


October 29 and 31,  
1982  
Blessed Sacrament Church  
Seattle

The Seattle Chamber Singers  
George Shangrow, conductor  
1982-83 Concert Season



Johann Sebastian Bach  
MASS  
in  
b-minor

## The Mass in b-minor

notes by Kay Verelius

The liturgy of the mass, the main service of the Christian Church, was settled by the Middle Ages. The introit, prayers, and offertory portions of the service varied according to the church calendar or the prescribed readings, but the Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei were always included and always the same. Therefore, those were the sections most often set to music. The word "mass," as used by musicians, refers only to those invariable portions.

Unlike other protestant churches, the German Lutherans continued to use the communion office as their principal service for Sundays and festivals. They did not even reject the Latin word "missa" to describe it, though they restricted their mass to include only the Kyrie and Gloria liturgy. Bach, who was a devout Lutheran, copied his score of his *Mass in b-minor* in four distinct, separated sections, each with its own title page. The first section containing the several numbers of the Kyrie and Gloria is the only section bearing the indication "Missa." There was no general title page for the whole work; the name "High Mass" was affixed by one of his sons.

It is somewhat a mystery why Bach wrote a full mass at all. It is inappropriate for the Roman Catholics because he changed some of the traditional, canonical text. It is equally inappropriate to the Lutheran service, since the work goes so far beyond the Kyrie and the Gloria. A possible reason for the *b-minor* Mass was Bach's dedication to his craft. Writing to a text so exacting and explicit in its meaning, and the limits he could allow his imagination to go posed an intriguing challenge, I am sure. That, coupled with his sincere devotion to God, produced a work so vast and so beautiful as the *b-minor* Mass.

Each of the six sections of the traditional mass was subdivided by Bach so that there are actually twenty-four defined numbers in the work. The several numbers that make up the Kyrie and Gloria were presented to Frederick Augustus, the Catholic king of Poland and Elector of Saxony, in 1733 along with a letter petitioning for the honorary appointment as musician to the Electoral Chapel. Bach was not given that title until three years later, but he finished the work anyway. The remaining movements, some new and some adapted from earlier works, were completed in 1749.

Several of the 24 numbers are re-arrangements from cantatas. The "Gratias agimus" and "Dona nobis pacem" (both having the same music) are from the opening chorus of Cantata 29. The vivace e allegro section of the Credo's "Et expecto resurrectionem" is a re-working of the chorus "Jauchzet, ihr erfreuten Stimmen" from Cantata 120. The "Crucifixus" number from the Credo was originally part of Cantata 12, written in 1714.

The *b-minor* Mass is not liturgically practical for it is too long, too elaborate for a church service. It is, rather, a work which transcends church denominational limits and rises as a universal statement of Christian faith. Bach symbolized in this mass the continuity of the Christian tradition by using both old musical forms, such as "cantus firmi" or chant themes, and new-to-his-time musical expressions like ostinato bass continuo. Joseph Machlis, a contemporary musicologist, says of Bach's *Mass in b-minor*, "While excerpts may serve as an introduction to the work, only a hearing of it in its entirety will reveal the vast terrain that has here been subjected to the creative will."



**The Seattle Chamber Singers**  
**George Shangrow, conductor**

presents

**Johann Sebastian Bach's**  
**Mass in b-minor**



featured soloists

**Jacalyn Schneider**  
*soprano*

**Ann Erickson**  
*soprano*

**Kathryn Weld-Jezerinac**  
*mezzo-soprano*

**Kyla DeRemer**  
*mezzo-soprano*

**Jerry Sams**  
*tenor*

**Peter Kechley**  
*baritone*

**Seattle Chamber Singers**  
and  
**The Broadway Chamber Symphony**  
George Shangrow, conductor

**Soprano I**

Paula Bridges  
Mary Koch  
Roberta Patience  
Elizabeth Pear  
Liesel Rombouts  
Heather Smith  
Susanna Walsh

**Soprano II**

Willa Conrad  
Kyla Deremer  
Ellen Irion  
Rachel Katz  
Stephanie Lathrop  
Nancy Shasteen  
Kristina Sullivan

**Alto**

Laila Hammond  
Therese Martineau  
Laurie Medill  
Janet Ellen Reed  
Georgia Rohrbaugh  
Jane Seidman-Vosk  
Katherine Segura  
Nedra Slauson  
Margaret Smith  
Claire Thomas  
Kay Verelius

**Tenor**

John Addison  
Kurt Bruhn  
David Call  
Jerry Sams  
Dean Suess

**Bass**

Tim Braun  
Jay Beemster  
Gary Jankowski  
Stephen Kellogg  
James Ploger  
Robert Schilperoort  
Sandy Thornton

Cox Music Center of Seattle has been very generous in providing the Allen Digital Computer Organ System for tonight's performance. Without the participation and generosity of this local firm, the use of an organ tonight would not have been possible.

**Violin I**

Tom Dziekonski, *concertmaster*  
Fritz Klein  
Dean Dresher  
Eileen Lusk

**Violin II**

Avron Maletsky  
Jacqueline Cedarholm  
Sandra Sinner  
Kenna Smith

**Viola**

Sam Williams  
Beatrice Dolf  
Katherine McWilliams  
Catherine Patterson

**Cello**

Karà Hunnicutt  
Ron Welch  
Joyce Barnum  
Lauren Root

**Bass**

Christine Howell  
Walter Barnum

**Flute**

Erin Adair  
Janeen Shigley

**Oboe**

Shannon Hill  
Susan Scott  
Michael Cory

**Bassoon**

Francine Peterson

**Horn**

Maurice Cary

**Trumpet**

Richard Fowler  
David Hensler  
Gary Fladmoe

**Timpani**

Ian Alverez

Text of the Mass in b-Minor

**Kyrie eleison**

Kyrie eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Christe eleison**

Christe eleison.  
Christe eleison.  
Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.

