The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the Evangelist Matthew

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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THE UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

presents

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the Evangelist Matthew
By Johann Sebastian Bach

Dramatis Personae

Evangelist
Jesus
Judas
Peter
The Maids

The High Priest
Pilate
Pilate's Wife
Disciples, Crowds, etc.

Aria Soloists

Soprano
Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

Continuo harpsichord
Continuo organ

Chorus for the Chorales

The Westhampton College Glee Club
The University Men's Glee Club

Orchestra of Members of the Richmond Symphony,
Faculty, Students, and Friends
of the University

Conductor

James Erb, Associate Professor of Music

Cannon Memorial Chapel
Sunday, February 13, 1966
2:30 P.M.
PROGRAM NOTE

The St. Matthew Passion is a musical setting of the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh chapters of the Gospel according to Matthew. Bach wrote it for performance on Good Friday, 1729. In addition to the biblical text, Bach interpolates solo and choral movements whose function is to comment upon the action described by the writer of the Gospel. These interpolations are of two types:

The first appears as the aria, a form borrowed from opera, or as a choral movement with or without a soloist. The texts of these pieces were written for the 1729 performance by the Leipzig poetaster C. F. Henrici, under the pen-name of Picander. The solo voice, male or female, represents in Picander's libretto the daughter of Zion; the chorus represents the Faithful -- except, of course, where they appear as participants in the action of the story: disciples, priests and elders, the bloodthirsty crowd, and the like.

The second type of interpolated movement, interrupting the story from time to time, is the traditional hymn-tune, or chorale, a body of music well known to German Lutherans of Bach's time. Whether Bach meant them to be sung by the congregation during the Passion is not clear; but it is clear that they at least symbolize a congregational response to events just described. In the present performance, therefore, the audience is invited to participate in the singing of the chorales, which will be found printed in the body of the text.

The recitatives of the scriptural portion of the Passion have all been newly translated for this occasion, in an attempt to leave undisturbed the extraordinary rhythmic flow of Bach's musical prose. If in the process the familiar King James phraseology has had to be relinquished, it is because it seemed best to place musical coherence above familiarity. The translation used in the chorales, arias, and choruses is for the most part that by Robert Shaw.
THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
according to the Evangelist Matthew

PART ONE.

Chorus (Prologue):
Come, ye daughters, share my wailing. See ye! (Whom?) The Bridegroom see. See him! (How?) A lamb is he.

See it! (What?) His patience mild.

Look! (Ah where?) Upon our guilt.

Look on him, for love untold he himself the Cross is bearing.

Come, ye daughters . . .

Gospel:
Now Jesus, having finished with all these sayings, said unto his disciples:
Ye know that after two days comes the Passover; and the Son of Man shall fall to the hands of sinners, that he be crucified for them.

Chorale: (Seated)
Gospel:
Now, the priests and scribes of holy scripture had come together, and the elders also came, into the house where lived the High Priest, whose name was Calaphas; and sought a plan by which Jesus might best be taken and put to death. But they considered:
Not upon the Feast, lest from it an uproar riseth among the people.
Now when Jesus came up to Bethany, to visit with Simon the Leper, did a woman come, who carried a vase with most precious ointment; and poured it on his head, as he was eating there. And when the disciples saw it, they did ask in great indignation:
To what purpose is this wasted? For this ointment might have better far been sold, and the poor and the needy nourished.
And Jesus took note of this, and said unto them:
Why rebuke the woman so? It is a good thing that she hath done. Ye know that always the poor are with you. But I shall not be always with you. For she, in pouring ointment thus upon my body, hath made a sign to prepare me for the grave. Truly I say to you, wherever this Gospel henceforth shall be declared unto all the world, shall also be told in this good woman's memory what she did for me.

Recitative (Alto):
O dearest Savior, thou! While thy disciples wrongly quarrel that this good woman sought thy body to anoint, for burial to prepare thee; so, let me, too, attend thee now. See in my eyes full tearful flowing an ointment on thy head bestowing.

Aria (Alto):
Grief and pain
Rend my sinful heart in twain.
Softly dropping, may my weeping
Bear an incense sweet and rare,
Dearest Jesus, for thy keeping.

