

CAMBRIDGE TAVERNER CHOIR

Owen Rees - director

*Great Masses
of the
Renaissance*

Jesus College Chapel, Cambridge

20th MAY 2001

8.15 p.m.

PROGRAMME
Music by Tomás Luis de Victoria

VICTORIA: OFFICIUM DEFUNCTORUM 1605

Motet: *Commissa mea pavesco* Filipe de Magalhães
Lectio II ad Matutinum: *Taedet animam meam* Tomás Luis de Victoria

THE MASS BEGINS

Introitus Victoria
Kyrie Victoria
Graduale Victoria
Sequence: *Dies irae* (chant) Victoria
Offertories Victoria
Offertory motet: *Audivi vocem de caeli* Duarte Lobo

INTERVAL OF 10 MINUTES

Motet: *Non mortui* Manuel Cardoso
Preface (chant) Victoria
Sanctus Victoria
Agnus Dei Victoria
Communio Victoria

THE MASS ENDS

Motet: *Versa est in luctum* Victoria
Responsorium : *Libera me* Victoria
Motet: *Versa est in luctum* Victoria

Sopranos: Helen Ashby, Kate Ashby, Josie Dixon, Helen Garrison, Hester Higton, Sally Terris, Tanya Wicks

Altos: Rachael Beale, Janet Bullard, Simon Godsill

Tenors: Paul Baumann, Tom Salmon, Joss Sanders, Edwin Simpson, David Thomson

Basses: Rupert Beale, James Durran, Gary Snapper, Paul Watson

The Cambridge Taverner Choir is a member of the National Federation of Music Societies



Our thanks to the Master & Fellows of Jesus College for their kind permission to use the chapel.

Motet : Commissa mea pavesco

Commissa mea pavesco, et ante te erubesco: dum veneris iudicare, noli me condemnare.

I dread my misdeeds, and blush before Thee: do not condemn me, when Thou shalt come to judge.

Lectio II ad Matutinum: Taedet animam meam

Taedet animam meam vitae meae, dimittam adversum me eloquium meum, loquar in amaritudine animae meae. Dicam Deo: Noli me condemnare: iudica mihi, cur me ita iudices. Numquid bonum tibi videtur, si calumniaris, et opprimas me, opus manuum tuarum, et consilium impiorum adiuves? Numquid oculi carnei tibi sunt; aut, sicut videt homo, et tu vides? Numquid sicut dies hominis dies tui, et anni tui sicut humana sunt tempora, ut quaeras iniquitatem meam, et peccatum meum scruteris? Et scias, quia nihil impium fecerim, cum sit nemo, qui de manu tua possit eruere.

My soul is weary of my life, I will let go my speech against myself, I will speak in the bitterness of my soul. I will say to God; tell me why Thou judgest me so. Doth it seem good to Thee that Thou shouldst calumniate me, and oppress me, the work of Thy own hands, and help the counsel of the wicked? Hast Thou eyes of flesh: or, shalt Thou see as man seeth? Are Thy days as the days of man, and are Thy years as the times of men, that Thou shouldst inquire after my iniquity, and search after my sin? And Thou shouldst know that I have done no wicked thing, whereas there is no man that can deliver out of Thy hand.

Introitus

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine: et lux perpetua luceat eis. Te decet hymnus in Sion, et tibi reddetur votum in Ierusalem: exaudi orationem meam, ad te omnis caro veniet.

Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord: and let light perpetual shine upon them. A hymn, O God, becometh Thee in Sion; and a vow shall be paid to Thee in Jerusalem. O hear my prayer, all flesh shall come to Thee.

Kyrie

Kyrie eleison; Christe eleison; Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy on upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Graduale

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine: et lux perpetua luceat eis. In memoria aeterna erit iustus: ab auditione mala non timebit.

Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord: and let light perpetual shine upon them. The just shall be in everlasting remembrance, he shall not fear the evil hearing.

Offertorium

Domine Iesu Christe, Rex Gloriam, libera animas omnium fidelium defunctorum de poenis inferni, et de profundo lacu: libera eas de ore leonis, ne absorbeat eas tartarus, ne cadant in obscurum: sed signifer Sanctus Michael, repraesentet eas in lucem sanctam: Quam olim Abrahae promisisti, et semini eius. Hostias et preces tibi, Domine, laudis offerimus: tu suscipe pro animabus illis, quarum hodie memoriam facimus: fac eas, Domine, de morte transire ad vitam. Quam olim Abrahae...

O Lord Jesus Christ, King of Glory, deliver the souls of all the faithful departed from the pains of hell and from the deep pit: deliver them from the lion's mouth, that hell may not swallow them up, and may they not fall into darkness; but may the holy standard-bearer, Michael, lead them into the holy light: which Thou didst promise to Abraham and his seed. Sacrifices and prayers we offer unto Thee, O Lord; receive them for those souls for whom we make memorial this day; let them, O Lord, pass from death unto life. Which Thou didst promise to Abraham...

Offertory motet : Audivi vocem de caelo

Audivi vocem de caelo, dicentem mihi: Beati mortui qui Domino moriuntur.

I heard a voice from Heaven saying unto me: Blessed are the Dead who die in the Lord.

Motet : Non mortui

Non mortui qui sunt in inferno, quorum spiritus acceptus est a visceribus suis, dabunt honorem et iustificationem Domino, sed animaue tristis est super magnitudinem mali et incedit curva et infirma dat tibi gloriam et iustitiam Domino.

