

St Catharine's College Music Society

THE CAMBRIDGE TAVERNER CHOIR

director - Owen Rees

St Edward's Church

Sunday 22nd February 1987

at 8.30p.m.

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| 1. | Salvator mundi | Thomas Tallis (c1505-1585) |
| 2. | Sancte Deus | Thomas Tallis |
| 3. | Videte miraculum | Thomas Tallis |
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| 4. | Mass for five voices | William Byrd (1543-1623) |
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| 5. | Confitebor tibi Domine | John Sheppard (c1519-1560) |
| 6. | O nata lux de lumine | Thomas Tallis |
| 7. | Loquebantur variis linguis | Thomas Tallis |

During the 1530s and 1540s, as the monasteries and other important choral foundations were dissolved, the Chapel Royal came to play an increasingly pre-eminent role in the musical life of the country. All but a few of the greatest composers of the time were (or claimed to be) 'gentlemen' of the Chapel at some stage in their careers. Thomas Tallis retained his position in the choir under no fewer than four sovereigns - Henry, Edward, Mary, and Elizabeth. Two of the works by Tallis performed tonight are grand festal responsories for the Office of Vespers; in these works polyphony alternates with plainchant. Loquebantur variis linguis is for seven voices, which are used to build a rich and complex texture. In Videte miraculum, Tallis achieves richness of a different kind, through frequent suspensions and the occasional but powerful use of homophony. The Jesus-antiphon Sancte Deus is set by Tallis in an expansively melismatic style which suggests a relatively early date, perhaps during Henry's reign. The motets Salvator mundi and O nata lux, may, on the other hand, date from the reign of Elizabeth; both were published in the 'Cantiones Sacrae' of 1575, a project in which Tallis collaborated with Byrd. Such extended Latin works as Sheppard's Confitebor tibi Domine (the text is the twelfth chapter of Isaiah) may have been written for performance before or after the Offices of Matins and Vespers, or at the Mass. This piece provides a fine example of the often highly pungent harmonic style characteristic of Sheppard.

The Cambridge Taverner
Choir

(* soloists in the Byrd Mass)

<u>Sopranos</u>	<u>Altos</u> (cont.)
Kathy Willis	Jan Brown
Judith Henderson	Martin Baker
Emily Hayes	<u>Tenors</u>
Alison Smart*	Mark leBrocq
Liz Marksteiner	Alastair Harper
Janice Carruthers	Alex Kremer*
Julia Hollander	<u>Basses</u>
<u>Altos</u>	Frank Salmon*
Mike Entwisle	Jeremy Hayter
Mel Taylor	James Durran
Rupert Preston Bell*	Gary Snapper*