Gospel:
Now among the twelve disciples was one named Judas Iscariot, who sought out the high priests and said:
How much will ye give me, if I to you betray him?
And they offered him thirty silver pieces. And from that time sought he opportunity that he might betray him. Now on the first of Days of Unleavened bread came the disciples to Jesus, and said unto him:
Where wilt thou, Master, that the feast of the Passover be prepared thee?
He said:
In the city ye know a man; go and say to him: the Master sends to tell thee: my time is at hand. I would Passover eat with you, now, and my disciples.
The disciples hearkened, and did as Jesus had them appointed, and prepared to eat the Passover. And when evening came, he sat down to eat with his disciples. And as they ate, he told them:

Truly, I say to you: It is one of you who shall betray me.

And they grew exceeding sad, and they began, each one of them, asking questions and saying to him:

Lord, is it I?

Chorale: (Standing)

Tis I, my sin, repenting. My hands and feet, consenting, Should take the bonds of Hell. The scourge and thongs which bound Thee, And all the wrongs around Thee, Are merit of my sinful soul.

Gospel:

He answered and said to them:

A man whose hand e'en now in the dish was dipping shall e'er long betray Me. The Son of Man is about to go, as of Him it hath been written: But woe to the other, by whom e'en the Son of Man shall be betrayed; for that man 'twere better, better far for that man if he had not been born.

Then inquired of him Judas, who him betrayed, and said:

Is it I, Lord?

He said to him:

Thou sayest.

And as they were eating, did Jesus take bread, blessing it, and broke, and gave to all of them, saying:

Take ye, eat ye: it is my flesh.

And he took the cup, and blessing it, he gave it them, and said:

Drink ye all from this cup; this is my blood, which I shall freely give in a new Testament for many for remission of their sins. I say to you, I will from this day on no more partake of this fruit from out the vineyard, until that day when I shall drink it new with you there within my Father's realm.

Recitative (Soprano):

Although my heart with tears o'erflow
That Jesus now must from us go
Yet doth his Testament my soul rejoice.
His flesh and blood, O sacrifice!
A treasure given into my hands.
As he to us on earth was loving ever,
Nor harm nor pain did ever,
So loves he still his own, unending.

Aria (Soprano):
Lord, to thee my heart is given;
Sink therein, dwell thou in me.
So will I in thee find haven;
Though to thee this world be small,
Thou shalt be my all in all,
More than earth and heaven be.

Gospel:
And when they had sung a hymn of praise together, to the Mount of Olives they journeyed. Then said Jesus unto them:
This very night ye shall be offended because of me. For in scripture is written: Behold, I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of his pasture shall be driven from him. But when I again am risen, then will I go before you in Galilee.

Peter then did reply to this, and said to him:
Though all men be offended because of thee, yet will I, Lord, be never offended.

Jesus said to him:
Truly I say to thee, this very night, ere yet the cock croweth, shalt thou have three times denied me.

Peter said to him:
Lord, e'en though I should die with thee, yet will I never deny thee.

And likewise also said all the others.

Chorale: (Standing)
Gospel:
Then they came all together into a garden known as Gethsemane, and Jesus said unto them:
Sit here and watch, while I in yonder shadows am praying.
And took with him Peter and both the sons of Zebediah, and began with sorrow to be troubled. Then said Jesus unto them:
Ah, my soul is full of woe, e'en unto death. Tarry here and watch yet with me.

Recitative (Tenor):
Ah, grief! What trembling fills his tortured breast!
How sinks his heart! How pale his face oppressed!
Before the judge he must appear,
There is no help, no comfort near.
Such agony doth Hell awaken:
He must for others' guilt be taken.

Chorale (concurrent):
Ah, what has brought on thee this tribulation!
'Tis my own sinning, naught of thy transgression!
'Tis I, Lord Jesus, all the anguish own here,
Which you atone here.

Aria (Tenor):
I would be with my Jesus watching.
So slumber, all my sins, and stay!
E'en my death
Ransom finds in his last breath,
His sorrow maketh sure my gladness.

Chorus (concurrent):
The griefs that he for us endureth,
How bitter, yet how sweet are they.

