

Barcelona April 2003

Our tour in 2003 took us to sunny Barcelona where we stayed at Hotel Rubens located in an attractive residential area to the north of the city near to Parc Guell.

The tour was booked through the [NST Travel Group](#), they booked the hotel and arranged all the concerts and transport whilst we were in Barcelona.

We arrived in Barcelona at 8.00pm on Tuesday 22nd April.

Wednesday morning was free time to spend at leisure. In the evening we were scheduled to sing mass in a small lady chapel, followed by our concert at the main altar in the gothic [Barcelona Cathedral](#). This was certainly an experience for all taking part, the mass in particular as this was composed by our very own conductor [Andrew Goff](#) and this was to be it's premiere performance.

It was well received and Padre Parvre was delighted with our performance, so much so that he has kept in touch with us and even flew over for our recent major concert 'Valls Missa Scala Aretina' which was composed in the 17th Century by Francisco Valls for Barcelona Cathedral choir.

The Repertoire for the tour was all sacred taken from the following: **Brahms** *Warum ist das Licht*, **Bruckner** *Os Justi and Locus iste*, **Mendelssohn** *Richte mich Gott*, **Rachmaninov** *Bogoroditsye dyevo*, **Rheinberger** *Abendlied*, **Victoria** *O Quam Gloriosum and Jesu dulcis memoria*, **Stanford** *Three Motets*, **Holst** *Nunc Dimittis*. **Tchaikovsky** *Tyebye poyem and Blazheni yahze*, **Palestrina** *Jesu junxit*, **Croce** *Regina coeli*, **Anon** *Stella splendens*, **Taverner** *Dum transisset sabbatum* and [Goff](#) *Mass*.

Thursday we travelled to [Montserrat Monastery](#) where we were allowed to sing in the Basilica . Again another wonderful experience. The monastery is certainly a major tourist attraction and we sang to our biggest audience to date (excluding Barry Manilow Concert) It was a beautiful and prestigious venue in which to sing. We were able to spend some time wandering around appreciating the magnificent monastery and the panoramic views.

Later the same day we performed our final concert in the Basilica Santa Maria del Pi, in the centre of Barcelona. Although not as magnificent as the Cathedral or the Monastery, the church proved to be an excellent venue in which to sing with very good acoustics and we felt this was our best performance of the tour, again being well received by a large audience.

Friday and **Saturday** were both free for us to sight see and enjoy the delights of a fascinating city.

We arrived back at East Midlands airport at 7.20pm Saturday 26th April with every one saying "**Roll on Tour 2005**"!

