

# CAMBRIDGE TAVERNER CHOIR

Owen Rees *director*



## CHORAL MUSIC OF THE RENAISSANCE 1994-5

"Sheer musicianship" *Gramophone*  
"An absolute revelation" *Early Music*

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## CHORAL MUSIC OF THE RENAISSANCE Concerts in Jesus College Chapel 1994-5

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**Sunday October 9th, 8.15 pm**

**Duarte Lobo: Eight-part Requiem      Motets by Pedro de Cristo and Aires Fernandez**

In tonight's concert, Lobo's magnificent eight-part Requiem is interspersed with music from the ancient university city of Coimbra, unheard for centuries, which has been uncovered largely through the research of the choir's director, Owen Rees. The choir's performances of this repertoire in concerts and broadcasts have aroused great interest and excitement in both England and Portugal, and in 1993, the choir released a CD recording, *Music from Renaissance Portugal*, which was highly acclaimed by the critics and has now been shortlisted for the *Gramophone* Early Music Award.

**Sunday December 4th, 8.15 pm**

**including carols, anthems and motets by Byrd, Tallis, Sheppard, Pygott and Browne**

During the reigns of the Tudor monarchs, music in a vast range of forms and styles was composed to celebrate the feast of Christmas. This rich variety is represented in tonight's concert, with works including the expressive English courtly carols of Richard Pygott and John Browne, the grand Latin polyphony of Thomas Tallis and John Sheppard, the anthems and sacred songs of William Byrd, and carols for feasts and pageants. The music heard in tonight's concert is available on a CD recording by the Cambridge Taverner Choir, *Music for a Tudor Christmas*.

**Sunday February 26th, 8.15 pm**

**including laments by Weelkes, Tomkins, Ramsey, Josquin, and Gombert**

One of the major concerns of artists of all kinds during the Renaissance was human mortality and transience, and the insignificance of worldly achievement. In tonight's concert, we perform some of the great laments of the period, many of which are settings of texts which reflect this concern. These include the biblical laments of David for his sons, and laments for the deaths of the great composers, such as Josquin and Ockeghem, which inspired both English and continental composers to write some of the most expressive music of the period from the late fifteenth to the early seventeenth centuries.

### Booking Information

Tickets are available, price £7 (£5 concessions) from the Corn Exchange Box Office, Wheeler Street, Cambridge (0223) 357851. A season ticket is available for £18 (£12 concessions). There are also a number of seats behind the screen (with no view), price £3 (£2 concessions). All seats are unreserved. We strongly recommend that you book in advance.

Tickets are often available on the door, but you are advised to phone the box office to check.

## The Cambridge Taverner Choir

Since its first performance in 1986, the choir, under the direction of its founder, Owen Rees, has established itself as one of the few specialist Renaissance choirs outside London. As well as regular concert series and festival appearances in Cambridge, it has performed in many parts of the U.K., and undertook a highly successful tour of Portugal in 1991. 1993 saw the release of the choir's first two CD recordings; both have been acclaimed by the critics, and *Music from Renaissance Portugal* has been shortlisted this year for the *Gramophone* Early Music Award. The choir has also broadcast on Radio 3, and has been featured on Radio 4. The choir's principal emphasis is the performance of Renaissance polyphony in illuminating thematic, liturgical and physical contexts, aiming to recreate the grandeur and excitement of the music of the Tudor age in England, and the 'Golden Age' of Spain and Portugal.

Enquiries about the choir should be made to the Administrator, Helen Garrison, 1 Cloudesley Square, Islington, London, N1 0HT (071) 278 1590, or the director, Owen Rees, Department of Music, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 5XH (0483) 274119

### Forthcoming Events

St Mary's Cathedral at Festivaltime, Edinburgh, Monday 29th August 1994  
8pm - Music from the Spanish Golden Age, including Victoria: Requiem

Hexham Abbey Festival Candlelight Concert, Saturday 24th September 1994,  
7.30pm - Music from Renaissance Portugal and Tudor England, including Lobo: Requiem

Future concerts in Cambridge will include a programme of polychoral music from late Renaissance Rome in the summer. The 1995-6 season will include a major celebration of the work of John Taverner to commemorate the 450th anniversary of his death, and the 10th anniversary of the Cambridge Taverner Choir, including a performance of his *Missa Corona spinea*.

### Recordings

*Music from Renaissance Portugal*: CD (Herald HAVPCD 155) cassette (HAVPC 155), available from music shops or direct from the choir. *Music for a Tudor Christmas*: CD (Past Times PT6491) or cassette (PT6490), available from Past Times, Green Street, Cambridge and branches nationwide, or direct from the choir. Both recordings will be on sale at this year's concerts.

**The Cambridge Taverner Choir performs in Jesus College Chapel by the kind permission of the Master, Chaplain and Fellows of the College.**