

*Musica Spei*  
*presents*

# Music of Hope

**A Celebration of Sacred Choral Music  
of the British Renaissance**

Domine, tu eruisti	Thomas Tompkins (1572-1656)
O lux beata Trinitas	Robert Fayrfax (1464-1521)
Ne irascaris, Domine	William Byrd (1543-1623)
Si quis diligit me	David Peebles (?-1579?)
Maria plena virtute	Fayrfax

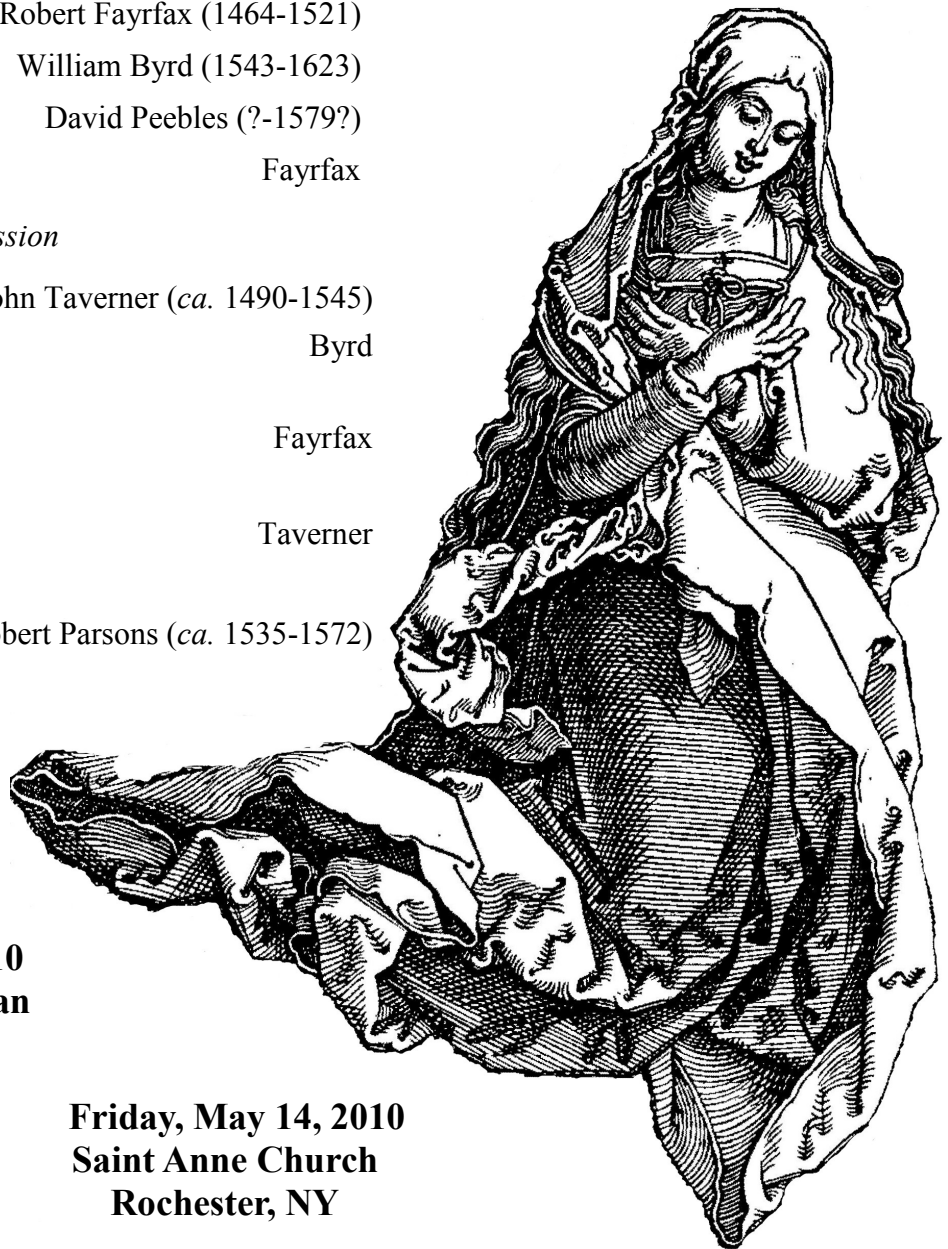
*Intermission*

Kyrie "Le roy"	John Taverner (ca. 1490-1545)
Gloria <i>Mass for Five Voices</i>	Byrd
Sanctus <i>Missa O quam gloriosa</i>	Fayrfax
Agnus Dei <i>Missa Mater Christi</i>	Taverner
Ave Maria	Robert Parsons (ca. 1535-1572)

*Please hold applause until  
the end of each  
half of the concert.*

**Friday, May 7, 2010  
Saint Mary's Roman  
Catholic Church  
Auburn, NY**

**Friday, May 14, 2010  
Saint Anne Church  
Rochester, NY**



## Program Notes

For its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert, Musica Spei has selected works by composers of the Golden Age of the English Renaissance, including pieces from 4 Gentleman of the Chapel Royal, the select group of men chosen to write and perform for the kings and queens of England. Each of these Gentlemen was, in his time, among the finest musicians of the age.

Thomas Tomkins grew up in a very musical family; his father and his three half-brothers were all church musicians. Thomas surpassed them all, however, studying with William Byrd and being appointed to the Chapel Royal sometime before 1620. His *Domine, tu eruisti* is a gentle prayer of thanks for God's forgiveness of our sins.

The *O lux beata Trinitas* of Robert Fayrfax speaks in praise of the light of the holy Trinity, but sets the music in contrast to the text, utilizing the low voices of the ensemble to create a dark and mysterious sound. The *Ne irascaris* by William Byrd continues the dark and troubled tone; it is a lament of the fall of Zion, and ends with '*Jerusalem desolata est*' (Jerusalem is desolate), mournfully repeating the last words over and over, in a use of major-key tonality that