

# Amici de Lumine

Established in October 2010 by Maestro Michaelangelo Cloete in his final post-graduate year at the South African College of Music (SACM at UCT), the long-standing choir embraces members from all walks of life. From inception, the focus has been on rehearsing and performing sacred choral music with an emphasis on debuting the works of young composers, often from SACM's composition department.

Maestro Michaelangelo embraces diverse voices and skill sets as he uplifts and trains the individual members evoking a haunting, ethereal choral sound created through expertly blending vocal timbres. Emulating Amici de Lumine, Italian for Friends of the Light, he and his choir strive to bring light to all through the experience of their performances.

Although the initial vision of the choir has changed over the years, becoming a non-profit organisation aiming to educate and inspire those who were unable to afford music or vocal tuition, the resonating voices have become a trademark of the choir.

The choir has performed many international and national choral pieces by well known composers with their repertoire consists mainly of modern choral music, the likes of Eric Whitacre, Ola Gjeilo and Jake Runestad, local composer and member, Stephen Arendse as well as Dr Martin Watt, our raison d'être this evening. One of their crowning moments was during the 2018 Suidoosterfees where they not only won their section of the choral competition, but also the overall choral competition.

Amici de Lumine has also been a part of the Choral Celebration Network Festival since 2019 and have participated in several of their Cape Town events, most recently the 2022 Festival at Cape Town City Hall. With a heart for charity causes, in 2018, Amici de Lumine performed at the Guide Dogs Association of South Africa Choral Festival Fundraiser, and joined the Endler Hall Concert Series with the German Neuer Kammerchor and Khayelitsha-based Simon Estes Choir.

As with most things in the post-COVID-19 pandemic landscape, Amici de Lumine is undergoing a renaissance striving to bring modern choral music to the world stage. Amici de Lumine is currently seeking sponsorship to further their reach and perform on a national and international level. For more information, email [amicidelumine.za@gmail.com](mailto:amicidelumine.za@gmail.com)



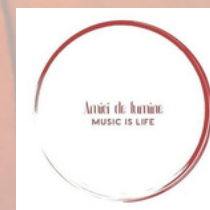
## Martin Watt SACRED CHORAL WORKS A RETROSPECTIVE

**Amici De Lumine**  
Conducted by  
**Michaelangelo Cloete**

Tuesday,  
7 March 2023  
19:00

Baxter Theatre,  
Concert Hall

**Tickets available on Webtickets and at the door.  
Free entrance for UCT students.**



# Martin Watt

Martin Watt is a composer and music theorist. He graduated from the North-West University in Potchefstroom, South Africa, with the degrees Bachelor of Music (Piano Performance) under the guidance of Albie van Schalkwyk in 1991 and Bachelor of Music Honours (Composition) in 1992 (both with distinction).

In the same year he entered for the then called Natal Philharmonic Orchestra's South African National Youth Concerto Competition and performed the premiere of his own piano concerto in the Durban Playhouse which was broadcast live on Radio South Africa. He continued with his studies in composition with Peter Klatzow, Professor of Composition and previous Director of the South African College of Music at the University of Cape Town, where he obtained the Master of Music degree cum laude in 1993. Numerous national and international scholarships, such as the Priaulx Rainier Prize, the SAMRO Overseas Scholarship for Composers, the Foundation for the Creative Arts International Scholarship for Composers and a grant from the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust assisted him to continue his studies with the distinguished British composer Paul Patterson at the Royal Academy of Music in London from 1994 to 1995. During his time at the Academy, he also studied advanced orchestration and music analysis with Melanie Daiken, a pupil of Olivier Messiaen, and participated in masterclasses with György Ligeti, Pierre Boulez and Sir Colin Davis. Here he received the Diploma of Advanced Studies in Composition and won the prestigious Charles Lucas Prize, awarded since 1838. As a composer, he made his European debut at the British Music Information Centre in London and had a number of his works recorded for broadcast on BBC Radio.

Watt has composed over sixty substantial works in all genres, many of them commissioned by prominent local and international organisations and performers. His music has been performed, broadcast and recorded on four continents, in countries such as Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, China, Thailand, Japan, Australia and the United States.

# Michaelangelo Cloete

Maestro Michaelangelo Cloete is the conductor and master vocal coach of the Amici de Lumine Choir (ADLC). His introduction to music started at the tender age of 6 years old when he was recruited by several children's choirs. After singing for these children's choirs, he progressed to Pro Cantu Youth Choir, under the batons of Andre van der Merwe and Leon Starker.

Following choral singing, he became engrossed in the opera world, studying opera performance at the University of Cape Town (UCT). He performed in several operas from 2007-2013, most notably L'incoronazione di Poppea Tales of Hoffmann, Don Giovanni, La bohème, Il viaggio a reims, Le Nozze Di Figaro, and The Cunning Little Vixen. His experience and skill inevitably caused him to be selected for a university exchange programme to Brown University in Rhode Island, USA. For both the traditional operas and for Songs My Mother Taught Me, he was directed by Angelo Gobbato, who still refers to him as 'My Spalanzani' from Tales of Hoffmann. During his opera studies, his main vocal training was guided by international conductor and vocal coach, Prof Kamal Khan, and internationally recognised soprano and vocal coach, Hanna van Niekerk. He also received coaching from bass-baritone, Patrick Tikolo and tenor, Sidwill Hartman. Toward the end of his opera studies, he was selected to be the Chorus Master of the UCT Opera Chorus because of his vocal training and balancing abilities. Commentators have noted that his collaboration with Prof Kamal Khan on producing quality sound is unmistakable. On completion of his studies in opera, he pursued choral conducting under Antoinette Blythe and continued vocal training with Hanna van Niekerk, during which he established the Amici de Lumine choir (ADLC) in October 2010. Since ADLC's inception, he has been recognised for distinct qualities: textured sound, brilliance of vocal colour, clashing harmonies, and chilling dissonance. As a result, international composers have commissioned music for his interpretation, such as Dr Martin Watt and Santiago Veros.

Furthermore, music producers have requested ADLC to perform music for local movies and large concerts. Most recently, on the first try, he won the mixed choir category and overall competition of The 2018 ATKV/Rapport Suidoosterfees Competition scoring an average of 90%.

# Programme

1. Psalm 121
2. As jy jou bekeer
3. Do not Fear
4. Sanctus
5. Benedictus

*From Missa Baltica debuted in 2012 by Amici de Lumine*

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*(10 min break)*

6. Panis Angelicus
7. O Magnum Mysterium
8. Laudate Dominum
9. Ubi Caritas
10. Gloria

*First performance*

*First performance*

*First performance*

*Debuted in 2019 by Amici de Lumine*

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