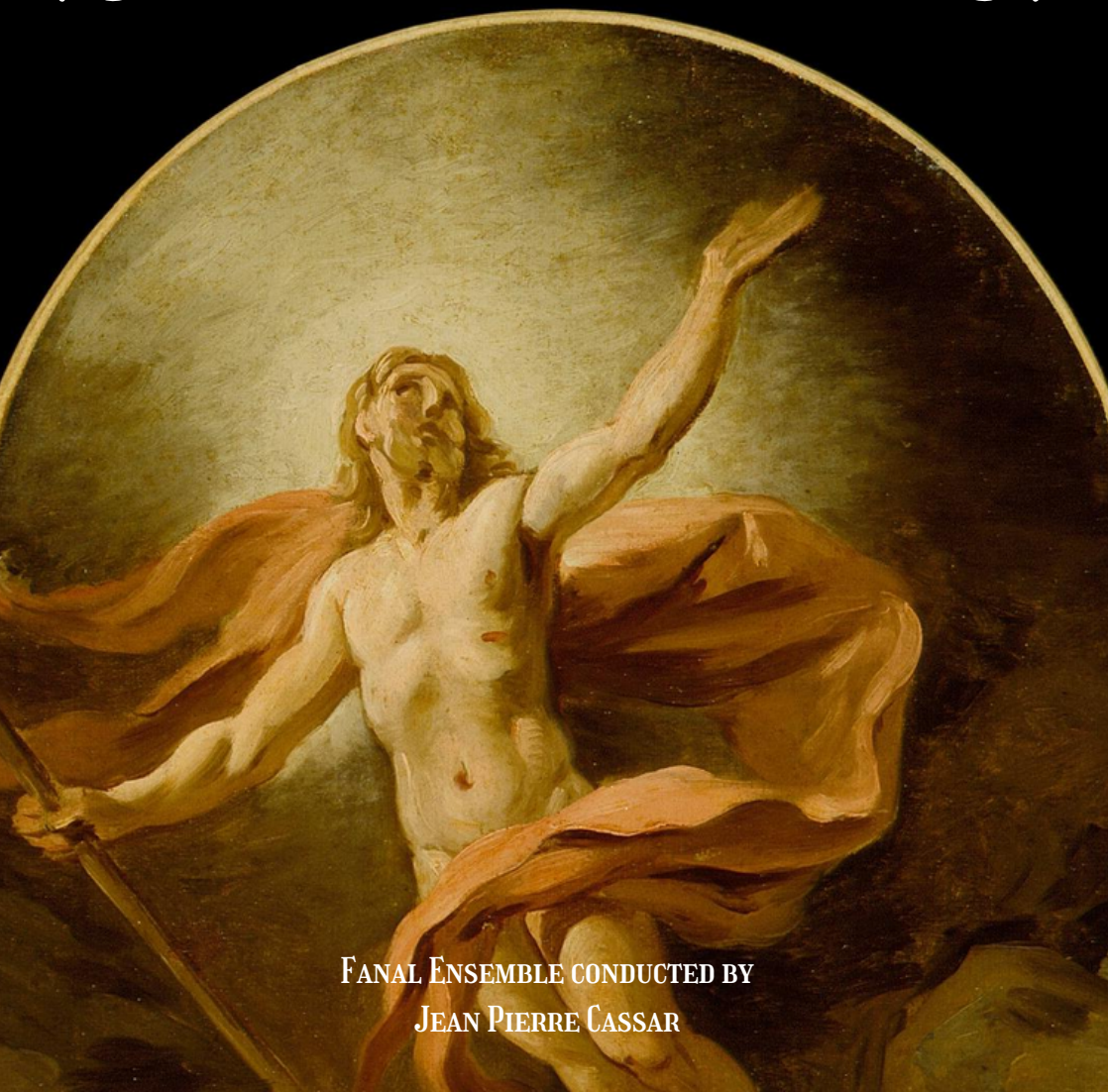


Seven Last Words



FANAL ENSEMBLE CONDUCTED BY
JEAN PIERRE CASSAR



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR GOZO
AND PLANNING



Fanal
Ensemble



Cultural Heritage Directorate

Seven Last Words

JOSEF SUK

MEDITATIONS

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

MOONLIGHT SONATA

JOSEPH HAYDN

SEVEN LAST WORDS

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

SINFONIA AND OPENING CHORUS OF CANTATA

WHAT IS FANAL ENSEMBLE?



Fanal Ensemble embodies the visionary dream of creating a cultural movement that transcends time and place, by bringing together the very best of Maltese talent.

Our mission is to showcase the artistic brilliance of the island, beginning with its gifted musicians and eventually culminating to the creation of fully Maltese compositions, performed by a larger ensemble and orchestra.

