



Béziers, le 31 décembre 2022

Foederatio Internationalis
Pueri Cantores
Le Président

To all the FIPC members

Subject: Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI passed away

Dear Presidents, Ecclesiastic Assistants, Choir directors,
Beloved Pueri Cantores in the whole world,

On 31st December 2022 His Holiness the Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI has met the Creator whom he has dedicated all his life. A great Theologian, Benedict XVI has been given a remarkable musical and instrumental education and his sensitivity to sacred music was acknowledged to everyone.

During the International Congress in December 2010 Benedict XVI said to the 4500 Pueri Cantores gathered at the Nervi Auditorium for the solemn meeting:

“Using your voices and talents to sing God’s praises you lend your voices to men’s desires to glorify God and sing Hymns to His Love. Beautiful songs are able to somehow express the mystery of God’s Love towards us and our Love towards Him. Have always in mind that your singing is a service. A service to God in first place to surrender thanks to God. It is also a service to your companions because you help them to raise their hearts and souls towards our Lord. Anyway, it is a service to the whole Church while it represents the beginning of celestial liturgy, which is the aim of all authentic worship, where the choir of angels and saints rejoins you in this endless Song of love and praise”.

In order to fulfill this thought I would like to add part of Benedict XVI’s speech on sacred Music, pronounced on 5th of July 2015 when he was nominated “Doctor Honoris Causa” by the University of Krakow:

... (Talking about his youth). Hearing the first notes of the Coronation Mass, by Mozart, I felt as heaven had opened up and I could deeply feel God’s presence.

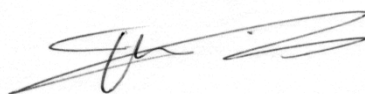
(...) The quality of the music depends on the purity and greatness of our meeting with divinity, with the experiment of love and pain. The purer and more truthful this experience is, more the music which comes out is pure and great.

From Palestrina to Bach, from Handel to Mozart, from Beethoven to Bruckner, Western music, which roots can be found in Christian Faith, is unique, incomparable to other cultures. In this way – I think so – we should think about it. Western music goes far beyond religious and

ecclesiastic context, but doubtless we can find its deepest origins in liturgy, in the meeting with God. As for Bach this is evident. The magnificent Sacred Music covers a permanent meaning for the faith in the Christian world. It is the demonstration of Christianity Truth.

Today, for us Pueri Cantores, whose first mission is to sing divine praises, those words resound in our souls and push ourselves to pursue our mission in the Church.

I ask you therefore, in your next services (Masses as well as Concerts), to dedicate one of your best songs to this great Pope and pray for him. I thank you all.



JEAN HENRIC

Président international des PUERI CANTORES.

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