

londinium

CITY VOICES



Palestrina

Stabat Mater & Motets

Byrd

Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis
(from the 'Great Service')

Brian Gordon
conductor

St Mary le Bow, Cheapside, London EC2V 6AU
Wednesday 9 November 2005

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Welcome you to their first concert, featuring music by Palestrina and Byrd. The singers in this new group, dedicated to performing baroque and classical choral music to the highest possible standard, wish to focus on *a capella* music. They intend to explore the true spirit of the music with their conductor, Brian Gordon, who is known for his musical and textual insight. A series of concerts will, it is hoped, bring to a wider audience the fruits of their work together.

Londinium also organise choral workshops at which singers of all standards are welcome to join them in exploring both little known and popular works. Visit their website at www.londinium-voices.org.uk for details of future events.

For their debut concert Londinium present an evening of unaccompanied choral music from the 17th Century featuring Palestrina's fabulous *Stabat Mater* for 8 voices, originally written for the private chapel of Pope Gregory XIV, and the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis from the *Great Service* of William Byrd. These works of complex polyphony, will be performed with a selection of motets by Palestrina and Byrd.

sopranos

Clare Arthurs, Rebecca Bluett, Fiona Clark, Karen Crossley, Cathryn Fergie, Clare Lovett, Sarah Rosewell, Alison Smith

altos

Phillipa Gardner, Erik Houlihan-Young, Alison Shiers, Helen Statham, Sheila Walsh, Frances Watson, Zoe Yakimoff

tenors

Paul Baxter, James Chesher, Peter Di-Toro, Ivan Patterson, Luke Phillips

basses

Gavin Anderson, Jeremy Crouch, Jeff Kelly, Jonathan Robinson, Alex Smith, Andrew Wightman

brian gordon

Having enjoyed a successful career as a singer, Brian Gordon has now established a reputation as a singing teacher and choir trainer, both in the UK and internationally. He divides his time between conducting, choral training and teaching. He conducted Orlando Chamber Choir from 1995 to 2001, during which time the choir became recognised as one of the foremost baroque choirs in London. International assignments include work for the Berlin Hochschule and Singakademie, Neidersachsen in Germany, Opera Theatre Company, Dublin and Casa da Musica Portugal.

Brian studied singing and piano at the Royal Academy of Music, where he specialised in the performance of baroque music, winning critical acclaim in the title role of Handel's *Solomon*. His operatic debut was in Handel's *Tamerlano* (Batignano), and he subsequently sang the role for Welsh National Opera and the BBC. His London debut was at ENO in Monteverdi's *Orfeo*. He went on to sing with Opera Factory in Cavalli's *La Calisto* and with Opera Restor'd (South Bank, Aldeburgh and Edinburgh Festivals). International engagements included the Vienna Festival with Harnoncourt, Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* with Berio and Arrigo's *Addio Garibaldi* for La Scala, Milan. Recordings include Handel's *Israel in Egypt* and Purcell's *Ode for St Cecilia's Day*, both with John Eliot Gardiner.

William Byrd (1543–1623)

Sing Joyfully

Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis *from the Great Service*

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525–1594)

Stabat Mater

Sicut Cervus *motet for Easter Saturday*

Haec Dies *motet for Easter Sunday*

William Byrd *four motets for All Saints*

Timete Dominum

Beati mundo corde

Justorum animae

Gaudeamus omnes

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Ascendo ad Patrem *motet for Ascension*

Please ensure that all watch alarms, pagers and mobile phones are switched off.

Our thanks to:

The Church of St Mary le Bow, Cheapside (www.stmarylebow.co.uk)

Visitors are welcome to leave donations in the collection plates by the door.

Jeremy Crouch and The Choral Public Domain Library (www.cpd1.org) for sheet music

Helen Statham - fixer Frances Watson - webmaster

Jeff Kelly - flyer design Karen Crossly - programme

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William Byrd (1543–1623)

sing joyfully

Psalm 81:1–4

Sing joyfully unto God our strength. Sing loud unto the God of Jacob.
Take the song and bring forth the timbrel, the pleasant harp and the viol.
Blow the trumpet in the new moon, ev'n in the time appointed and at our feast day.
For this is a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob.

magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit rejoiceth in God my Saviour,
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden,
For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed,
For he that is might hath magnified me, and holy is his name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him, throughout all generations.
He hath shewed his strength with his arm, he hath scattered the proud in the imagination
of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He rememb'ring his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, and is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

nunc dimittis

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
to be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, and is now, and ever shall be world without end.
Amen.

