

CAMBRIDGE TAVERNER CHOIR

Owen Rees *director*

1996-7



EUROPE 1600

Choral music of the Renaissance in Jesus College Chapel

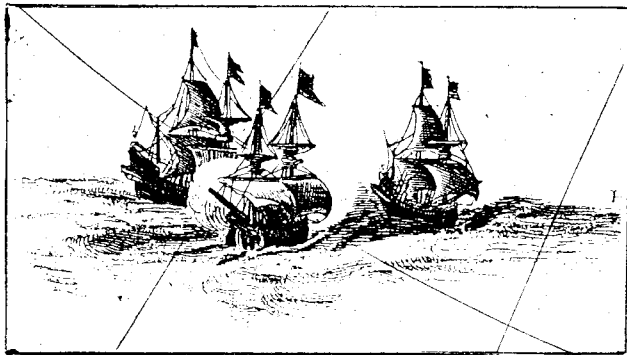
CAMBRIDGE TAVERNER CHOIR

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EUROPE 1600

The Cambridge Taverner Choir's eleventh season of concerts in Cambridge takes the form of a musical tour of Europe, circa 1600, visiting five of the greatest European cities of that time, and performing polyphony by some of the foremost composers of the era, including **Monteverdi, Gabrieli, Cardoso, Guerrero, Lobo, Philips and Byrd.**



All five cities - **Lisbon, Antwerp, Seville, London, and Venice** - were great cosmopolitan trading ports, and the cultural traffic between them was just as strong as their economic links. Indeed, while the great composers working in these cities cultivated richly individual styles, the flourishing international trade in printed music - of which the two most important centres were Antwerp and Venice - nevertheless allowed musical styles and techniques to spread rapidly between countries.

Through atmospheric performances of some of the most powerful sacred music to be heard in each city, our season of concerts aims to build up a picture of the extraordinary musical variety and the powerful cultural interchanges in Europe at the opening of the seventeenth century.

Sunday, October 13th, 8.15pm

LISBON

Manuel Cardoso - *Missa Paradisi portas*
Motets by Cardoso and Rebelo



In 1600, Lisbon was firmly linked, through politics, to Spain, which had ruled Portugal from 1580; through trade, to Northern Europe, where it sold merchandise from its massive overseas empire; and, through religion, to Rome. The careers and surviving music of Cardoso and Rebelo reflect these political and cultural influences, and their works - so admired by Portuguese and Spanish royalty of the time - strive for the most vivid expression of religious emotion.

Sunday, December 8th, 8.15pm

ANTWERP

Philippe de Monte - *Missa Si ambulavero*
Peter Philips - Motets from *Cantiones Sacrae*

Among the most beautiful printed music books of the Renaissance were those issued by such firms as Plantin and Phalèse in Antwerp. This concert presents music by de Monte issued in one of Plantin's lavish volumes, and by the emigré Englishman Peter Philips who lived in Antwerp, and whose music was issued there by Phalèse. The concert takes the form of a mass as celebrated in Antwerp's splendid cathedral, and includes music by the cathedral organist - another Englishman, John Bull.

Sunday, February 2nd, 8.15pm

SEVILLE

Alonso Lobo - *Missa Maria Magdalene*
Motets by Lobo and Guerrero

Seville's cathedral - the largest in Christendom until the completion of St Peter's - was, liturgically and musically, the model for many cathedrals of the New World, rivalling and perhaps even surpassing Toledo as the greatest musical centre in Spain. Francisco Guerrero, a native of Seville, served the cathedral for most of his adult life, and his successor as *maestro de capilla*, Alonso Lobo, paid homage to Guerrero in one of his finest masses, which we perform in this concert.



Sunday, April 20th 8.15pm

LONDON

William Byrd - Motets from *Cantiones Sacrae* 1591, including *Infelix ego*
Anthems and canticles by Byrd and Tomkins

