

**Mozart (1756 – 1791)  
Requiem and Puccini  
(1858 – 1924) *Messa di Gloria***

Most people know that the *Requiem* was written at the end of Mozart's life, though it can hardly be called a work of his old age as he was only 36 when he died and the *Requiem* itself was left incomplete. At Constanze Mozart's (his widow) request it was completed by Franz Sussmayr, Mozart's pupil and assistant, so that it could be performed. Other musicologists have attempted to do the same thing which is why choirs have to be very careful to sing from compatible editions.

In contrast Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* was produced at the very beginning of his career. Giacomo Puccini came from a long line of musicians in the city of Lucca in Tuscany. His father was organist and choirmaster in the cathedral and was director of the Istituto Pacini, the city's music school. He died when his son was only 6 and Giacomo was then taught singing and organ playing by his uncle. He was enrolled at the Istituto Pacini which he left in 1880. His graduation piece was the *Messa di Gloria*, so it was composed before he went on to study at the Conservatory in Milan. It is clearly a youthful piece, tuneful and full of *joie de vivre*. One can clearly hear the town band marching through the middle of it!

Although they are such a contrast both these works contain some wonderful music and are a joy to sing. They require some hard work too, but well repay the effort.

**Rehearsal Dates for the Mozart/Puccini Concert**

January 14th, 21st, 28th  
February 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th  
March 3rd, 10th, 31st  
NB No rehearsals on March 17th & 24th  
April 7th 14th, 21st, and probably Friday April 25th



April 27th  
Orchestral Rehearsal at 10am in the Assembly Hall, TW

Concert on Sunday April 27th at 3pm in the Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells

**Recital**

Anthony (Zerpa-Falcon) and his wife, Jong-Gyung, are giving a piano recital, sponsored by Penshurst Choral Society, in the Jubilee Hall at Holmewood House School, on February 12th at 8pm. Tickets: £8.



**Bill McMillan**

Special thanks are due to Bill McMillan (Moir's other half) for his success in bringing our recent activities to the notice of the general public. An excellent picture of the joint choirs performing Elgar's *The Kingdom* in the Lutherkirche, Wiesbaden, appeared in the *Courier*. There was also a picture of Roy Douglas, our President, at our November performance of Haydn's *Creation*, which we gave in honour of his 100th birthday, and Roy was featured again in December close to the birthday itself. For us to appear in the *Courier* three times in such quick succession and in such style is unprecedented! We also appeared in the *Kent Messenger* and in *Kent News Online*. This sort of coverage and publicity is invaluable and doesn't happen by itself. We are most grateful to Bill for his hard work.

**Future Plans**

**April 28th 2008**  
Social Evening

**June 28th 2008**  
Summer Concert.

This is being organised by a separate committee who will provide information in due course. Rehearsals start 12th May so watch this space!

**November 9th 2008**  
Verdi *Requiem* Assembly Hall, TW

**Suggestions for future social activities would be gratefully received.**

**Next committee meeting**

Feb 12th 2008 at 7.30pm in Room 1 at Vale Royal Methodist Church.

I intend to sing in the Mozart/Puccini concert in the Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells on April 27th

Name (please print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

Voice (Soprano / Alto / Tenor / Bass): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact telephone number or email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form to the secretary or to your section rep. as soon as possible.**