Gospel:
And he left them watching; and falling down upon his face, in prayer he spoke, and said:
My Father, I pray thee to let this cup now pass from me; yet not as I will, but e'en as thou wilt.
And he came to his disciples, and found them sleeping, and said to Peter:

Could ye then not even for one hour keep your vigil? Watch now, and pray ye, that temptation not come upon you. Yea, though the soul is willing, the flesh is weak.

A second time he went forth, praying thus, and said:

My Father, if it must be that this dread cup not be spared me, unless I do drink -- let thy will then be done.

Chorale: (Seated)

What hath willed will always be, His will is best, most surely.
An ever present help is He, if faith be fixed surely.
Our help in need, all good, all wise, Rebukes with kindness ever. Who trusts in God, on Him relies, Will be forsaken never.

Gospel:

And he came and found them once more sleeping, because their eyes were heavy with sleep. And he left them and went off once again; and praying as he had before, he made again the same supplication. Then came he to his disciples, and said unto them:

Ah! Yet once again are ye sleeping! Look ye, the hour now is come, and the Son of Man into sinners' hands ye shall ere long see betrayed. Then arise, let us be going. See now, the betrayer doth appear.

And as he yet spoke, saw they Judas, who was one of the twelve disciples; and with him was a great array of men with swords and weapons, whom the priests and elders had sent to take him forth. And the betrayer had beforehand arranged for a signal, and had said: That man whom I shall kiss is he; him take ye. And straightway came he to Jesus and said:
All hail to thee, o Master!
And kissed him withal. Jesus then said unto him:
My friend, wherefore art thou come here?
And thereupon they came, and laying their hands upon Jesus, they took him forth.

Aria (Duet, Soprano and Alto):
Alas, my Jesus now is taken.
Moon and stars have for grief the night forsaken,
Since my Jesus has been taken.
They draw him on; ah, they have bound him.

Chorus (concurrent):
Loose him! Halt ye! Let him go!

Have lightning and thunder from Heaven all vanished?
Then open, ye fiery abysses infernal!
Defile them, devour them, destroy them, dispel them.
Strike swiftly to brand The false-hearted traitor, The murderous band!

Intermission

PART TWO.

Aria (Alto):
Ah, now is my Savior gone!

Must it be so? Can I behold it?
Ah, my Lamb in tiger's talons!
Ah, where is my Savior gone?

Chorus (concurrent):
Whither has thy dear one departed,
O thou fairest one among women?

Whither has thy friend turned away?

For we would go with thee to seek him.

Gospel:
Now they who had laid their hands on Jesus straightway did lead him unto the High Priest Caiaphas, within whose house the scribes and elders were gathered all together. Peter also followed after him afar off, until he came to the High Priest's palace; and he went in, and sat there among the soldiers, in hope of seeing how all should be ended. And then the priests and all of the elders there, and the council, sought how they might false witness bring
on Jesus, that he might be put to death; yet found they nothing.  
And the High Priest turned to Jesus, and spoke unto him thus:  
I adjure thee, in the name of the Living God, that thou must  
tell us if thou be Messiah, God's Anointed.  
Jesus said to him:  
Thou sayest. Yet I say to you, hereafter when ye see him, ye  
shall see in that time the Son of Man sit on the Right Hand of  
Power, returning in the clouds of the Heavens.  
And the High Priest tore his garments all asunder, and said:  
He hath God reviled! What witnesses need we further? Look  
ye, ye heard his vile blaspheming clearly in his answer; what  
think ye now?  
The council of elders answered:  
Of death this man is guilty!  
And then they fell on him and spat on him, and struck him with  
their fists. Others among them struck him squarely in his face,  
and shouted:  
Now tell us, Messiah, by whom thou art struck.

Chorale: (Standing)

Gospel:  
Peter sat in the palace court without; and a maid came up to him  
there, and said:
And thou, also, hast been with Jesus the Galilean.

But Peter before them at once denied it, and said:

I know not what thou sayest.

And again at the palace doorway, he was seen by another maid, who said to them that stood there with him:

This man also was with Jesus the Nazarene.

