

# Stewart Copeland

## *Satan's Fall*

*for Choir and Orchestra*

Polyarts are looking for commissioners for a dramatic new work for chorus, orchestra and seven soloists with a duration of around 30-45 mins. Copeland will turn to Milton to tell the story of history's greatest villain. Solo roles include: Raphaella (soprano), Raphael (tenor), God (bass), Messiah (soprano- trouser role), Satan (baritone), Zophiel (tenor), Abdiel (tenor). Orchestration and, to a certain extent length, are not yet fixed and can be tailored to the commissioner's programme. Stewart is looking forward to working with choirs to produce an old epic with a modern twist that would function well as a grand work to conclude the second half of a concert or as a conterpoint to another biblical oratorio in the repertory.

### A note from the composer

In the vast 17th century epic of John Milton's *Paradise Lost* there lives a story within the story. It concerns the essential prequel to the sacred tale: Why did Satan do it? How and why does Almighty God have an adversary? We get an answer in Books V and VI where we learn of Satan's journey to the dark side and of the mighty battle that cast him out of heaven.

The story is told by the archangels Raphael and Raphaella, accompanied by the choir in various configurations. God, Satan and Messiah are big solo singing roles. The dramaturgy can be illustrated by projections of the fantastic images by Blake, Dore and others. These paintings are so specific (and magnificent) that the singers can pretty much stand and deliver.

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