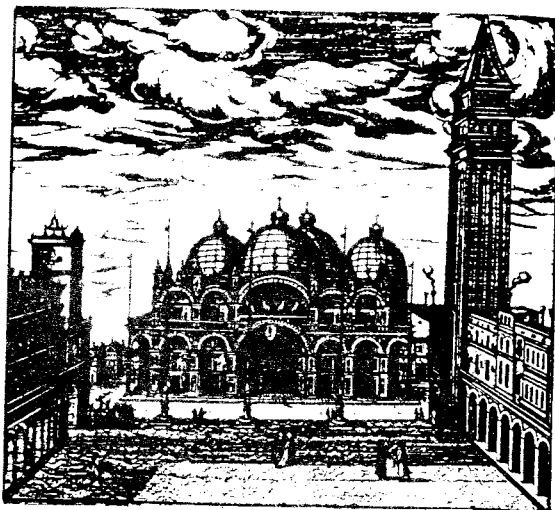


In 1600, London was a highly cosmopolitan city; printed music books from Antwerp and Venice fed the fascination with the latest continental styles. In his 1591 *Cantiones Sacrae*, Byrd showed the influence of the Italian madrigal in works such as *Laudibus in sanctis*, performed here tonight. In contrast, the Anglican repertory of the Chapel Royal adhered to a distinctive English style, heard even in the most monumental liturgical music, such as Byrd's *Great Service*, part of which we sing in this concert.

Sunday, June 8th. 8.15pm

VENICE

Claudio Monteverdi - *Letaniae della Beata Vergine Maria*
Sacred music from St Mark's by Monteverdi and Gabrieli



Venice's enormous wealth, built upon its trade with the East as well as with Europe, was displayed through lavishness in all the arts. This included the cultivation of a new colour and splendour of musical style heard in the music of St Mark's Cathedral. To recreate the atmosphere of St Mark's in the early seventeenth century, we perform works by two of its most distinguished organists, Giovanni Gabrieli and Claudio Merulo, and by its greatest maestro, Claudio Monteverdi.



Booking information

Tickets are available from the Corn Exchange Box Office, Wheeler Street, Cambridge, 01223 357851. 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 on the Saturday afternoon before the concert to check.

Prices £7 (£5 concessions). There is also a number of seats behind the screen (with no view, but good sound), prices £3 (£2). Discounts are available if you buy tickets for three or more concerts at the same time: 3 concerts £18 (£12 concessions), 4 concerts £24 (£16), 5 concerts £30 (£20).

CD RECORDINGS BY THE CAMBRIDGE TAVERNER CHOIR

Music from Renaissance Portugal

Polyphony from the Royal Monastery of Santa Cruz, Coimbra
Including Lobo's 8-voice Requiem and works by
de Cristo, Fernandez and Carreira

CD (Herald HAVPCD 155) or cassette (HAVPC 155), available from music shops or direct from the choir.

Nominated for the *Gramophone* Early Music Award 1994
Selected for Critics' Choice and Editor's Choice in *Gramophone*
" ... performances that will be hard to surpass ... " *Early Music*
"Highly recommended *****" *Classic CD*

"If you have yet to savour early Portuguese music, now is the time, and this is the disc"
Choir & Organ

What is our life?

Laments for Renaissance Kings, Composers
and Courtiers
including works by
Josquin, Gombert, Ramsey, Weelkes,
Tomkins, Byrd, Lobo and Victoria

CD (Herald HAVPCD 187)

Available from music shops or direct from the choir.

Music for a Tudor Christmas

Music by Byrd, Tallis, Sheppard, Browne, and
Pygott

CD (Past Times PT6491) or cassette (PT6490)

Available from branches of Past Times
or direct from the choir.

CAMBRIDGE TAVERNER CHOIR

Owen Rees *director*

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

Since its first performance in 1986, the Cambridge Taverner 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 undertaken highly successful tours of Portugal in 1991 and Switzerland and Italy in 1996; it has also broadcast on Radio 3, and has been featured on Radio 4. The choir has released three recordings; all have been acclaimed by the critics, and *Music from Renaissance Portugal* was shortlisted for the *Gramophone* Early Music Award in 1994.

The choir, whose members are ex-choral scholars of Cambridge University, specialises in the performance of sacred polyphony in illuminating thematic, liturgical and physical contexts, aiming to recreate the grandeur and excitement of the European Renaissance, especially the Tudor age in England and the "Golden Age" of Spain and Portugal. The choir also performs baroque and contemporary works. The 1995/6 season celebrated the music of John Taverner on the occasion of the 450th anniversary of his death, and included a prestigious commission from the contemporary composer, John Tavener.

"The very highest standards of ensemble and intonation" *Gramophone*
"Remarkable tightness and nuance of gesture" *Early Music*
"Perfect tuning and phrasing ... a vibrant glow" *Classic CD*

Enquiries about the choir should be made to the Administrator, Helen Garrison, 29 Denton House, Bingham Court, Halton Road, Islington, London, N1 2AE. To join our free mailing list, please write to the Secretary, 82 Gwydir Street, Cambridge CB1 2LL.

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

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Owen Rees *director*



CHORAL MUSIC OF THE RENAISSANCE