Choral works of Father Schmid
– The Perosi Choir at S. Domingos' Church

The choice of venue for enjoying the memorable sacred musical compositions of Father Schmid could not have been better – world heritage listed S. Domingos's Church.

Perosi Choir is presenting a preview concert of the 'Choral Works of Father Guilherme Wilhelm Schmid (1939-1966) in Macau' on Sunday evening, at 8 pm.

The choir will later perform the works, which Father Schmid wrote in Macao, as well as choral works from a number of Macau composers, in August in Hornstein, Austria to present Father Schmid's legacy in his birthplace at the invitation of Mayor Herbert Worschitz.

Born in Hornstein, in 26 April 1910, Father Schmid, Salesian of D. Bosco since 1928, studied music at the Vienna Conservatory. He was a prolific composer and eminent figure in the development of 20th-century music in Macao, having arrived here in 1939 two years after being ordained as a priest. His works are mostly sacred Catholic music, some of which are masses. But he also arranged many musical pieces for the Macao Police Brass Band at the time and assisted local musicians and composers.

Invited to run St. Joseph's Seminary in Macau in 1939, Father Schmid conducted their orchestra and taught Gregorian music. Until his retirement and return to Austria, he also served for 12 years as instructor of the Macao Police Brass Band. In addition, he worked as a music professor at S. Pio X Academy of Music, and at the Instituto Salesiano of which he became headmaster. Father Schmid remained linked to music until his demise in 2000.

The Perosi Choir, a local group of music enthusiasts, was established in 1997, aiming to "promote the art of choral singing, to cultivate interest in music and enhance Macau's music culture".

The choir has not only held annual concerts since it was created but has also been to Hong Kong and mainland China for performances and to promote Macao local choral compositions on many occasions. They have also been a frequent guest-performer at major functions at the invitation of the Macao SAR Government.

In 2004, the Perosi Choir established a small chorus group, who sing cappella works and has since performed at several concerts and events.

Led by their conductor and awarded choral composer, João Ng, the chorus gave a major performance in September at the old Church of St. Joseph's Seminary – another famed world heritage site. They rendered a series of German and Portuguese hymns from the Renaissance, but the highlight of the concert was Dixit Maria, a motet by Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612), one of the most influential German composers of the time, and Missa Dixit Maria, his work of Parody Mass composed after Dixit Maria. They also performed a Christmas concert last December at St. Dominic's Church, presenting excerpts from Handel's "Messiah."

(Admission free)
More info: http://www.macauperosi.org.mo