He denied it a second time, and swore an oath:

I know nothing of this man!

And in a little while came others who had been standing beside him, and said unto Peter:

Surely, thou also art a disciple; for all thy speech doth betray thee.

But he denied again, with cursing and with swearing:

I tell you, I know him not!

And at that moment crew the cock. Then Peter brought to mind the words of Jesus, how Jesus had told him: ere yet the cock crow again shalt thou have three times denied me. And he went out and wept bitterly.

Aria (Alto):

Have mercy, Lord, my God, regard my bitter weeping.

Look on me: heart and eyes both weep to thee.

Chorale: (Standing)
Gospel:

Now when the morning came did all the high priests meet and hold a council with the elders to seek for a warrant that he be put to death. And, binding him, they led him away, and gave him at last to the Roman governor, known as Pontius Pilate. Now Judas Iscariot, the same who had betrayed him, when he saw Jesus condemned, repented of himself; and brought back again all the thirty silver pieces unto the high priests and elders there, and said:

An evil deed have I done, for I have righteous blood betrayed unto you.

They answered:

And what is that to us? To that must thou see.

And he cast the silver pieces in the temple, and turned away, and fled; and went out and hanged himself. And they took council once again, and with the silver bought a field, where the wandering folk might be buried. Wherefore the same field has been called by the name of the Blood-Field, yea, even unto this day. Jesus before Pilate now was standing; and the governor questioned him, and said:

Art thou the King of Jewry?

Jesus answered unto him:

Thou sayest.

To his accusation, which the priests and elders to Pilate brought, he answered not a word. Then Pilate said unto him:

Hearest thou not, what things they charge against thee?

And to Pilate he gave no answer at all, e'en so that even Pilate then was moved to wonderment.

Chorale: (Seated)

| En-trust thy ways un | By Him the clouds are or-der'd, The |
| trust thy ways un | His wisdom and His bidding Do |
| to Him And | all thy heart's dis-tress. |
| biding Do | high-est Heav'n con-fess. |
| winds a-rise and | He best—can choose the path-way Where-on thy feet should go. |

Gospel:

On the Feast Day the governor had long been accustomed to give back to the people a man from prison -- any they wanted. Now at that time, among the various prisoners was a most notorious man,
whose name was Barabbas. And when they had come together, did the governor ask them:

Whom will ye that I release unto you now? Barabbas, or this Jesus, of whom 'tis claimed, he is the Messiah?
(For he knew full well that the priests for envy had brought Jesus to him.) And as he sat in judgment there, from his wife a message came, which said unto him:

Do, I implore thee, nothing to this righteous person, for I have suffered much this day in a dream because of him. Yet did the priests and elders by intriguing persuade the people gathered there that it was Barabbas they should free, and that Jesus should perish. And the governor addressed the people and said unto them:

Which of these two men ye see before you today should have his freedom?
They answered:
Barabbas!
And Pilate said unto them:
And what shall I do then with Jesus, of whom they say, he is Messiah?
Again they shouted:
Have him crucified!
The governor asked them:
But what evil thing hath he done?

Recitative (Soprano):
He is for all men good alone:
The blinded have been given to see,
The lame to walk aright;
He speaks to us his Father's word,
He drives the devils forth;
The sorrowing of their grief are free;
He takes all sinners to his own:
Than this, my Jesus naught hath done.

Aria (Soprano):
In love my Savior now is dying.
Of sin and guilt he knoweth naught.
That the everlasting torment
On that day of judgment wrought
Not on my poor soul be lying.

Gospel:
But crying out all the more, they shouted:
Have him crucified!
When Pilate therefore had seen that his words were powerless, and that now more than ever a tumult rose, he took water, and washed his hands before them all, and said:
Of the blood of this righteous man I am not guilty; this must
Then did all the people answer him, and said:
His blood be on us and on our children!
And Pilate then set Barabbas free; but he ordered Jesus scourged, and then gave him over to them that they might crucify him.

Gospel:
The guards of the governor came, and they took Jesus to the hall of judgment, and gathered around him all the soldier band; and stripped off his clothes, and brought a scarlet robe to put upon him there — and plaited him a crown of thorns, and put it upon his head, and a reed they placed in his right hand; and then they bowed the knee to him, and mocked at him there, all saying:

We hail thee, King of the Jews!
And spat upon his face, and took up the reed, and struck him upon his head.

