

ASSEMBLY HALL, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Sunday, 26th March, 1972

at 3 p.m.

St. Matthew Passion

(*J. S. Bach*)

BRIAN WRIGHT (Tenor) *Evangelist*
MALCOLM KING (Bass) *Jesus*

BARBARA LOWE (Soprano)
TAY-CHENG, JIM (Counter-Tenor)
PAUL WHITMARSH (Tenor)
MICHAEL TANSLEY (Bass)

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY
(*Chorus Master*: DEREK WATMOUGH)

SENIOR CHOIR of the TUNBRIDGE WELLS
COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

ANTHONY GOULD (Harpsicord)
GUY OLDHAM (Organ)

DOUBLE ORCHESTRA
(*Leaders*: RICHARD ENGLAND and JANE PAMMENT)

Conductor:

TREVOR HARVEY

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ASSEMBLY HALL

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Leader: BARRY COLLINS *Conductor:* JOHN LANCHBERY

Sunday, 9th April, 1972 at 3 p.m.

Overture Semiramide	<i>Rossini</i>
Piano Concerto in A minor	<i>Grieg</i>
Music for the Royal Fireworks	<i>Handel-Harty</i>
Symphony No. 8 in G	<i>Dvorak</i>

ANTHONY GOLDSTONE

Guest Conductor: **JOHN CAREWE**

St. Matthew Passion

(J. S. Bach)

It is requested that there be no applause at any stage of this performance

ST. MATTHEW PASSION

PART I

Prologue

1. CHORUS

Come, ye daughters, share my mourning;
See Him, Whom ? the Bridegroom Christ,
See Him, How ? a spotless Lamb
See it, What ? His patient love
Look ! Look where ? on our offence
Look on Him, Look ye, for love of us
He Himself His cross is bearing
Come, ye daughters, share my mourning.

RIPIENO CHORUS (GIRLS' CHOIR)

O Lamb of God most holy,
Who on the Cross didst languish,
O Saviour, meek and lowly,
Who suffered bitter anguish
The sins of man Thou bearest,
Our ev'ry grief Thou sharest.
Have mercy on us, O Jesu !

The Announcement of the Passion

2. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : When Jesus had finished all these sayings, He said unto His disciples : JESUS : " Ye know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man shall be delivered over to be crucified."

3. CHORALE

O blessed Jesu, how hast Thou offended,
That now on Thee such judgment has descended ?
Of what misdeed has Thou to make confession ?
Of what transgression ?

The Rulers conspire against Christ

4. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : Then assembled the chief priests, and the scribes together, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and they consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill Him. But they said,

5. CHORUS

Not upon the feast, lest haply there be an uproar among the people.

The Anointing at Bethany

6. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, there came unto Him a woman, having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on His Head, as He sat at meat. But when His disciples saw it, they had indignation and said,

7. CHORUS

To what purpose is this waste ? For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.

8. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : When Jesus understood it, He said unto them,

JESUS : " Why trouble ye the woman ? For she hath wrought a good work upon Me. For ye have the poor always with you, but Me ye have not always. For in that she hath poured this ointment on My Body, she did it to prepare Me for My burial. Verily I say to you, Wheresoever this Gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told of her for a memorial."

9. RECITATIVE (CONTRALTO)

My Master and my Lord,
In vain do Thy disciples chide Thee
Because this pitying woman,
With ointment sweet, Thy Flesh
For burial maketh ready.
O grant to me, beloved Lord,
The tears wherewith my heart o'erfloweth
An unction on Thy Head may pour.

The Treason of Judas

11. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : Then went one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, to the chief priests, and said, JUDAS : " What will ye give me, and I will deliver Him unto you ? " EVANGELIST : And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver, and from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

The Preparation of the Passover

13. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : Now the first day of the feast of unleaven'd bread, the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto Him,

14. CHORUS

Where wilt Thou that we prepare for Thee to eat the Passover ?

15. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : And He said, JESUS : " Go ye into the city to such a man and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand, I will keep the Passover at thy house with my disciples."

EVANGELIST : And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them and they made ready the Passover. Now when even was come He was sitting at meat with the twelve. And as they did eat, He said, JESUS : " Verily I say to you, that one of you shall betray me."

EVANGELIST : And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began everyone of them to say unto Him CHORUS : Lord, is it I ?

16. CHORALE

'Tis I, whose sin now binds thee,
With anguish deep surrounds Thee,
And nails Thee to the tree ;
The torture Thou art feeling,
Thy patient love revealing,
'Tis I should bear it, I alone.

The Institution of the Eucharist

17. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : And He answered and said
JESUS : " He that dippeth his hand with Me in the dish, the same shall betray Me. The Son of Man truly goeth as it is written of Him : but woe unto that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed : it had been good for that man if he had never been born."