Guided by the exceptional talent and leadership of musician and conductor Jean Pierre Cassar, our ensemble unites a group of remarkable string musicians, each a master of their craft. Together, we strive to kindle a new wave of artistic expression and ignite a passion for the cultural treasures of Malta.

A WORD FROM OUR CONDUCTOR



JEAN PIERRE CASSAR

Firstly, I would like to thank Gozo Cultural Heritage for their kind sponsorship and Father Ed for his support during the organisation of this concert.

I am excited to be presenting such a challenging programme for tonight's concert, one which I am confident that the musicians will play masterfully. It is also an honour to know that as we play we will also be educating our esteemed patrons with knowledge of rarely played pieces.

The theme this evening revolves around the reflections of Christ's sacrifice, but above all it is about the triumph of light in darkness. This is a purpose that is close to our hearts at Fanal Ensemble as we continue to strive in bringing Malta's orchestral talent to the fore, allowing them the chance to shine. The creation of opportunity in culture is one that must be cultivated and protected in order to allow younger generations to truly show their prowess.

Furthermore, we hope that our holistic approach to culture not only brings out the importance of classical development but also allows us to appreciate the beautiful places and elements that make our culture so bright. One of which is the beautiful church which are in today.

We ask for a kind donation from you in order to refurbish this church to its full glory, and ask for your attention in order to restore the space of orchestral music in our flourishing culture.

I hope you enjoy this evening and take with you memories, knowledge, and passion for the local music scene.

JOSEF SUK – MEDITATION

Josef Suk wrote his ‘Meditation’ based on an old Czech hymn ‘St Wencesclas’ with the aim of bringing pride to the Czech people under Austrian occupation. It is both heartfelt and nostalgic as it tempers outbreaks of passion with reflections of honour and pride.

The hymn repeatedly sings the line ‘Lord, have mercy’ as it pleads for God not to forget his people. In fact, it is repeated 3 times, just as many times as Jesus went to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. “My father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” (Matthew 26:42) Jesus prayed. These final pleas for mercy were each time followed by a clause of honour and acceptance as he performs the will of God. Even while we know that his “soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death” (Matthew 26:33) and “his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.” (Luke 22:44)

As we listen to this piece played under the direction of Jean Pierre Cassar, I invite you to imagine that you are kneeling in the Garden of Gethsemane feeling the swells of sorrow and reflecting on the need for your sacrifice.

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN – MOONLIGHT SONATA

After Christ received his death sentence he was ridiculed, beaten, and forced to carry the cross up Golgotha. While the sounds at the time were of jeering and cruel insults we ascribe a different soundtrack tonight: a funeral march reflecting his anguish.

Because, after all, the ‘Moonlight Sonata’ by Beethoven is just that, a funeral march, and not a romantic piece of music as it is commonly played.

In fact, tonight’s arrangement by our conductor reinstates this element, as with every passing bar we think of Jesus’s steps trudging up that hill with the weight of the world on his shoulders.

JOSEPH HAYDN – SEVEN LAST WORDS

‘Seven Last Words’ by Joseph Haydn is the titular piece of tonight’s concert. Made up of 9 movements starting with an overture, 7 movements coinciding with the final phrases that Christ uttered on the cross, and ending with a show of divine power in the earthquake that shook the Earth as Jesus did.

The phrases are:

1. “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” - Luke 23:34
2. “To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.” - Luke 23:43
3. “Woman, behold your son” - John 19:26-27
4. “My god, My god, why have you forsaken me?” - Matthew 27:46
5. “I thirst” - John 19:28
6. “It is finished.” - John 19:30
7. “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.” - Luke 23:46

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH – SINFONIA AND OPENING CHORUS OF CANTATA 4

Easter is a time for reflection, an appreciation of the sacrifice that was made for us, but it is also a celebration of resurrection and rebirth.

We started in a garden waiting for death, but now end in a lush green Spring day where hope is neverending.

Rejoice for “he has risen.” (Matthew 28:6)

TODAY'S ENSEMBLE

NICHOLAS CONRAD – 1ST
VIOLIN



CAROL CIANTAR – 1ST
VIOLIN



SARAH TANTI – VIOLA



BRIAN AGIUS – VIOLA



TODAY'S ENSEMBLE

MATTHIAS CONRAD –
VIOLINCELLO



FLORENCE AQUILINA –
VIOLINCELLO



BENGI CETIN – 2ND
VIOLIN



CRISTIAN ROMERO VARGAS – 2ND
VIOLIN



TODAY'S ENSEMBLE

ABBHEY GRECH –
DOUBLE BASS



JEAN PIERRE CASSAR –
CONDUCTOR





DESIGNED BY MIREILLE CARUANA