conveys resigned acceptance. David Peebles, composing in Scotland at about the same time, chooses a more hopeful and joyous text from the Gospel of John for his motet *Si quis diligit me* (If anyone loves me, he will keep my commandment), and reflects the text with a light, clear sound in the upper voices.

The *Maria plena virtute* by Robert Fayrfax is a monumental work – almost 15 minutes in length – which intertwines a very personal supplication to Mary with a retelling of the Passion of Christ, taking text from several of the Gospels. Woven from duets and trios as well as 5 voice full choir sections, it is a work of surpassing beauty and passion.

In the year 1504 Robert Fayrfax submitted a composed mass to his professors at Cambridge University as partial completion of his degree requirements. A doctoral thesis does not normally have a place in a concert program – nor are there many which are of interest more than 500 years after completion – but a highlight of this program is the Sanctus movement from Fayrfax's monumental mass *O quam glorifica*. The name of the mass arises from the initial words of the chant the mass is based on; the translation of the chant (not heard) begins 'With what glorious light you are resplendent, O queen, born of David's line!' The Sanctus, too, is resplendent: though seldom performed due to its technical difficulty, it reveals, amidst the complexity, wondrous beauty and power.

The Fayrfax Sanctus is combined with mass movements by John Taverner and William Byrd to create a composite mass. Taverner's Kyrie is gently serene and calm, while the Gloria by Byrd, is joyfully exuberant. After the Sanctus by Fayrfax, with all its rhythmic and melodic density and power, Taverner's Agnus Dei brings a sweetness and simplicity to the closing of the mass.

The program ends with Robert Parsons' *Ave Maria*, a richly woven tapestry of praise to the Virgin Mary. The closing *Amen* of this work is magnificent, slowly building to its peak before dying away in peace and tranquility.

