

DEI GRATIA

proclaiming the Gospel through Baroque sacred music

Dei Gratia is a new collective of both emerging and experienced professional musicians, all active Christians with a heart for using our musical gifts to serve our churches and communities and to make the Lord Jesus known.

We specialise in performing Baroque (18th century) music on period instruments, and most of our core repertoire was originally composed for performance in the context of Christian worship. These works present Bible texts, with devotional reflections on their meaning and application, in musical settings designed to underline, reinforce and encourage engagement with the saving word of God. Though some such works are frequently performed in a concert setting, their original purpose is often forgotten, and audiences (and performers) typically receive little encouragement or assistance to consider the meaning of the text for themselves.

Our vision is to partner with local churches to present high quality performances of sacred Baroque musical works which are true to their original purpose of gospel ministry.

Dei Gratia's aim is to bring the meaning of these sacred texts alive not only by the way we perform the music, but also through written and / or spoken introductions explaining how the music underlines the meaning of the text. We may also include dramatic readings or visual displays in order to further inspire listeners to engage on a personal level.

It is our hope that presenting God's word through music may inspire our audience to explore the message of the gospel, and to take steps towards salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. For this reason we believe it is important to partner with gospel-focused churches in putting on our concerts, so that by attending a performance listeners will make contact with a local church where they can be supported, should they feel led to investigate faith further. We want to give our concerts in churches where audience members will receive a warm welcome into the building, and crucially, where there will be further opportunities for them to hear the gospel through ongoing activities in the church.

Ministry partnerships

We recognise that our partnerships with local churches will need to be tailored to each particular church and community. Generally, we would envisage our concert being held in the church building, and church leaders and congregation being actively involved in the event. This involvement could take the form of:

- + promoting the concert in notices and newsletters
- + displaying and distributing posters and flyers around the local area

- + personally inviting non-Christian friends, colleagues and family
- + attending and bringing guests to the concert
- + welcoming and seating the audience
- + selling tickets / collecting donations
- + providing refreshments
- + providing gospel literature and / or information about church activities for guests
- + providing contact cards for guests to fill in for further information / to meet with a pastor
- + a church leader giving a short gospel talk based on the text / theme of the musical works, or interviewing a member of the ensemble about their faith

We envisage presenting a 60 minute programme, which could be a lunchtime or evening recital, or a Sunday performance following a regular morning or evening church service.

Sample programmes (titles provisional)

1. *From Darkness to Eternal Light*

J. S. Bach Cantata 23 'Du wahre Gott und Davids Sohn', for voices, oboes, strings, keyboard; text based on Luke 18:31-43, blind man asking Jesus to have mercy and give him sight

G. F. Handel 'Eternal source of light divine' from Birthday Ode for Queen Anne, for solo alto voice, trumpet, strings and keyboard

J. S. Bach Cantata 70 'Wachet! betet! betet! wachet!', for voices, trumpet, oboes, bassoon, strings, keyboard; text re dawning of day of judgement and looking forward to eternal light with Jesus in heaven

2. *God So Loved the World*

G. F. Handel 'Have mercy upon me' Chandos Anthem no. 3, setting of Psalm 51 for voices, oboe, strings and keyboard

J. S. Bach Cantata 168 'Tue Rechnung! Donnerwort' for voices, oboes d'amore, strings, keyboard; text describing how we'll be held accountable for how we've lived but that Jesus' blood has paid our debt of sin

J. S. Bach Cantata 68 'Also hat Gott die Welt geliebt', for voices, oboes, strings and keyboard; text based on John 3:16

3. *From Warning to Wonder*

J. S. Bach Cantata 102 'Herr, deine Augen sehen nach dem Glauben!', for voices, flute, oboes, strings, keyboard; text describing mankind's sinful state and warning of judgement

J. S. Bach Cantata 199 'Mein Herze schwimmt in Blut', for solo soprano voice, oboe, strings and keyboard; text expressing repentance and joy of being forgiven

J. S. Bach Cantata 55 'Ich armer Mensch, ich Sundenknecht', for solo tenor voice, flute, oboe d'amore, strings, keyboard; text asking for mercy and explaining that we can be forgiven because Christ takes our punishment

Financial considerations

As part of our partnership with any church we would need to reach an agreement on how the costs of putting on a concert would be met. Below is a breakdown of projected costs, *items in italics would need to be paid for in advance of the event.*

Costs	Estimate	Notes
<i>Posters / flyers / programmes</i>	<i>£200</i>	<i>Does your church have in-house facilities for producing publicity to bring cost down?</i>
Heating, lighting etc. during rehearsal & concert (approx. 6 hours)	?	Insert figures for your building or ignore if covered by existing budget
<i>Sheet music purchase / hire</i>	<i>£150-200</i>	<i>For initial concerts, will reduce subsequently as we build our library</i>
<i>Keyboard hire, transport and tuning</i>	<i>£400-600</i>	<i>Depending on programme and funds available</i>
Travel expenses for some performers	£70	Most members of the ensemble live in London but some are further afield (for performances outside London this figure would increase)
Performers' fees	£1,500	Based on 15 performers receiving £100 each (on the low side of union rates). A few members have indicated they may choose to waive their fee as a gift to the church but not all are able to do so.
Total approx	£2,500	

Ways to offset these costs could include:

- + asking for **donations from church members** to support a gospel outreach event
- + drawing on the church's **mission budget**
- + **ticket sales** – central London venues typically charge £10-15 for entry to this type of concert. Depending on their location, size and demographic churches could consider whether to charge a 'market rate', offer concessions for e.g. students / unemployed / elderly, encourage church members to book tickets for guests in advance for a discount, charge a subsidised rate for all tickets, or cover the entire cost so admission could be free. *Who are you hoping to draw in to this event – workers, tourists, students, local residents? Will cost be a barrier to them? How could this best be overcome?*

Churches may also want to consider offering / charging for refreshments.

Please contact us to discuss the best solutions for your church and community. If you are keen to host a concert but cost is a problem, we are open to prayerfully considering e.g. formulating a programme that requires fewer musicians, or sacrificially lowering our fees. On the other hand, where churches or individuals are able to make generous donations to support our ministry, they will be boosting our ability to offer future concerts at reduced cost to less affluent communities.

Could your church partner with DEI GRATIA in using our musical gifts to reach your community with the gospel?

We look forward to hearing from you!