Chorale: (Standing)

Gospel:
And after they had mocked him thus, they took off from him the scarlet robe, and put him again in his own robe; and then they led him forth that he be crucified. And then at length when they were come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, the Place of Skulls, they did give him drink made of vinegar mingled with gall. And when he tasted it, yet he would not drink it. And up on the cross above his head they had written out the cause of his crucifixion, namely: this is Jesus, the King of Jewry. There were also two thieve who with him were crucified, one on the right hand, and one on the left hand. And all who were passing by reviled at
him there, and wagging their heads they mocked him, and shouted:
Thou who destroyest the temple of God, and buildest it again
in three days, save thyself! Be thou the Son of God, come
down to us from off the cross!
And likewise also did the chief priests mock at him there, with the
scribes and elders deriding him and saying:
Savior was he of others, but for himself not a savior! If he be:
King of Israel, then let him now come from off the cross, and
we will then believe him. He in God has trusted, let his God
then deliver him now, if he will, for this man hath said: I am
Son of God.
And e'en the thieves who had been crucified there with him railed
at him with the others.

Recitative (Alto):
Ah, Golgotha, unholy Golgotha!
The Lord of Glory see in shameful
desecration:
The blest Redeemer of the race
Hangs as a curse upon the cross.
The Lord who heaven and earth created
By earth is now reviled and hated.
The sinless suffers condemnation.
So doth it weigh upon my soul.
Ah, Golgotha, unholy Golgotha!

Aria (Alto): Chorus (concurrent):
Look ye, Jesus waiting stands,
Stretching forth sustaining hands,
Come! Come! Come!
In him compassion seek forgiveness,
Seek salvation, seek ye!
In his compassion.
Live ye, die ye, find your rest,
Weary souls, by guilt oppressed!
Rest ye! Rest ye!
In his compassion.

Gospel:
Now from the sixth hour onward through the land a darkness came,
spreading o'er all the earth, until about the ninth hour. And when
the ninth hour came did Jesus cry aloud, and said:
Eli, Eli, lama asabthani?
That is: My God, my God, wherefore hast thou me forsaken? Now,
some of them that stood there watching, when they had heard him
thus, turned and said:
He calleth for Elijah.
And straightway one of them departed, and brought a sponge, and this did he fill with vinegar, and put it up upon a reed and gave him to drink. The others spoke among them:

Wait, wait, and see now if Elijah cometh down to save him.
And again did Jesus cry out aloud, and was gone.

Chorale: (Seated)

Gospel:

And now behold! The veil of the temple was rent in twain, down from the top unto the ground. And the earth did begin to quake, and the rocks burst asunder; and the graves were opened again, and there rose many saints, and the holy ones that were sleeping: and came from out their tombs after Jesus' resurrection, and to the holy city did come, and appeared to many. Now, when the captain, and the others with him, who were there watching Jesus, did behold how the earth quaked and those things that were done, they fearfully said among them:

Truly, this was the Son of God.

At eventide there came a wealthy man from Arimathea, by name Joseph (a disciple had he also been); he went up to Pilate, and asked his leave to take the body. Wherefore Pilate ordered that it be given to him.

Recitative (Bass):

At even, hour of cooling rest
Was Adam's fall made manifest.
At even, too, they took the Savior down.
At even did the dove return:
A bit of olive leaf she bore.
O fairest time, O evening hour!
Our peace with God is evermore assured,
For Jesus hath His cross endured.
His body comes to rest.
Ah, thou disciple! Thou must ask:
Go, and beseech thee Jesus' body broken.
O holy thought, O precious heavenly token!

Aria (Bass):
Come, my heart, and make thee clean,
That my Jesus I may bury.
Enter thou, whom I adore
Evermore
Here in sweetest rest to tarry.
World, away! Let Jesus in.

Gospel:
The body Joseph took, and wrapped it in cloth of freshest linen,
and brought it into his own new-made tomb, which he had had prepared out of solid rock for him, and after he rolled a mighty stone up before the entrance, he went away.

