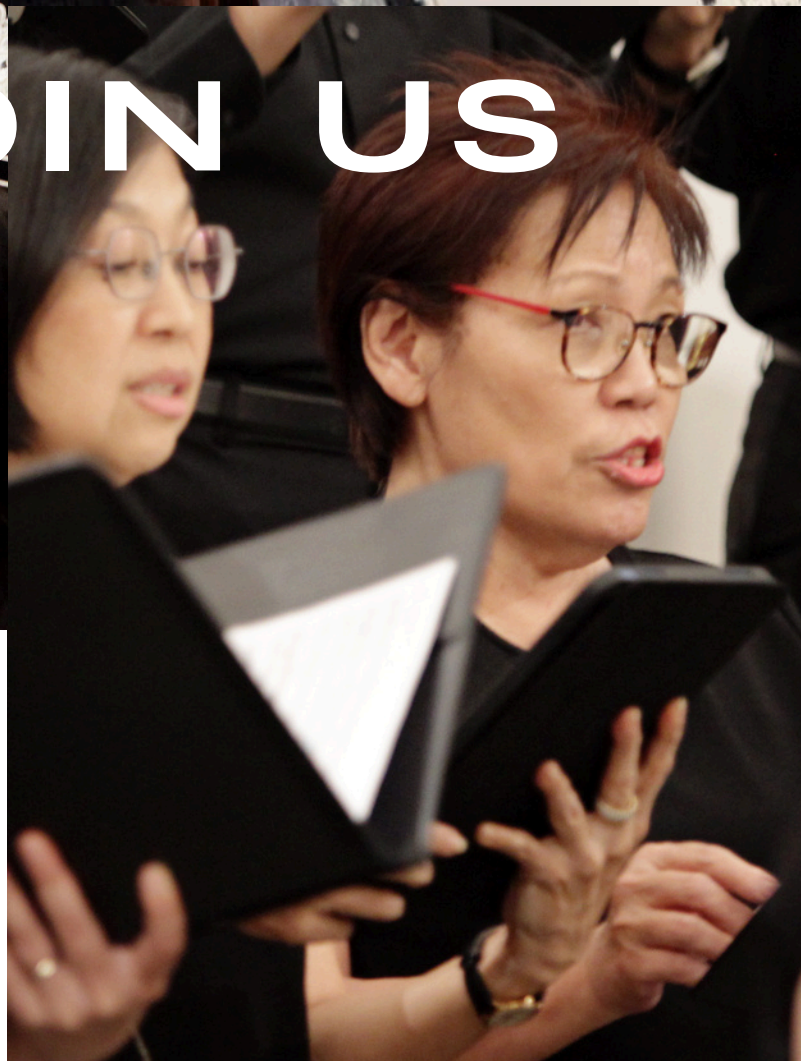
All choirs warmly invite new members to join them in song. Come and be part of our musical family!

If you're interested, feel free to approach any choir member after the concert or contact us via any of the links on the following page!



JOIN US

SING ALONG!



CONTACT US

ST. CECILIA'S CHOIR

You may find them at: Church of St. Peter & Paul choir pews, 11 a.m
Email: sccsaintpeterandpaul@gmail.com

CREÁTUS CHAMBER CHOIR

Website: www.creatuschamber.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CreatusChamber
Instagram: @creatuschamber
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SANCTI PETRI ET PAULI CHOIR

Website: sppchoir.wordpress.com
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