

Cambridge
Taverner Choir

Owen Rees, director

The Golden Age

Music for the Royal Houses of Spain and Portugal

Choral Music of the Renaissance 2003/4
in the Little St Mary's Church, Cambridge

Sunday November 30th, 7.45 pm

Morales & the Emperor Charles V

Morales: Missa Mille regretz, and motets by Gombert

Sunday February 1st, 7.45 pm

Rogier & King Philip II of Spain

Rogier: Missa Ego sum qui sum, and motets by Alonso Lobo

Sunday March 28th, 7.45 pm

Victoria & the Empress Maria

Victoria: Requiem

Sunday June 20th, 7.45 pm

Cardoso & King John IV of Portugal

Cardoso: Missa Paradisi portas, and motets by Duarte Lobo

Booking information

Tickets are available from the Corn Exchange Box Office, Wheeler Street, Cambridge, 01223 357851, priced £10 (£8 concessions), or £9 (£7 concessions) if you book for more than one concert. All seats are unreserved. The church is on the Trumpington Street, next to Peterhouse.

Cambridge Taverner Choir

www.cambridgetavernerchoir.org.uk

Sheer musicianship (Gramophone)
An absolute revelation (Early Music)

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Two anniversaries—the 450th of the death of the famous Spanish composer Cristóbal de Morales in 1553, and the 400th of the birth of King John IV of Portugal—have shaped the Cambridge Taverner Choir's season of concerts this year. Morales was the most important Iberian composer before Victoria, his music copied and sung throughout Europe and for decades after his death. Just as several prominent works by Morales reflect his connections with the Emperor Charles V, so other composers of the Iberian golden age reveal their service of Spanish and Portuguese royalty in their music. The royal figures on which we focus in these concerts are two of Charles's children, King Philip II of Spain and the Dowager Empress Maria, and King John IV of Portugal, renowned as a musical collector and patron. The music we perform includes the glorious six-voice Requiem of Victoria, written to mark the death of the Empress Maria in 1603, Morales's five-voice *Missa Mille regretz*, based upon 'the Emperor's song', and the magnificent *Missa Paradisi portas* of Manuel Cardoso, the most favoured composer of John IV.

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The Cambridge Taverner Choir is one of Britain's leading early music chamber choirs. Like The Tallis Scholars and The Sixteen, the choir emerged from the Oxford and Cambridge choral tradition and has built a reputation for powerful and expressive performances of Renaissance polyphony. Since reaching the shortlist for the Gramophone Early Music Award in 1994, the choir has received acclaim for its concerts and recordings of Renaissance choral music. Recently, the choir has performed at the York Early Music Festival and the Oslo Church Music Festival, and released its fourth CD, Music from Renaissance Portugal II. In addition to appearances throughout Britain and abroad, the choir regularly performs to enthusiastic audiences in the beautiful and resonant medieval environments of Jesus College Chapel and Little St Mary's Church in Cambridge.

For further information, please see the choir's website at www.cambridgetavernerchoir.org.uk.

CD Recordings by the Cambridge Taverner Choir

Music from Renaissance Portugal

Polyphony from the Royal Monastery of Santa Cruz, Coimbra

including Lobo: 8-voice Requiem and works by de Cristo, Fernandez and Carreira

Herald HAVPCD 155

Shortlisted for the Gramophone Early Music Award

An absolute revelation ... Performances that will be hard to surpass (Early Music)

Music from Renaissance Portugal II

Polyphony from Lisbon Cathedral

including Lobo: *Missa Cantate Domino* and works by de Cristo and de Gamboa

Herald HAVPCD 277

Beautiful music superbly performed (Gramophone)

What is Our Life?

Laments for Renaissance Kings, Princes and Composers

including works by Josquin, Gombert, Weelkes, Tomkins, Byrd and Lobo

Herald HAVPCD 187

Passionate singing ... Gloriously full sound (Early Music Review)

The Song the Virgine Soong

Christmas Music from Tudor England

including works by Tallis, Byrd, Browne, Pygott and Smert

Herald HAVPCD 252

***** (BBC Music)