

# Musica Spei

Presents

# Cathedrals of Sound

Soaring choral music of the English Renaissance

Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7:30 pm, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Auburn

Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Geneseo

Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm, St. Anne Church, Rochester

## PROGRAM

Domine, Tu Eruisti

O Lux Beata Trinitas

Gaude Virgo Salutata

Ne Irascaris, Domine

Videte Miraculum

Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)

Robert Fayrfax (1464-1521)

John Dunstable (1380-1453)

William Byrd (1543-1623)

Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

## Intermission

Salvator Mundi

In Pace In Idipsum

Gaude Glorioso Dei Mater

Thomas Tallis

Thomas Tallis

Thomas Tallis

*Singers:* Jeanne Beddoe, Alexandra Bermel, Jim Blake, Lynette Blake, Victoria Bridges, Mary Cowden, Jennifer Dydo, Joe Finetti, Christopher Gold (*rehearsal conductor*), Jeff Harp, William Hawkins, Eric Lobenstine, Richard Sauvain, Beth Cross Wilhelm  
*Artistic Guide Emeritus:* Steve Marcus

Free Will Offering (Suggested Donation \$5)

## Program Notes

This concert presents a “tour in sound” of a English Renaissance cathedral, with selections evoking the grandeur of the main sanctuary (Thomas Tallis’ *Gaude Gloriosa*), the quiet peace of a light-filled side chapel (Tallis’ *In Pace* and *Videte Miraculum*), and the darkness of the catacombs (Robert Fayrfax’s *O Lux beata*). The selections encompass two centuries of choral writing, from the early 15<sup>th</sup> century (John Dunstable) through the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Thomas Tomkins).

The centerpiece for this performance is the *Gaude gloriosa Dei mater* of Thomas Tallis, one of his most famous and performed works. Likely written during the Catholic Reformation of Queen Mary Tudor (1553-1558), it is a joyful hymn of praise to the Virgin Mary (and possibly of Queen Mary herself). Tallis achieves variety in the 9 verses by writing portions for 3, 4, and 5 soloists, as well as the full ensemble. Though certain sections have a gentle and sweet sound, when the full ensemble enters the sound swells and fills the sanctuary with rich, dense harmonies.

Two other pieces by Tallis, *Videte miraculum* and *In pace in idipsum*, are more suited to a quiet chapel than the main sanctuary. The mood of *In pace* is that of a lullaby, a prayer for “sleep and rest in true peace”. Simple, with long flowing lines in every voice, the sections are interspersed with a chant echoing the text. In *Videte miraculum* the text and mood are full of hushed awe at the miracle of the birth of Jesus. Here, too, chant is interposed with repetitions of the text, and the final verse swells from intensely quiet to a glorious climax.

Using only the low voices of the ensemble, Robert Fayrfax’s *O Lux beata trinitas* has a very dark sound, reminding us that not all spaces within the Cathedral are full of light. In direct contrast to the musical tone, the text speaks of the light of the Blessed Trinity, and the fiery light of the setting sun. Other pieces on the program include William Byrd’s *Ne irascaris* and Thomas Tomkins’ rarely performed *Domine, tu eruisti*, which is unique in being the only piece that Tomkins wrote in Latin.

The composers represented in this performance are each among the greatest in their respective eras, from John Dunstable in the early Renaissance (1390?-1453) through Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585) and William Byrd (1543?-1623) to Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656), who clung to the older styles of the Renaissance, even though he was writing at the beginning of the Baroque era. Tallis, perhaps the most acclaimed composer of the time in England, wrote during the reign of 4 monarchs (Henry VIII – Elizabeth I), pragmatically shifting his styles from florid to more ascetic, depending on the religious affiliation (Catholic or Protestant) of the ruler at the time.

## Texts and Translations

**Domine, tu eruisti.....Thomas Tomkins**

Domine, tu autem eruisti animam meam ut non periret;  
projecisti omnia peccata mea post tergum tuum

Lord, thou hast delivered my soul that it should not perish,  
thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.

**O lux, beata Trinitas.....Robert Fayrfax**

O lux beata Trinitas, et principalis Unitas,  
iam sol recedit igneus, infunde lumen cordibus.

O Trinity, blessed light and principal Unity,  
Now that the fiery sun recedes, pour thy light into our hearts.

Deo Patri sit gloria, eiusque soli Filio,  
cum Spiritu Paraclito, et nunc, et in perpetuum.

To God the Father be glory, and to his only Son,  
With the Spirit, the Paraclete, both now and forever. Amen.

Gaude Virgo salutata..... John Dunstable

The following four texts, all in praise of the Virgin Mary, are sung simultaneously:

Sopranos: Gaude virgo salutaris	<< translation of title, and summary of full text>>
Altos: Gaude virgo singularis	???
Baritones: Virgo mater comprobaris	???
Basses: Ave gemma celi luminarium.	???

