

Three Spanish Folk Dances

Javier Busto and Julio Dominguez are contemporary composers whose music is firmly rooted in the traditions and culture of northern Spain. Their arrangements of Spanish, Basque and Galician folksongs and dances evoke the mystery, charm and passion of those regions.

Javier Busto was born in the Basque region of Spain in 1949. He is known internationally as a composer and choral conductor, and his choral works have been performed across the world. Busto is a champion of contemporary choral music and is regularly involved in choral competitions throughout Europe and the Far East where his works are often performed as test-pieces.

Axuri Beltza

Javier Busto

The black sheep is good, but the white one is better; those who want to dance – look at my feet!

What are you doing, dancing on your own, sticking half your body out? If that dark fire lights you up, you will appear fully.

Companeira

Julio Dominguez

Pandeiretada

Julio Dominguez

Spanish Sacred Music

The music of Julio Dominguez, like that of his mentor Javier Busto, draws on the twin influences of folk culture and the Catholic Church. These ever-present threads in his music are drawn together in his hauntingly beautiful setting of the Lord's Prayer (Pater Noster).

Pater Noster

Julio Dominguez

Our Father in heaven, may your name be hallowed. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

We end this part of our programme with a setting of 'O Vos Omnes' by Pau (Pablo) Casals. Although best known in this country as a virtuoso 'cellist, Casals was also a fine composer. He wrote this piece in 1932 for the monks of the monastery of Montserrat near his home town of Barcelona, and later reset it for mixed voices. In its form, rich harmonies and intense emotion there is an echo of the music of Victoria.

O Vos Omnes

Pau Casals

O all you who pass by, attend and see if there be any sorrow like my sorrow.

Victoria: master of the Spanish Renaissance

2011 is the 400th anniversary of the death of Tomás Luis de Victoria, arguably the greatest composer of the Spanish Renaissance. Born in 1548, he studied music as a choirboy and organ scholar at the cathedral in his home town of Avila, in Castile.

At the age of 17 he travelled to Rome to continue his musical and religious studies. Here he was greatly influenced by the music of Italian composers, such as Palestrina who was working there then. But throughout his life his music also drew on the strong traditions of Spanish choral music both secular and sacred.

In 1587 he returned to Spain to enter the Monastery de las Descalzas de Santa Clara in Madrid as chaplain to the King's sister, the Dowager Empress Maria. And here he remained and worked for the rest of his life. He produced some of the most hauntingly beautiful sacred music of the 16th century; combining mystical intensity and direct emotional appeal, it can still move us across a distance of more than four centuries.

The works we are singing this evening include extracts from two settings of the Latin Mass, and a series of motets depicting the life of Christ. They show the range and diversity of Victoria's music from the glory of the Kyrie (taken from his setting of the Missa Pro Defunctis, written for the funeral of his patron the Dowager Empress Maria), to the mystery of the Christmas story, and from the desolation of the crucifixion to the bliss of the closing Benedictus.

Kyrie

Lord have mercy on us. Christ have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

Ne Timeas Maria

Fear not, Mary, for you have found favour with the Lord; and behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a son; and he will be called the Son of the Most High.

O Magnum Mysterium

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord lying in the manger.

O blessed Virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

Eram Quasi Agnus

I was like an innocent lamb: I was led to the sacrifice and I knew it not: my enemies conspired against me, saying: come, let us put wood into his bread, and root him out of the land of the living.

O Vos Omnes

O all you who pass by, attend and see if there be any sorrow like my sorrow.

Jesu Dulcis Memoria

Jesu, sweet thoughts of You bring true heart's-joy: yet even sweeter than honey, than all things, is Your sweet presence.

O Quam Gloriosum

O how glorious is the kingdom in which all the saints rejoice with Christ! Clad in robes of white, they follow the Lamb wherever he goes.

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

There will be a short break

Flamenco Guitar

Samuel Moore

Samuel developed a passion for flamenco guitar at an early age and has studied this musical form in both Spain and the UK. In attempting to build inventively on the deep foundations of flamenco, he has developed a strong and unique musical voice and has performed traditional and contemporary works, including many of his own compositions, in venues across Europe and the USA.

He is also an exponent of contemporary jazz music and studied jazz composition under the tuition of Mark Donlon at Leeds College of Music.

Samuel's current engagements include both flamenco and jazz residencies in Leeds, composition, performance and session work. He has an ongoing commitment as a transcriber for the Gil Evans estate in the USA.

Spanish Popular Songs

Si La Nieve Resbala

Julio Dominguez

If the snow falls on the path, I will not see the girl I love the most. Ah, love, what shall I do?

If the snow falls on the roses, the most beautiful will lose their petals. Ah, love, what shall I do?

A Tu Lado

Javier Busto

Your hair tastes of salt to me and your gaze is verdant. Look at me, breathe on me, or else I die. You sparkle like the sea air.

Your mouth tastes of honey to me; it is more than a kiss. If you speak to me or touch me I am filled with delight. You are stone and I am held within you, captured.

I don't want to escape from you, I don't want to live without you. It would be a sad end to have lived and to have lost you.

Leave me here like a dog, feed me from your hand. Bind me with chains of iron and forget that I exist.

Love me as if I were nothing but a shadow, hear only the beat of my heart, but let me hide myself in your breast so that I may sleep with you always.

Pase el Agoa

unknown

Come to me across the water, my Lady Juliet. I will go into the forest, there to pluck three roses.

Da Rosa Rosina

Julio Dominguez

Of the delicate, pink rose a flower was born. On this night, yes? On this night, no? From the shining night sky come four bright stars, carrying in their arms these grapes, chestnuts and honey for my son Manuel.

Medianoite Maxica

Julio Dominguez

At midnight a star proclaimed the birth. It was a magical midnight, a magical night.

Love breathed deeply, and the light of the world was born, child of the snow; heaven smiled down.

At the end of the concert, please join us for refreshments

For your diary

Cantabile at Christmas

Saturday 10th December 2011, 5.00

An hour of Christmas music, old and new.

Holy Trinity Church, Boar Lane, Leeds LS1 6HW

Open rehearsal

Monday 9th January 2012, 7.30

If you would be interested in joining Cantabile, or would just like to see how we prepare music, then please join us for this open rehearsal. We'll be working on new pieces that will form part of our Garland of Song programme and you are welcome to come along and join in or just sit, listen and enjoy.

Chapel Allerton Methodist Church, Town Street, Leeds LS7 4NB

A Garland of Song

Saturday 26th May 2012, 7.30

Echoes of the first Elizabethan age, including extracts from *The Triumphs of Oriana* and *A Garland for a Queen*, and the choral dances from Benjamin Britten's *Gloriana*.

Northern Ballet, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7PA