



SINGKRONIES

Lux Æterna



Background and History

The Singkronies Chamber Choir is a mixed choir comprising of approximately thirty-five members selected on the merits of voice quality and musicality. The amateur singers that make up this choir come from all walks of life, although most of them are former members of university choirs. Notwithstanding the pressures of other professional commitments, rehearsals are enthusiastically attended. This is demonstrative of the great love that these singers have for music and choral singing.

The name Singkronies is a play on Afrikaans words and means to sing chronically, but also hints at the desire to sing in a synchronised way. The choir is self-supporting and not affiliated to any institution. It has identified the recording of South African choral music as a priority and adopts a project-based approach to performances and recordings. Since its founding in 1996, Singkronies has been conducted by Johann van der Sandt. In 2009, Lhente-Mari Pitout was appointed conductor, making this recording the last under Johann's leadership.

The Singkronies Chamber Choir is acclaimed internationally and nationally for its excellence, having produced six CD recordings to date. The choir has also been awarded a prestigious FNB SAMA (South African Music Award) for the recording of the Stellenbosch composer Pieter van der Westhuizen's choral compositions. The choir regularly participates in international choral festivals and competitions where it is lauded for the excellent standard of its performance. As such, Singkronies is testament to the furthering and refinement of choral music standards in South Africa today.

Lux Æterna

My years with Singkronies Chamber Choir have created eternal memories of music making and camaraderie – something that can only be achieved through the passionate sharing of music between people. This CD serves as a tribute to all Singkronies singers who have been a part of the choir whilst I was the conductor. It does not strive towards the original intent of the choir, namely the recording of South African compositions, but represents a wide array of musical styles and contains music by both local and international composers. To me it represents the abundantly shared experiences of a varied group of remarkable people. I would like to thank every singer who has accompanied me on this journey.

Johann

Lux Æterna

I was asked to write a few explanatory notes about my design.

For me the title, Lux Æterna, refers to God's revelation of Himself to the world through his Son, Jesus Christ and through the work of the Holy Spirit. The design is an artistic expression of this revelation:

The background is, indeed, a Christmas card with the tree kings of Orient and the star announcing God's incarnation into this world through the birth of Jesus. Superimposed on this is a crown of thorns as well as tongues of fire representing Jesus' suffering and the Holy Spirit.

Through Jesus' incarnation at Christmas, his suffering at Easter and the decent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, God's Eternal Light shines into the world even today.

Wouter Joubert

Tracklist

	Title	Composer	Sung in	
01	BOGORÓDITSE DEVO <i>(Rejoice, O Virgin) from: All-Night Vigil 1915</i>	Sergei Rachmaninov 1873-1943	Russian	04:05
02	SHESTOPSALMIE <i>(The Six Psalms) from: All-Night Vigil 1915</i>	Sergei Rachmaninov 1873-1943	Russian	02:47
03	KHVALÍTE ÍMIA GHOSPÓDŇE <i>(Praise the name of the Lord) Znamenny Chant - from: All-Night Vigil 1915</i>	Sergei Rachmaninov 1873-1943	Russian	03:02
04	TEBE POYEM <i>(We Hymn Thee) from: Nine Sacred Choruses 1884/5</i>	Peter Tchaikovsky 1840-1893	Russian	03:01
05	BLAZHÉNI, YÁZHE IZBRÁL <i>(Blessed are they, whom thou hast chosen) from: Nine Sacred Choruses 1884/5</i>	Peter Tchaikovsky 1840-1893	Russian	03:22
06	CHRISTUS FACTUS EST	Anton Bruckner 1824-1896	Latin	05:33
07	WHEN DAVID HEARD	Eric Whitacre 1970-	English	16:38
08	O CRUX	Knut Nystedt 1915-	Latin	06:29
09	LUX AURUMQUE	Eric Whitacre 1970-	Latin	04:15
10	LUX ÆTERNA	Brian Schmidt 1980-	Latin	03:25
11	I THANK YOU GOD...	Eric Whitacre 1970-	English	06:34
12	JOHN THE REVELATOR	Trad. Arr. P. Caldwell & S. Ivory	English	04:01
13	MLK	U2 Arr. Bob Chilcott	English	03:15
14	DANSGEBED	Peter-Louis van Dijk 1953-	Afrikaans	02:19
15	A BOY AND A GIRL	Eric Whitacre 1970-	English	04:54

Recorded:

2004, MUSAION, University of Pretoria

2005, M1 Studio, Auckland Park, Johannesburg

2007, Riihimäki, Finland, Live recording

2007, M1 Studio, Auckland Park, Johannesburg

Soloists:

Wiehahn Francke - WHEN DAVID HEARD & MLK

Ursula Fourie - LUX AURUMQUE & I THANK YOU GOD

Supporting Artist:

Piano: Paul Ferreira - JOHN THE REVELATOR

Johann van der Sandt - Conductor

Johann van der Sandt was born in the Free State, South Africa, and completed his studies at the University of Pretoria. He received a diploma for Individual Music Tuition in piano, organ, vocal training and clarinet. In January 1996 the Instituut voor dirigente Edukatie in Gorinchem, the Netherlands, awarded him a Performance Diploma in Choral Conducting. Johann's doctoral thesis, completed in 2001, dealt with the development of a curriculum for the training of undergraduate students in choral conducting. He has also received important exposure and training under the well-known Swedish conductor, Eric Ericson.

Johann is actively involved, nationally and internationally, in the training and development of conductors. His knowledge of choral singing is augmented by regular participation in symposia around the world. As a composer, Johann is especially known for his choral arrangements which are performed by national and international choirs. He has also won the accolade of Best Conductor at a number of international choral competitions – the most recent in 2007 at the 46th C.A. Seghizzi International Choral Competition in Gorizia, Italy.

For 10 years, Johann was a professor in choral conducting at the University of Pretoria, where he was the conductor of the Tuks Camerata. He was also the conductor of the Singkronies Chamber Choir for 12 years.

In July 2008 Johann concluded his career at the University of Pretoria to accept the position of Director of Music at the Drakensberg Boys Choir School.

Johann is married to Bea de Wit. They have two sons, Janthé and Nelu.



SINGKRONIES