Ne irascaris, Domine..... William Byrd

Ne irascaris Domine satis, et ne ultra memineris iniquitatis nostrae. Ecce respice populus tuus omnes nos.	Be not angry, O Lord, and remember our iniquity no more. Behold, we are all your people.
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Civitas sancti tui facta est deserta. Sion deserta facta est, Jerusalem desolata est.	Your holy city has become a wilderness. Zion has become a wilderness, Jerusalem has been made desolate.
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Videte miraculum..... Thomas Tallis

Videte miraculum matris Domini: concepit virgo virilis ignara consortii, stans onerata nobili onere Maria; et matrem se laetam cognosci, quae se nescit uxorem.	Behold the miracle of the mother of the Lord; a virgin has conceived though she knows not a man, Mary, who stands laden with her noble burden; knowing not that she is a wife, she rejoices to be a mother.
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Haec speciosum forma prae filiis hominum castis concepit visceribus, et benedicta in aeternum Deum nobis protulit et hominem. Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.	She has conceived in her chaste womb one who is beautiful beyond the sons of men, and blessed for ever, she has brought forth God and man for us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
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Salvator mundi ..... Thomas Tallis

Salvator mundi, salva nos; qui per crucem et sanguinem redemisti nos, auxiliare nobis, te deprecamur, Deus noster.	Savior of the world, save us, who through thy cross and blood didst redeem us: help us, we beseech thee, our God.
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In pace in idipsum ..... Thomas Tallis

In pace, in idipsum, dormiam et requiescam. Si dedero somnum oculis meis, et palpebris meis dormitationem, dormiam et requiescam. Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto. In pace.	In peace, in true peace I shall sleep and rest. If I give slumber to my eyes and to my eyelids drowsiness, I shall sleep and rest. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit In peace.
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Gaude glorioso Dei mater ..... Thomas Tallis

Gaude gloriosa Dei Mater, Virgo Maria vere honorificanda, quae a Domino in gloria super caelos exaltata adepta es thronum.

Rejoice, O glorious Mother of God, Virgin Mary truly worthy of honor, who, exalted by the Lord in glory above the heavens, hast gained a throne.

Gaude Virgo Maria, cui angelicae turmae dulces in caelis resonant laudes: iam enim laetaris visione Regis cui omnia servirunt.

Rejoice, O Virgin Mary, to whom the hosts of angels in heaven sweetly sing praises: for now thou doest enjoy the sight of the King whom all things serve.

Gaude concivis in caelis sanctorum, quae Christum in utero illaesa portasti: igitur Dei Mater digne appellaris.

Rejoice, fellow citizen of the heavenly saints, thou who without blemish bore Christ in thy womb: wherefore thou art justly called the Mother of God.

Gaude flos florum speciosissima, virga iuris, formae morum, fessi cura, pes labentis, mundi lux, et peccatorum refugium.

Rejoice, most beautiful flower of flowers, rod of justice, mould of virtues, succor of the weary, a firm foothold for those who fall, light of the world, and refuge of sinners.

Gaude Virgo Maria quam dignam laude celebrat ecclesia, quae Christi doctrinis illustrata te Matrem glorificat.

Rejoice, O Virgin Mary, who art worthy of the praise the Church celebrates, which, enlightened by the teachings of Christ, glorifies thee as Mother.

Gaude Virgo Maria, quae corpore et anima ad summum propecta es palacium: et, ut auxiliatrix et interventrix pro nobis miserimis peccatoribus, supplicamus.

Rejoice, O Virgin Mary, who in body and soul are borne to the highest palace: and to whom, as Strength and Advocate for us miserable sinners, we make our supplication.

Gaude Maria intercessorum adiutrix et damnandorum salvatrix celebranda.

Rejoice, O Mary, celebrated as help of those who intercede and savior of the damned.

Gaude sancta Virgo Maria cuius prole omnes salvamur a perpetuis inferorum suppliciis et a potestate diabolica liberati.

Rejoice, holy Virgin Mary, by whose offspring all are saved from the perpetual torments of Hell and freed from the power of the devil.

Gaude Virgo Maria Christi benedicta Mater, vena misericordiae et gratiae: cui supplicamus ut nobis pie clamantibus attendas, itaque tuo in nomine mereamur adesse caelorum regnum. Amen.

Rejoice, Virgin Mary, blessed Mother of Christ, channel of mercy and grace: to whom we pray that thou wouldst give ear to our devout cry so that in thy name we may deserve to enter the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

**Musica Spei (Music of Hope)** explores the vast repertoire of rarely performed sacred, unaccompanied choral masterworks of the 15th, 16th and early 17th centuries, and shares these riches with audiences throughout central and western New York. Musica Spei has twice been included in the "Best of Rochester" listings in City Newspaper. In 2001 it organized the first Rochester Early Music Festival, which brought together many of Rochester's early music groups for a three day period of concerts and lectures. Musica Spei also offers Renaissance Summer Sings for members of the community who enjoy singing this repertoire and sharing this joy with other singers. Musica Spei is unique for a Renaissance choral ensemble in that it performs without a conductor and (in the spirit of a jazz or chamber music ensemble) develops its interpretations in a collaborative fashion based on communication and interaction among the performers.

### **Renaissance Summer Sings**

**Musica Spei's 2008 summer sings will be Wednesday nights, July 9 through August 13, at 7:30 PM  
SAINT ANNE CHURCH, 1600 MOUNT HOPE AVENUE, ROCHESTER**

A friendly informal gathering to read through a variety of Renaissance sacred choral music. Sight singing experience helpful, as we sing without accompaniment and only rarely practice parts individually.