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525–1594)

stabat mater

Stabat mater dolorosa juxta crucem lacrimosa dum pendebat Filius.
Cuius animam gementem, contristatam et dolentem, per transivit gladius.
O quam tristis et afflicta fuit illa benedicta Mater Unigeniti!
Quae moerebat et dolebat pia mater dum videbat Nati poenas inclyti.
Quis est homo qui no fleret Matrem Christi si videret in tanto supplicio?
Quis no posset contristari piam Matrem contemplari dolentem cum Filio?
Pro peccatis suae gentis vidit Jesum in tormentis et flagellis subditum.
Vidit suum dulcem Natum morientem desolatum dum emisit spiritum.
Eia Mater, fons amoris, me sentire vim doloris fac ut tecum lugeam.
Fac ut ardeat cor meum in amando Christum Deum, ut sibi complaceam.
Sancta Mater, istud agas, crucifixi fige plagas cordi meo valide.
Tui nati vulnerati, tam dignati pro me pati, poenas mecum divide.
Fac me pie tecum flere, crucifixo condolere donec ego vixero.
Juxta crucem tecum stare, et me tibi sociare in planctu desidero.
Virgo virginum praeclara, mihi jam non sis amara: fac me tecum plangere.
Fac, ut portem Christi mortem, passionis fac consortem et plagas recolere.
Fac me plagis vulnerari, fac me cruce inebriari et cruore Filii.
Flammis ne urar succensus per te, Virgo, sim defensus in die judicii.
Christe, cum sit hinc exire da per Matrem me venire ad palmam victoriae.
Quando corpus morietur, fac ut animae donetur paradisi gloria.

*The sorrowful Mother stood weeping by the cross while her Son was hanging there.
Her anguished heart, afflicted and sorrowful, was pierced with a sword.
O how sad and grief stricken was that blessed woman, Mother of the only-begotten Son!
How she lamented and sorrowed, when she witnessed the sufferings of her illustrious Son.
Who would not weep if he saw the Mother of Christ in such torment?
Who would not share her sorrow as he witnessed the Mother of Christ grieving with her Son?
She saw Jesus in agony for the sins of his people, and submitting to the scourges.
She saw her dear Son dying deserted as he gave up the ghost.
Ah Mother, fount of love, make me feel the violence of thy sorrow that I may grieve with thee.
Make my heart burn with love for Christ my God, that I may be pleasing unto him.
Blessed Mother, may thou fix the blows of the crucifixion strongly in my heart.
Share with me the pains of they wounded and so worthy Son who was born for me.
Make me weep piously with thee, suffering the crucifixion so that I shall conquer.
I desire to stand by the cross with thee, to share with thee in lamentation.
O virgin of all virgins most noble, may thou now share thy bitterness with me: make me lament with thee.
Grant that I may carry the death of Christ, make me join in his passion and blows he suffered.
May I, through thee, burn with flames and be consumed so that I may be defended in the day of judgement.
O Christ, when Thou comest forth from Thy present torment, grant through the Mother
that I shall bear the victor's palm.
When my body shall die, may my soul be granted glory in paradise.*

sicut cervus

Psalm 42:1

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum, ita desiderat anima mea ad te Deus.
As the deer longs for running water, so longs my soul for Thee, Lord.

haec dies

Psalm 118:24

Haec dies quam fecit Dominus exultemus et laetemur in ea. Alleluia
This is the day which the Lord hath made: we will rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia

William Byrd

tímete dominum

Psalm 33:9.10/Matt. 11:28

Time-te Do-minum omnes sancti ejus: quoniam nihil deest timentibus eum.
Inquirentes autem Dominum, non deficient omni bono. Alleluia.
Venite ad me omnes qui laboratis, et onerati estis: et ego reficiam vos. Alleluia
*Fear the Lord, all ye his Saints; for there is no want to them that fear him:
they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good. Alleluia
Come to me all that labour and are burdened and I will refresh you. Alleluia*

beati mundo

Matt 5: 8-10

Beati mundo corde, quoniam ipsi Deum videbunt.
Beati pacifici, quoniam filii Dei vocabuntur.
Beati qui persecutionem patiuntur propter justitiam
quoniam isporum est regnum coelorum.
*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.
Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

justorum animae

Wisdom 3:1-3

Justorum animae in manu Dei sunt, et non tanget illos, tormentum mortis: visi sunt oculis insipientium mori: illi autem sunt in pace.
But the souls of the just are in the hand of God, and the torment of death shall not touch them, In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die: but they are in peace.

gaudeamus omnes

Gaudeamus omnes in Domino diem festum celebrantes sub honore Sanctorem omnium de quorum solemnitate gaudent angeli et collaudant Filium Dei.
Exultate, exultatate justi in Domino: rectos decet collaudatio.
Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto:
Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.
*Let us all rejoice in the Lord, celebrating a festival day in honour of all the Saints: at whose solemnity the Angels rejoice, and give praise to the Son of God.
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye just: praise befits the upright.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning and is now and ever shall world without end. Amen.*

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

ascendo ad patrem meum

Ascendo ad Patrem meum, et Patrem vestrum, alleluia: Deum meum et Deum vestrum, alleluia: Et dum assumptus fuero a vobis, mittam vobis Spiritum veritatis, et gaudebit cor vestrum. Alleluia.
Ego rogabo Patrem, et alium Paraclitum dabit vobis Spiritum veritatis et gaudebit cor vestrum. Alleluia.
*I am going to my Father, and your Father. Alleluia: My God and your God. Alleluia.
And when I have been taken from you, I shall send you the Spirit of truth, and your heart will rejoice. Alleluia.
I will pray to the Father, and he will give you another comforter, the Spirit of truth. And your heart will rejoice. Alleluia.*