They are not dead who are in Hell, whose souls have passed from their flesh; they shall give honour and justification to the Lord. But the soul that is filled with woe over the magnitude of its sin and treads a path that is crooked and weak gives Thee glory and justice, O Lord.

Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Domine Deus Sabaoth, Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Osanna in excelsis. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domine. Osanna in excelsis.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts, Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem sempiternam.

Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant them rest. Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant them rest. Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant them eternal rest.

Communio

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine: cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es. Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis. Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius est. Requiescant in pace. Amen.

May light eternal shine upon them, O Lord: With Thy saints for ever, for Thou art merciful. Eternal rest grant unto the, O Lord: and let perpetual light shine upon them. With thy saints for ever, for Thou are merciful. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Motet : Versa est in luctum

Versa est in luctum cithara mea, et organum meum in vocem flentium. Parce mihi, Domine, nihil enim sunt dies mei.

My harp is turned to mourning and my music into the voice of those that weep. Spare me, Lord, for my days are nothing.

Responsorium : Libera me

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna, in die illa tremenda: Quando caeli movendi sunt et terra: Dum veneris iudicare saeculum per ignem, Tremens factus sum ego, et timeo, dum discussio venerit, atque ventura ira. Quando caeli movendi sunt et terra. Dies illa, dies irae, calamitatis et miseriae, dies magna et amara valde. Dum veneris iudicare saeculum per ignem. Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine: et lux perpetua luceat eis. Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna, in die illa tremenda: Quando caeli movendi sunt et terra: Dum veneris iudicare saeculum per ignem. Kyrie eleison; Christe eleison; Kyrie eleison.

Deliver me, O Lord, from eternal death in that awful day: when the heavens and earth shall be moved: when Thou shalt come to judge the world by fire. Dread and trembling have laid hold on me, and I fear exceedingly because of the judgement and the wrath to come. When the heavens and the earth shall be shaken. On that day, that day of wrath, of sore distress, and of all wretchedness, that great and exceeding bitter day. When Thou shalt come to judge the world by fire. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Deliver me, O Lord, from eternal death in that awful day: when the heavens and the earth shall pass away: when Thou shalt come to judge the world by fire. Lord have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

PROGRAMME NOTES

In this evening's concert we present a performance of Victoria's *Officium Defunctorum for Six Voices*, written to mark the death of the Dowager Empress Maria, sister of Philip II of Spain, which occurred in 1603. Two years later Victoria's music was published by the Royal Press in Madrid. This publication included polyphonic settings not only of the various sections of the Requiem Mass itself, but also of the Second Lesson of Matins for the Dead – *Taedet animam meam* – as well as the *Responsorium : Libera me Domine*. Victoria also chose to include a Motet – *Versa est in luctum* – and tonight's concert will end with an equally impressive setting of the same words, written for the funeral of Philip II himself by a Spanish contemporary of Victoria, Alonso Lobo.

Portuguese as well as Spanish composers were cultivating highly poetic styles with which to adorn sacred texts in the early seventeenth century. The best-known of these Portuguese musicians, whose works appeared in lavish editions during the first decades of the century, were Duarte Lôbo, Filipe de Magalhães, and Manuel Cardoso, all of them trained at the cathedral in Evora, but active for most of their lives in Lisbon. The motets by these three composers performed tonight are all scored for six voices and set texts suitable for a Requiem service. Indeed, Cardoso's *Non mortui* was published in the same volume (1625) as his six-voice setting of the Requiem Mass.

The Cambridge Taverner Choir, founded in 1986, belongs to a generation of exciting early music chamber choirs which, like The Tallis Scholars and The Sixteen, emerged from the Oxford and Cambridge choral tradition. As well as regular concert series and festival appearances in Cambridge, the choir 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 short-listed for the Gramophone Early Music Award in 1994.

The choir 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, and especially the Tudor age in England and the Iberian 'Golden Age'. The choir also performs baroque and contemporary works. The 1995/6 season celebrated the music of John Taverner on the 450th anniversary of his death, and included a prestigious commission from the contemporary composer, John Tavener, while the 1996/7 season explored the music of five great European cities at the turn of the seventeenth century. In 1999 the choir performed the complete motets of J.S. Bach with guest director John Butt.

Owen Rees began his academic and conducting career as Organ Scholar at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, studying with Peter le Huray and Iain Fenlon. After a period as College Lecturer in Music at St Peter's College and St Edmund Hall, Oxford, he joined the Music Department at the University of Surrey. In 1997 he returned to Oxford, where he is Fellow in Music and Organist at the Queen's College, Lecturer at Somerville College, and Lecturer in the Faculty of Music. His published studies include work on musical sources and repertoires from Coimbra, and on the music of, for example, Francisco Guerrero and William Byrd. His work as a scholar has consistently informed his work as a performer. He has conducted at festivals in the UK, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, France, and the Netherlands. Choirs under his direction have released CD recordings on the Herald, Hyperion, and Unicorn Kanchana labels, to consistently high critical acclaim.

FORTHCOMING CONCERTS IN THE SERIES

Sunday 4th August, 7.30pm. The Lady Chapel, Ely Cathedral

Taverner - Missa Gloria tibi trinitas

(Part of the Cambridge Summer Music Festival)
Tickets can be obtained from the Arts Box Office 01223 503333 from 1st June

Sunday 30th September, 8.15pm. Little St Mary's Church, Cambridge

Duarte Lobo - Missa Cantate Domino

Sunday 9th December, 8.15pm. Jesus College Chapel, Cambridge

Tallis - Missa Puer natus est nobis

Tickets for concerts in Cambridge are available from the
Corn Exchange Box Office, Wheeler Street, Cambridge 01223 357851

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