



MALTA
March 2008

A travel-weary but elated Sheffield University Wind Orchestra have just returned from a life-changing and memorable visit to Malta. Their spirits were immediately uplifted when they arrived into the beautifully warm Mediterranean climate from a cold wintry Sheffield and made even happier by the generous and friendly welcome from the Maltese people.

We had the inspiration of combining with John Galea's sonorous and experienced Chorus Urbanus in magnificent churches in Victoria and Bormla where full and appreciative audiences drew out the best from us all. I must say though that it was an honour and an inspiration for us to play with such an excellent choir. I know the players were all very impressed and were especially enthralled by your soloists, being particularly captivated by the authority, depth and sonority of the singers' voices. I must say that I was very moved by your director's compositions that were performed by Chorus Urbanus at Victoria and Bormla.

I look forward to listening to the CDs you gave me and becoming more acquainted with John Galea's music. They will surely remind me of that richness of tone and musical sincerity in your choir that so impressed me; as well as being a lasting memento of a great collaboration.

The final concert (of three in three days), in the prestigious and venerable Aula Magna Hall in the presence of the H.E. the President of Malta, where our programme included also Maltese works by Philip Ciantar and Charles Camilleri with the composers there to take the applause, was indeed a Grand Musical Finale to our trip and was finished off by yet another reception with the wine and food so generously flowing.

I am sure we will find future opportunities to renew and develop the connection that got started during March 2008.

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