**Kyrie eleison**

Kyrie eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Gloria in excelsis**

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Glory be to God on high,

**Et in terra pax**

Et in terra pax  
hominibus  
bonae voluntatis.

and on earth peace to men  
of good will.

**Laudamus te**

Laudamus te.  
Benedicimus te.  
Adoramus te.  
Glorificamus te.

We praise thee,  
we bless thee,  
we worship thee,  
we glorify thee.

**Gratias agimus tibi**

Gratias agimus tibi  
propter magnam  
gloriam tuam.

We give thanks to  
thee for thy great  
glory.

**Domine Deus**

Domine Deus, rex  
coelestis, Deus Pater  
omnipotens. Domine Fili  
unigenite Jesu Christe  
altissime. Domine Deus  
Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.

Lord God, King of heaven,  
God the Father Almighty,  
Lord, the only-begotten  
Son, Jesus Christ Most  
High. Lord God, Lamb of  
God, Son of the Father.

**Qui tollis peccata mundi**

Qui tollis  
peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Qui tollis  
peccata mundi, suscipe  
deprecationem nostram.

Thou that takest away  
the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away  
the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.

**Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris**

Qui sedes ad  
dexteram Patris,  
miserere nobis.

Thou that sittest at the  
right hand of the Father,  
have mercy upon us.

**Quoniam tu solus sanctus**

Quoniam tu solus  
sanctus.  
Tu solus Dominus.  
Tu solus Altissimus,  
Jesu Christe.

For thou only art holy,  
Thou only art Lord,  
Thou only art most high,  
Jesus Christ.

**Cum Sancto Spiritu**

Cum Sancto Spiritu,  
in gloria Dei Patris.  
Amen.

With the Holy Ghost,  
in the glory of God the  
Father. Amen.

**Credo in unum Deum**  
Credo in unum Deum.

I believe in one God.

**Patrem omnipotentem**  
Credo in unum Deum,  
Patrem omnipotentem,  
factorem coeli et terrae,  
visibilium omnium et  
invisibilium.

I believe in one God, the  
Father Almighty, Maker of  
heaven and earth, and of  
all things visible and  
invisible.

**Et in unum dominum**  
Et in unum dominum  
Jesum Christum, Filium  
Dei unigenitum. Et ex  
Patre natum ante omnia  
saecula; Deum de Deo,  
lumen de lumine, Deum  
verum de Deo vero;  
Genitum, non factum,  
consubstantialem Patri,  
per quem omnia facta  
sunt. Qui propter nos  
homines et propter nos-  
tram salutem descendit  
de coelis.

And in one Lord Jesus  
Christ, the only-begotten  
Son of God; and born of  
the Father before all ages;  
God of God,  
light of light, true God  
of true God; begotten,  
not made, being of  
one substance with the  
Father, by whom all  
things were made; who for  
us men, and for our salva-  
tion, came down from  
heaven.

**Et incarnatus est**  
Et incarnatus est de  
Spiritu Sancto ex Maria  
Virgine, et homo factus  
est.

And was incarnate by  
the Holy Ghost of the  
Virgin Mary, and was  
made man.

**Crucifixus**  
Crucifixus etiam  
pro nobis sub Pontio  
Pilato; passus et  
sepultus est.

And was crucified also  
for us under Pontius  
Pilate. He suffered and  
was buried.

**Et resurrexit tertie die**  
Et resurrexit tertie die,  
secundum Scripturas.  
Et ascendit in  
coelum, sedet ad  
dexteram Dei Patris.  
Et iterum venturus est  
cum gloria judicare  
vivos et mortuos:  
cujus regni non erit  
finis.

And the third day he rose  
again according to the  
Scriptures, and ascended  
into heaven, and sitteth  
at the right hand of God  
the Father. And he shall  
come again with glory to  
judge both the quick and  
the dead, whose kingdom  
shall have no end.

**Et in Spiritum Sanctum**  
Et in Spiritum Sanctum,  
Dominum et vivificantem.  
Qui ex Patre Filioque  
procedit. Qui cum Patre  
et Filio simul  
adoratur et  
conglorificatur.  
Qui locutus est per  
Prophetas. Et unam,  
sanctam, catholicam et  
apostolicam Ecclesiam.

And I believe in the Holy  
Ghost, the Lord and Giver  
of life, who proceedeth  
from the Father and the  
Son, who with the Father  
and the Son together is  
worshiped and glorified;  
who spake by the Prophets.  
And I believe in one,  
Holy, Catholic and  
Apostolic Church.

**Confiteor unum baptisma**  
Confiteor unum baptisma  
in remissionem  
peccatorum. Et expecto  
resurrectionem mortuorum  
et vitam venturi  
saeculi. Amen.

I acknowledge one Baptism  
for the remission of  
sins. And I look for the  
resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world  
to come. Amen.

**Sanctus**  
Sanctus, Sanctus,  
Sanctus, Domine Deus  
Sabaoth. Pleni sunt coeli  
et terra gloria ejus.

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

**Osanna in excelsis**  
Osanna in excelsis.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Benedictus**  
Benedictus qui venit  
in nomine Domini.

Blessed is he that cometh  
in the name of the Lord.

**Osanna in excelsis**  
Osanna in excelsis.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Agnus dei**  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis  
peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.

Lamb of God, that takest  
away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

**Dona nobis pacem**  
Dona nobis pacem.

Grant us peace.