



*St. Matthew Passion*  
*by*  
*Johann Sebastian Bach*

First Part  
I Exordium  
II The Anointing in Bethany  
III Judas' Betrayal  
IV The Last Supper  
V Jesus' despair on the Mount of Olives  
VI The Prayer on the Mount of Olives  
VII The Seizure of Christ

Interval

Second Part  
IX His Interrogation by the High Priests  
V Peter's Denial  
XI Judas in the Temple  
XII Jesus before Pilate  
XIII The Scourging of Jesus  
XV The Crucifixion  
XVI The Descent from the Cross  
XVII The Burial

*Musical Director: Jan Walker*

The St Matthew Passion, written in the year 1727, is the second of three (surviving) passions by J.S. Bach. The others being the St John (1724) and the St Mark (1731). The St Matthew Passion is way beyond the other two passions, or anything customary of its day, for its sheer scale of conception, Indeed, it has been referred to as the Great Passion by some Bach scholars.

There are individual voices which 'play' the roles of Jesus, Judas, Pilate, among others, in the forms of dialogue, arias, recitatives and arioso, in a sense acting out the libretto while the Evangelist narrates the passion story. Punctuating these are large choral settings based on some of the most popular church hymns of the day. The St John dispenses with large-scale chorale settings and some kinds of accompanied recitative - but the St Matthew embraces all these forms within its sacred conception. Such a design surpasses everything previously written, the variety of forms and devices chosen for their ability to confer dramatic structure and intensity to the Passion story - so much so that parallels have been drawn between it and the most representative genre of that age - the Baroque.

The Passion depicts in musical and narrative terms the final days of the life of Christ

Tonight's performance breaks with the traditions of performing the Passion on a large scale only at Easter. The scoring of the St Matthew is suitable for a shorter chamber music presentation without disrupting the genius of the composition in both narrative and musical terms. An inspired work that deserves more frequent performance.

### ☞ Characters ☞

Evangelist - Andrew Bell,

Jesus - John Cully

Pilate - Andrew Giddings

Peter - Alan Gardner

Judas - Andrew Giddings

High Priest - Malcolm Hiscock

Contralto - Ann Wilson,

Contralto - Vivien Giddings

Mezzo Soprano - Nicky Reader

Soprano - Shirley Masterson

### ☞ Orchestra ☞

Vln (solo) - John Knight

Vln (solo) - Richard Brittain

Vln - Claire Payne

Vln - Paul Hewitt

Vln - Meryl Brittain

Vln - Caroline Rhodes

Vla - Gil Payne

Vla - Ruth Brown

Cello - Cora Adcock

Continuo - Ronnie Rothwell

Cello - Jane Wheatley

Bass - Tom Marshall

Oboe - Claire Greenwood

Oboe - Sam Penkett

Flute - Lynn Walsh

Flute - Nicholas Hack

Continuo - Glenys Penton

Organ - Paul McDowell

### ☞ Chorale ☞

We are also joined this evening by members of Gaudeamus and Southend Co-op Chorale, and much appreciate their support.

🎵 Ian Walker 🎵 Since leaving SEEVIC, has been engaged in live music as an orchestral member, singer, soloist, musical director and concert organiser, and he has had a long association with The Eastwood Chorale. Ian has performed in and directed a number of musicals for local societies and choirs. Ian has also participated in Southend Philharmonic Orchestra concerts as player, conductor and organiser since the age of 13, and is currently their chairman.

🎵 Shirley Masterson 🎵 is a music teacher in Maldon. She has sung with many choirs, including the Royal Choral Society, and is currently singing with the Southend Festival Chorus, Gaudeamus and Concert in the Egg. As a soloist she has performed oratorios and Masses and Bach's Magnificat. She was with a concert tour in Prague and was the soloist in Kodaly's Te Deum in Washington DC.

🎵 Andrew Bell 🎵 started singing at an early age as a chorister in many cathedrals. He has sung principal roles in opera and concert throughout the country. Since settling in the Midlands he has performed in various oratorio in Britain

🎵 John Culley 🎵 spent part of his degree course in Russia and Germany and two more years studying music in Germany, taking part in international tours with the Collegium musicum. He is now a language and music teacher and is teaching Russian at Chelmsford. He has sung with many choirs, opera and choral groups. He has a wide repertoire, including German Lieder, Russian romances and English "parlour songs". John is also a violist in amateur and semi-professional ensembles.

🎵 Andrew Giddings 🎵 his musical interests range from the piano and voice to synthesisers and guitar, and from Renaissance to electronic and composition. He's with the 'Concert in the Egg', the New Covenant Singers, and The Journey. He plays keyboards and bass, and sings in his church. He has performed with the Eastwood Chorale, Stage One Theatre Co., the Fidelio Singers, Leigh Operatic, Southend Chorale, Gaudeamus, the Courtenay Ensemble and the Beacon Hill Singers.

🎵 Nicky Reader 🎵 began singing at 16 and has performed extensively both locally and nationally as a soloist and with the Fidelio singers. Nicky has appear as soloist with local choirs taking leads in Trial by Jury, Merrie England and has been guest artist for the Southend Brass Band, and has done a solo recital at Sheffield Cathedral. Other recent professional engagements have included, Midsummer Nights Dream (Titania), Into the Woods (Cinderella) role play for the BBC and in July Nicky will be appearing in Teechers at the Thameside theatre.

🎵 Anne Wilson 🎵 is a keen vocalist and enjoys both classical and show music. She has regularly sung with local choirs and operatic societies, usually playing what she terms as 'old bag' parts in operettas. We welcome Anne in her first appearance with the Eastwood Chorale.

🎵 Bill Roche 🎵 sang with the Chorale for many years and is a favourite invitee with choir members and audience

*🌀 Forthcoming Events:- 🌀*

- 1st October 2005 Autumn Review (light concert)  
St Margarets Church Lime Avenue - Leigh on Sea.*
- 14th January 2006 Scratch Concert (Mozart Requiem & Zadoc)  
St David's Church - Rayleigh Road - Eastwood.*
- 10th June 2006 Verdi's Requiem -  
Salvation Army Citadel -Hadleigh.*

*The Eastwood Chorale, a friendly and versatile choir, was established in 1979 by some members of The New Rayleigh Choral Society. The choir has a varied repertoire performing works ranging from Handel and Bach through to Lloyd-Webber and the Beatles. Rehearsals are held every Wednesday at The United Reform Church, Saffory Close, Eastwood, during term time from 8 - 10 p.m.*



*As well as singing, we also hold many social events such as BBQ's, Quiz Nights and theatre trips. We are always pleased to welcome new members. If you would like to join us (no audition required), please telephone Viv Dickens on 01702 477259, or alternatively just turn up on a Wednesday evening. For more information, please e-mail: [viv@eastwoodchorale.co.uk](mailto:viv@eastwoodchorale.co.uk)*



*If you enjoyed this evening's entertainment and would like to be advised of future events, you may consider joining the 'Friends of Eastwood Chorale' which will entitle you to advance notice of our programme and social events. Please contact Viv Dickens as above.*



*This society is affiliated to the National Federation of Music Societies which represents and supports amateur choirs, orchestra and music promoters throughout the United Kingdom. The Eastwood Chorale is a registered charity, No 1033315*