

## Review of Stabat Mater

By Wilhelmina Fredericks

Red Roses and white Lilies set the anticipated sorrowful mood set, while Joel Thiffault, rolled his golden fingers through the piano of Giovanni Pergolesi's, Stabat Mater, he establishes the poetic of atmosphere at the start at Loyola Chapel in NDG, April 16<sup>th</sup>. It was the major item on Zerf Productions program of the evening. All the performances were spiritual, stylish and emotionally in keeping. A Wonderful and exciting program to be perform by the local artist.



Wilhelmina opens the concert, by telling the 110 audience, why they were there and their plans to drill a well for orphans in Kilimanjaro region. Zerf Productions remembered the foundation members who died over the years: Abraham Cohen, Jan Beckman, Dr Rev Jan Dijkman, Mary Thomas and the mother Anne Taylor Lebel, (video collage) who passed on the week of the concert. The well will be drilled in memory of Dr Reverend Jan Dijkman who inspired the construction of the well.

Johanne Patry, the artistic director, lyric voice suits these works wonderfully, and her bright and clear Mezzo-soprano blends strikingly with Daniel Pullen, soft, warm soprano voice. Her vocal is buttressed by a secure technique, and she hits those high notes with unerring precision and confidence. I also appreciate her prudent use of vibrato (which is of agreeable character in her case). The two ladies were impressive. John Giffen (baritone) is equally adept at the vocal gymnastics, although the heavier and rounder quality of the countertenor voice might entail a little time for new listeners to really appreciate. Personally, I still prefer Anthony Iannacone solo, since that 'white sound' of the baritone tends to weigh a bit heavily upon my ears after a while. ***Both singers are intensely sensitive in the six descriptive and six pleadingly prayerful verses of the Stabat Mater. They have no inhibitions about Pergolesi's operatic roots.***

The renowned French pianists Joel Thiffault with musical sympathy for his singers, and everyone sounds rhythmically and emotionally 'in sync'.

The concert was a great success, the free will offering for the well was \$1,301 for the well and tons of food for the NDG food bank was delivered by John the next day.