

# VOX

CAPE TOWN  
presents



## THE PLACE OF THE STARS | gamirodi !khaes

An intimate presentation of choral music by  
GJEILO | HERSCHEL | WATT | BACH-NYSTEDT

### WINTER SOLSTICE 2025

FRI 20 JUNE • 6 PM | 8:30 PM

SAT 21 JUNE • 3:30 PM | 6 PM | 8:30 PM



McCLEAN DOME OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN  
ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY



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

You are welcome to record aspects of the performance but kindly do so discreetly, being mindful of those around you. Please keep your device's backlight dimmed.

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## The Spheres

**Ola Gjeilo**  
(b. 1978, Norway)

Kyrie eleison,  
Christe eleison,  
Kyrie eleison.

*Lord, have mercy,  
Christ, have mercy,  
Lord, have mercy.*



## Te Deum

**William Herschel**  
(1738–1822, Britain)

We praise Thee, O God: we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord. All the earth doth worship Thee, the Father everlasting. To Thee all Angels cry aloud: the Heav'ns and all the pow'rs therein. To Thee Cherubin and Seraphin continually do cry, Holy, holy, holy: Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of Thy Glory. The glorious company of the Apostles praise Thee. The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise Thee. The noble army of Martyrs praise Thee. The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge Thee; The Father of an infinite Majesty; Thine honourable, true and only Son: Also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

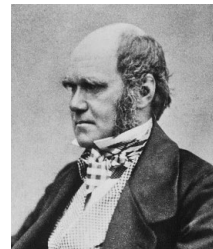
Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ. Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father. When Thou took'st upon Thee to deliver man, Thou did'st not abhor the Virgin's womb. When Thou had'st overcome the sharpness of death, Thou did'st open the Kingdom of Heav'n to all believers.

O Lord, have mercy upon us.  
O Lord, let Thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in Thee.  
O Lord, in Thee have I trusted, let me never be confounded.



**Sir John Herschel**  
(1792–1871)

**Charles Darwin**  
(1809–1882)





**IN MEMORIAM**  
**Peter Klatzow**  
 (1945–2021)



## Missa Desolata (2022)

**Martin Watt (b. 1970, South Africa)**  
 WORLD PREMIERE

### I: Kyrie

Kyrie eleison.  
 Christe eleison.  
 Kyrie eleison.

*Lord, have mercy.  
 Christ, have mercy.  
 Lord, have mercy.*

### II: Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,  
 Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
 Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts.  
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

### III: Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
 dona nobis pacem, miserere nobis.

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins  
 of the world, grant us peace,  
 have mercy on us.*

### IV: Lacrimosa

Lacrimosa dies illa, qua resurget  
 ex favilla judicandus homo reus.  
 Huic ergo parce, Deus. Pie Jesu  
 Domine, dona eis requiem. Amen.

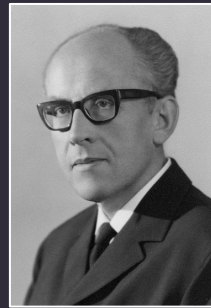
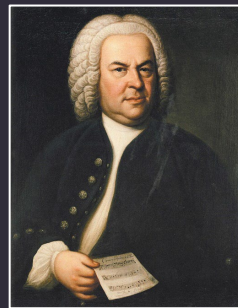
*Full of tears will be that day when from  
 the ashes shall arise the guilty man to  
 be judged; therefore, spare him, O Lord.  
 Merciful Lord Jesus, grant them  
 eternal rest. Amen.*

## Immortal Bach

**JS Bach (1685–1750, Germany) reimagined  
 by Knut Nystedt (1915–2014, Norway)**

Komm, süßer Tod! Komm, sel'ge Ruh!  
 Komm, führe mich in Friede!

*Come, sweet death! Come, blessed rest!  
 Come, lead me into peace!*



**F**or millennia, humans have gazed into the vast night sky and pondered the mysteries of existence. Now, on the darkest evenings of the year, the voices of VOX invite you to experience choral music inspired by the infinite, performed beneath the celestial curve of the historical McClean Dome at the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO).

The shimmering harmonies of *The Spheres* by Ola Gjeilo set the stage for a journey through sound and starlight, followed by the music of composer-astronomer William Herschel who discovered the planet Uranus and whose son, John Herschel, influenced Charles Darwin during his visit to the Cape. The heart of our programme is the world premiere of *Missa Desolata* by Martin Watt, Head of Composition at the South African College of Music. This new work honours the legacy of the late Peter Klatzow who was himself deeply drawn to the mysteries of the cosmos. We conclude with *Immortal Bach*—an experiment in timeless serenity.

**Five intimate, immersive musical encounters take place over the winter solstice as we celebrate ten years of VOX and the remarkable space known by the Khoe as |gamirodi !khaes—‘The Place of the Stars’.**

**Soprano:** Suzanne Buchanan, Erin Cederlind, Lia Hall, Sally Hofmeyr, Carelize Klopper, Fran Laenen, Maryanne McLachlan, Kirsten Rowe, Anna Telford ★ **Alto:** Samantha Ash, Suzie Cameron, Tessa Gawith, Christina Goodall, Amy Hoffenberg, Xoli Mabombo-Benson, Jennifer Matlock, Sarah McArthur, Anthea van Wieringen, Jean Westwood, Karin-Marie Wilson ★ **Tenor:** Matt Beck, Dane Bezuidenhout, Dirk Binneman, Peter Borchers, Casey Driver, Renugan Raidoo, Bevan Timm ★ **Bass:** Chris Arnold, Jan Buys, Wim Greyvenstein, Donovan Heugh, Aaron Juritz, Kyle Paulssen, Evan Strauss, Louis Swart, Stefan van der Westhuizen ★ **Founder and Artistic Director:** John Woodland ★ **Imaginologist:** Kyle Paulssen ★ **Vice-Captain:** Lia Hall

**We thank the team at the SAAO, especially Pranesthan Govender, Shamin Doman and Christian Hettlage, for supporting this project.**



**VOX Cape Town was founded in 2015 with a vision to create fresh, mesmerising choral experiences to enrich the musical life of the Mother City.**

Over the past decade, VOX has developed a reputation for its imaginative performances of seldom-heard and new choral music in unconventional spaces around Cape Town. To join our musical community, follow us on social media @VOXCapeTown or write to us at [hello@voxcapetown.com](mailto:hello@voxcapetown.com)!



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