



USA // MUSIC
AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

LAGRIME DI SAN PIETRO

Los Angeles Master Chorale

A soaring monument towering over centuries of music history, *Lagrime di San Pietro (Tears of St. Peter)* still strikes the soul like few other works. In the last days of his life Orlando di Lasso (1530-1594) resolved to compose an a cappella masterpiece based on the biblical tale of St Peter's grief that channeled the pain, despair and embattled faith of this final journey.

Now internationally renowned director **Peter Sellars** and the **Los Angeles Master Chorale** have refracted this luminescent work through a modern lens, maintaining its timeless beauty while bringing home its continuing relevance to contemporary audiences. Under Sellars' direction, 21 singers from the Master Chorale will transform this 75-minute sweeping Renaissance masterpiece into an overwhelmingly emotional performance piece, demonstrating why they have become one of the world's leading choral ensembles of the last half century.

Sellars translates *Lagrime* through a contemporary lens, suggesting a powerful allegory that by taking responsibility and facing our past head-on, we can forge a more resolved and fulfilling future. Drawing to the surface the deep themes of remorse, responsibility and acceptance, Sellars produces a compelling performance that provides an urgent tonic for turbulent times.

'You get this muscular intensity in Lasso's writing that is reminiscent of this expressive language we know so well, visually, from Michelangelo,' says Peter Sellars. He says both artists convey visions of an "embodied spirituality: the

muscle of spiritual energy and striving against pain to achieve self-transformation.' - Peter Sellars.

Founded in 1964, the **Los Angeles Master Chorale** is widely recognised as America's leading professional choir. Hailed for its powerful performances, technical precision, and artistic daring, the Master Chorale performs choral music from the earliest writings to contemporary compositions, striking a balance between innovation and tradition.

Melbourne Festival Artistic Director Jonathan Holloway said: 'Peter Sellars is a master interpreter of classical works. The Master Chorale is in absolute top form, presenting choral work to the highest standard. They have had a series of incredible successes, but this is their masterwork. This is one of the greatest choral works ever written, performed by the greatest ensemble of our time and it makes its Australian premiere at the Melbourne Festival.'

Conducted by Jenny Wong. Directed by Peter Sellars.

'A major accomplishment for the Master Chorale, which sang and acted brilliantly. It is also a major accomplishment for music history.' – Los Angeles Times

Melbourne Recital Centre, Elisabeth Murdoch Hall
Fri 5 & Sat 6 Oct
7pm
\$39 - \$119

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