EVANGELIST : Then answered Judas, which did betray Him, and said,

JUDAS : " Master, is it I ? "

EVANGELIST : He said unto him,

JESUS : " Thou hast said."

EVANGELIST : And as they were eating, Jesus took bread and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said,

JESUS : " Take, eat, this is My Body."

EVANGELIST : And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying,

JESUS : " Drink ye all of it ; This is My Blood of the New Testament which is shed for many for the remission of sins. I say to you, I will not drink from henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

18. RECITATIVE (SOPRANO)

Although our eyes with tears o'erflow,
Since Jesus now must from us go,
His gracious promise doth the soul uplift.
His Flesh and Blood, O precious gift !
He leaves us for our souls' refreshment.
As He while in the world did love His own,
So now with love unchanging,
He loves them still unto the end.

19. ARIA (SOPRANO)

Jesus, Saviour, I am Thine,
Come and dwell my heart within.
All things else I count but loss,
Glory only in Thy Cross.
Dearer than the world beside
Is the Saviour Who hath died.

At the Mount of Olives

20. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : And when they had sung an hymn, they went out unto the mount of Olives. Then saith Jesus to them,

JESUS : " All ye shall be offended because of Me this night, for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee."

21. CHORALE

Receive me, my Redeemer,
My shepherd, make me Thine ;
Of ev'ry good the fountain,
Thou art the spring of mine,
How oft Thy words have fed me
On earth with angels' food,
How oft Thy grace hath led me
To highest Heav'nly good.

Peter's Denial foretold by Christ

22. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : Peter answered, and said unto Him,
PETER : " Though all men shall be offended because of Thee, yet will I never be offended."

EVANGELIST : Jesus said unto him,

JESUS : " Verily I say unto thee, that this same night before the cock crow, shalt thou deny Me thrice."

EVANGELIST : Peter said unto Him,

PETER : " Yea, though I should die with Thee, yet will I not deny Thee."

EVANGELIST : Likewise also said all the disciples.

23. CHORALE

Here would I stand beside Thee
Lord, bid me not depart !
From Thee I will not sever,
Though breaks Thy loving heart.
When bitter pain shall hold Thee
In agony opprest,
Then, then will I enfold Thee
Within my loving breast.

The Agony in the Garden

24. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith to His disciples.

JESUS : " Sit ye here, while I go yonder and pray."

EVANGELIST : And He took with Him Peter, and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith Jesus to them.

JESUS : " My soul is exceeding sorrowful even unto death : Tarry ye here and watch with Me."

25. TENOR AND CHORUS

O grief ! that bows the Saviour's troubled heart !
His spirit faints, His sorrow veils His face !
He to the Judgment-hall is brought,
There is no help nor comfort near.
The powers of darkness now assail Him,
His chosen friends will yet forsake Him.
Ah ! if my love Thy stay could be,
If I could weigh Thy grief, and share it,
Could make it less, or help to bear it,
How gladly would I watch with Thee !

My Saviour, why must all this ill befall Thee ?

My sin, alas ! from highest heav'n did call Thee.
God took the debt from me, who should have paid it ;

On Thee He laid it.

26. TENOR AND CHORUS

I would beside my Lord be watching,
By His Cross I am saved from sin and loss,
His sorrows win my soul its ransome.
And so our sin will fall asleep,
The griefs that He for us endureth,
How bitter, yet how sweet are they.

Christ's Prayer in the Garden

27. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : And He went a little farther, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying,
JESUS : " O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me : yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt."

30. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : And He cometh to His disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter,
JESUS : " What, could ye not watch with Me one hour ? Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation : the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."
EVANGELIST : He went away again the second time, and prayed and said,
JESUS : " O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done."

31. CHORALE

O Father, let Thy will be done,
For all things well Thou doest,
In time of need refusest none,
But helpest e'en the lowest.
In deep distress Thou still dost bless,
In wrath rememb'rest mercy ;
Who trusts in Thee shall ever be
In perfect peace and safety.

The Betrayal and Arrest

32. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : And He came and found them asleep again : for their eyes were very heavy. And He left them, and went away again and prayed the third time, saying again the same words. Then cometh He to His disciples, and saith unto them,
JESUS : " Sleep on now, and take your rest, behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man shall be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Arise, let us be going : behold, he is at hand that doth betray Me."
EVANGELIST : And while He yet spake, lo, Judas one of the twelve came, and with him a great multitude with swords and with staves from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed Him had given unto them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that is He : hold Him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said,
JUDAS : " Hail Master."
EVANGELIST : and kissed Him. Jesus said unto him,
JESUS : " Friend, friend, wherefore art thou come ?"
EVANGELIST : Then drew they near, and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.

