

**Sunday, 8th December, 1991  
at 2.30 p.m.  
at Oldham Parish Church**

**CELEBRATION CONCERT  
to mark the bicentenary of the death of  
WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART**

*Conductor*  
**JOHN BETHELL**

*Throughout the year the entire world has been paying tribute to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Some anniversaries are necessary to discover a neglected genius; others to bring forth new dimensions in the work of a familiar and much loved artist. In Mozart's case, we can only express joy and gratitude for being given the heavenly gift of a man whose achievements may never be understood in rational human terms.*

**Rosamund Barker**  
*Soprano*

**Douglas Butters**  
*Organ*

**Sara Fulgoni**  
*Contralto*

**John Michael Mulroy**  
*Tenor*

**John Neale**  
*Bass*

**K.339: VESPERAE SOLENNES DE CONFESSORE**

1780 was one of Mozart's unhappiest years. He was 23: his recent concert tour of Paris, during which his mother had unexpectedly died, had been a financial failure, on top of which his love affair with Aloysia Weber had come to a shattering end. There was no longer any point in trying to get work in Munich, where she was singing, and pressure from his father to return to Salzburg as the Archbishop's Kapellmeister was ceaseless. 'I swear on my honour that I cannot bear Salzburg and its inhabitants' wrote back Mozart; 'to me their speech and their manner of living are quite unendurable! Nevertheless, there was no alternative, and home he came. In the year that ensued, before his final angry break with the Archbishop and his move to Vienna, he wrote his first important opera, *Idomeneo*, and a number of liturgical works, of which these Vespers were the last. Vespers, one of the regular services of the Roman Catholic Church, is based on a group of five psalms; and when the service takes the form of Solemn Vespers for a Saint's Day — which is what the title of Mozart's work means, although we do not know for which particular Saint's Day he intended this work — the psalms are 110, 111, 112, 113 and 117.