Recitative:
Bass: Now has the Lord been laid to rest.
Chorus: My Jesus, sweet goodnight.
Tenor: Thy pain is o'er, which all our sin on thee hath pressed.
Chorus: My Jesus . . .
Alto: O thou most holy body! See, how I come in penitence to mourn thee. Thus did my fall thy agony betide.
Chorus: My Jesus . . .
Soprano: While life shall last I will this wonder ever thank:
That thus my soul was worthy in thy sight.
Chorus: My Jesus . . .

Chorus (Epilogue):
Here bide we still with tears and weeping
And call to thee in death now blest:
    Rest thou softly, softly rest.
Rest, thou weary body sleeping,
    Rest thou softly, rest thou well.
See in grave and stone a grace
For the anxious, the despairing:
Heaven's pillow, comfort bearing,
And the soul's sweet resting place
    (Rest thou softly, softly rest.)
Come, my joy! Slumber doth mine eyes embrace.
Here bide we still . . .

* * *
PERSONNEL

The University Choir

First Chorus

Sopranos  Alters  Tenors  Basses
Edie Paulette  Jane Barlett  Bob Crute  Skip Jenkins
Lindsey Peters  Anne Gordon Cooke  Richard Davis  Dick Paulette
Anne Pomeroy  Nancy Cox  Steve Koch  Thom Robertson
Jean Reynolds  Betsy Dillard  Bob Saunders  Marty Shotzberger
Lauranne Stiff  Colette Fields  
Vaughan Watson  Eileen Ford  Ann Pearson  Pat Whitfield
                              Brenda Wilkerson

Second Chorus

Sopranos  Alters  Tenors  Basses
Carol Copley  Cheryl Bily  Charles Hill  Bob Butler
Margaret Criqin  Betty Brookes  Rick Arnold  Bob Grizzard
Jeanette Eigert  Lynn Griffith  Tim Montgomery  Melvin Little
Eileen Mahoney  Mary Ann James  Joe Northen  David Robbins
Margaret Phelps  Jane Norman  
Jody Sanford  Carolyn Tietze  
Mary Bo Willis  Carolyn Urquhart  Betsy Welsh  John Robbins
                                Dick Smith

THE WESTHAMPTON COLLEGE GLEE CLUB

Sopranos  Alters
B. J. Acker  Beverly Blaustein
Jane Arrington  Beverly Cook
Diane Behrens  Susan Donaldson
Susan Binder  Jean Gleason
Susan Blake  Laura Hanbury
Gail Boyd  Lynn Hoffman
Donna Gant  Donna Marie Joy
Judy Jacobs  Alice Justice
Vickie Miller  Barbara Klunder
Betty Obenshain  Linda Mays
Ann Spivey  Margaret Northen
Martha Vaughn  Marcie Raveling
Susan Williams  Robbie Shreve

18
UNIVERSITY MEN'S GLEE CLUB

Tenors
Buz Blue
Bill Cale
Mike Ferguson
Rick Harper
Phil Janes
Joe Newton
John Savage
John Turner

Basses
Jeff Altman
Charles Bowles
Jack Boyles
David Cates
Fred Combs
Gordon Converse
George Cunningham
Geoffrey Gabbard
John Hathaway
Skip Hill
Jim Jontz
Sam Perry
Robbie Purvis
Mike Saavedra-Sanchez
Bill Stark

ORCHESTRA I:

Violins
Frederick Neumann, concertmaster
Nicholas Neumann
Thomas Bridge
Mary Ann Reynolds

Viola
Aleo Sica

Violoncello
Betty Allan

Contrabass
Peter Bahler

Flutes
Lynn Griffith
Linda Bricker

Oboes
John O'Bannon
Pieter Uitvlucht

ORCHESTRA II:

Violins
Karola Hustis, concertmistress
Alan Sica
Carol Nichols
Ann Ball

Violas
Ruth Erb
Zilphia Halloran

Violoncello
Victor Parcell

Contrabass
John King

Flutes
Judy Eastman
Robert Barker

Oboes
Royal Singleton
Judy Miles