Christ is bound and Led into the City

33. CHORUS

Have lightnings and thunders their fury forgotten ?
Then open, O fathomless pit, all thy terrors !
Destroy them, o'erwhelm them, devour them,
consume them with tumult of rage
The treach'rous betrayer, the merciless throng.

The Disciples Forsake Christ

34. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : And behold, one of them which were with Jesus, stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear. Then said Jesus unto him.
JESUS : " Put up again thy sword into its place : for all that take the sword, shall perish with the sword. Or thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He shall presently give Me more than twelve legions of angels ? But how then shall the Scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be ?"
EVANGELIST : In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes,
JESUS : " Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and with staves for to take Me ? I sat daily among you, teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on Me. But all this was done, that the Scriptures of the Prophets might be fulfilled,"
EVANGELIST : Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled:

The Christian Soul Bemoans the Frailty of Mankind

35. CHORALE

O man, thy grievous sin bemoan,
For which Christ left His Father's Throne,
From highest Heaven descending.
Of Virgin pure and undefiled,
He here was born, our Saviour mild,
For sin to make atonement.
The dead He raised to life again,
The sick He freed from grief and pain,
Until the time appointed,
That He for us should give His Blood,
Should bear our sins' o'erwhelming load,
The shameful Cross enduring.

SHORT INTERVAL

PART II

Prologue

The Daughter of Sion Seeks the Saviour

36. ARIA (ALTO) AND CHORUS

Ah! now is my Saviour gone.
Whither went He? I would follow.
Ah! my lamb, the slayers hold Thee,
Ah! how shall I find an answer
To assure my anxious soul?

Whither is thy beloved gone?
O thou fairest among women.
Whither has thy friend gone aside?
For we would go with thee to see Him.

In the Court of Caiaphas

37. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : And they that had laid hold on Jesus, led Him away to the house of Caiaphas, the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were gathered together. But Peter followed Him afar off, unto the court of the high priest, and went in and sat with the servants to see the end. Now the chief priests and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none.

42. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : And the high priest answered, and said unto Him,

HIGH PRIEST : " I adjure Thee by the name of the living God, that Thou tell us, whether Thou be the Christ the Son of God."

EVANGELIST : Jesus saith unto him,

JESUS : " Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, hereafter shall ye see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of Heaven."

EVANGELIST : Then the high priest rent his garments and said,

HIGH PRIEST : " He hath spoken blasphemy: what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard His blasphemy yourselves, what think ye?"

EVANGELIST : They answered and said,

Chorus : He is worthy of death.

43. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : Then did they spit in His face, and buffeted Him, and others smote Him with the palms of their hands, and said,

CHORUS : Now tell us, O tell us, Thou Christ, who is he that smote Thee?

44. CHORALE

O Lord, who dares to smite Thee,
And falsely to indict Thee,
Deride and mock Thee so?
Thou canst not need confession,
Who knowest not transgression,
As we and all our children know.

Peter's Denial

45. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : Now Peter was sitting without in the court: and there came to him a damsel and said,

FIRST MAID : " Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee."

EVANGELIST : But he denied before them all, and said,

PETER : " I know not what thou sayest."

EVANGELIST : And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there,

SECOND MAID : " This man also was with Jesus of Nazareth."

EVANGELIST : And again he denied with an oath,
PETER : " I do not know the man."

EVANGELIST : And after a little while came to him they that stood by, and said unto Peter,

CHORUS : Surely thou also art one of them, for thy speech betrayeth thee.

46. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : Then began he to curse and to swear,
PETER : " I know not the man."

EVANGELIST : And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crew, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

47. ARIA (ALTO)

Have mercy, Lord, on me,
Regard my bitter weeping.
Look on me, look on me,
Heart and eyes both weep to Thee,
Bitterly.

Before Pilate

52. RECITATIVE

EVANGELIST : Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, and said,

PILATE : " Art Thou the King of the Jews?"

EVANGELIST : Jesus said unto him,

JESUS : " Thou sayest."

EVANGELIST : And when He was accused of the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then Pilate saith unto Him,

PILATE : " Hearest Thou not how many things they witness against Thee?"

EVANGELIST : And He answered him to never a word: insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

53. CHORALE

Commit thy way to Jesus,
Thy burdens and thy cares;
He from them all releases,
He all thy sorrow shares.
He gives the winds their courses,
And bounds the ocean's shore,
He suffers not temptation
To rise beyond thy pow'r.

Barabbas

54. RECITATIVE AND CHORUS

EVANGELIST : Now at that feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whom they would. And they had at that time a notable prisoner called Barabbas. Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them,

PILATE : " Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus, which is called Christ?"

EVANGELIST : For he knew well that for envy they had delivered Him up. And while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying,

PILATE'S WIFE : Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream, because of him.

