

Bach St. Matthew Passion Introduction

Johann Sebastian Bach wrote his *St. Matthew Passion* for a single purpose—to present the biblical passion story, in music, for the worship service during Good Friday and Easter. Bach considered this passion oratorio his greatest work. The *St. Matthew Passion* continues to move audiences more than 280 years after it was first heard in St. Thomas's Church of Leipzig, Germany. Standing as one of the highest pillars of Western sacred music, it is at once monumental and intimate, deeply sorrowful and powerful.

We would to thank God for this opportunity and privilege to offer this passion oratorio. It has been a tremendous blessing for everyone working on this difficult, yet rewarding music. The process began with the Chinese translation of the chorales many months ago through the prayers and hard works of Pastor and Mrs. Liu, Fusheng, Li Kun and Fan Ying. Bach used the chorales to express the feelings and emotions of the Christian audiences as they watch the unfolding of the passion play. Our work on the Chinese translation brought us closer to the way of the cross as we tried to find the most appropriate words and phrases in Chinese for the German text.

[巴赫 馬太受難曲] 簡介

約翰·塞巴斯蒂安·巴赫創作 [馬太受難曲] 僅僅只為一個目的 — 在耶穌受難日與復活節時，以音樂的形式再現聖經所記載的耶穌受難的情節。巴赫將這部受難清唱劇視為他的巔峰之作。自從 280 年前在德國萊比錫的聖托馬斯大教堂首演之後，[馬太受難曲] 一直感動著聆聽此劇的聽眾。作為西方聖樂頂峰作品之一，[馬太受難曲] 完美融合了恢弘的氣勢和含蓄的特質、極度的哀慟感和強烈的震撼力。

感謝神讓我們有這個機會和榮幸來奉獻這部清唱劇。能夠參演這部高難度但極富價值的音樂作品對於每一位參與的弟兄姐妹都是極大的祝福。數月之前，劉牧師、師母、福生、李鯤和樊瑩開始著手翻譯這部清唱劇，期間不斷地禱告，靠神的帶領得以順利完成翻譯工作。隨著劇情的展開，受難曲激發出基督徒聽眾內心屬靈的感動，巴赫用聖詠合唱曲將這種感受和情緒淋漓盡致地表達出來。為了將劇本德文原著的韻味用中文貼切地表現出來，我們反復斟酌遣詞用句，翻譯過程中，我們猶如親眼目睹了主耶穌所行的十字架之路。

We would like to thank:

- All the members of the church who played the characters in the Passion play:
 - Evangelist: Guo, Gang
 - Jesus: Rev. Liu, Hongfu
 - Judas: Chen, Desheng
 - Peter: Dr. Edwin Lin
 - Priest: Du, Ruofei
 - False Witnesses: Zhang , Tao & Huang, Shenghua
 - Servant Girl 1: Deng, Haiyan
 - Servant Girl 2: Yang, Qing
 - Pilate: Guo, Wei
 - Pilate's Wife: Lillian Fok
- Our two talented pianists Jennifer Tu and Judy Wang.
- Our two amazing violinists Fu Xiao and Anne Yang.
- And the wonderful fellowship of all the choir members who worked so hard to make it happen in praise of God.



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 - 彼得：林經綿
 - 祭司長：杜若飛
 - 作假見證人：張 濤 與 黃盛華
 - 使女 1：鄧海燕
 - 使女 2：楊 青
 - 巡撫：郭 偉
 - 巡撫夫人：林綺文
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