Our concert title, 'Music of Hope,' is the English translation of Musica Spei, chosen in celebration of our 15 years of performance in Western New York. We have been inspired in ways we could not have imagined by the music that we sing, and believe that in some small way, our performance brings our audience a sense of that inspiration, and of hope.

## **About Musica Spei**

Celebrating 15 years of music-making in 2010, Musica Spei's recent accomplishments include a live performance on WXXI's Backstage Pass radio show and a reinvigoration of the Rochester Early Music Festival (REMF), which the group first organized in 2001. The 2009 REMF featured Thomas Tallis' masterpiece for 40 voices, *Spem in Alium*, performed by Musica Spei with the help of singers recruited from around the Rochester region.

This program, Music of Hope: A Celebration of Sacred Polyphony from the British Renaissance, is being presented at St. Mary's Church, Auburn, NY (May 7, 7:30 pm), at St. Peter's Church, Dansville, NY (May 8, 7:30 pm), and at St. Anne Church, Rochester, NY (May 14, 8:00 pm).

Musica Spei organizes Renaissance Summer Sings on select Wednesday nights in July and August for members of the community who wish to participate in singing this repertoire. Check our website: [www.musicaspei.org](http://www.musicaspei.org), for more information about upcoming concerts, summer sings, the imminent release of our second CD, and the Tenth Annual Rochester Early Music Festival, slated for November 5, 2010.

The members of Musica Spei are Jeanne Beddoe, Alexandra Bermel, Jim Blake, Lynette Blake, Mary Cowden, Beth Cross Wilhelm, Juli Elliot, Joe Finetti, Chris Gold, Jeff Harp, William Hawkins, Eric Lobenstine, Tom Rusling, Richard Sauvain, and Jeff Tabor. Artistic Guide: Steve Marcus.

For more information about Musica Spei, visit <http://www.musicaspei.org> or call 248-0554.



## Texts and translations

### *Domine, tu eruisti*

Thomas Tomkins

b. 1572 (St David's, Pembrokeshire, Wales); d. 1656 (Worcester, Worcestershire, England)

Domine, tu eruisti animam meam, ut non periret. Projecisti omnia peccata mea post tergum tuum.	Lord, you have rescued my spirit that it should not die. You have cast forth all my sins out of your sight.
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### *O lux beata Trinitas*

Robert Fayrfax

b. 1464 (Deeping Gate, Lincolnshire, England); d. 1521 (St. Albans, Hertfordshire, England)

Arranged by John White

O lux beata Trinitas, et principalis unitas, iam sol recedit igneus, infunde lumen cordibus. Deo Patri sit gloria, eiusque soli Filio,  cum Spiritu Paraclito, et nunc, et in perpetuum. Amen.	O Trinity, blessed light and principal unity, Now that the fiery sun recedes, pour your light into our hearts. To God the Father be glory, and to his only Son, With the Spirit, the Paraclete, both now and forever. Amen.
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### *Ne irascaris, Domine*

source: Isaiah 64:9-10

William Byrd

b. 1543 (London, England); d. 1623 (Stondon Massey, Essex, England)

Ne irascaris, Domine, satis, et ne ultra memineris iniquitatis nostrae. Ecce, respice, populus tuus omnes nos. Civitas sancti tui facta est deserta. Sion deserta facta est, Jerusalem desolata est	Be not, o Lord, very angry, and do not remember forever our iniquity. Behold, see, we are your people, all of us. The city of your sanctuary has become a desert, Zion has been made a desert, Jerusalem is desolate.
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### *Si quis diligit me*

source: John 14:23

David Peebles

active in Scotland, ca. 1530 – ca. 1579

Si quis diligit me sermonem meum servabit  et pater meus diliget eum; et ad eum veniemus et mansionem apud eum faciemus. Alleluia.	If anyone loves me, he will keep my commandment, and my Father will love him; and we will come to him and make our abode beside him. Alleluia.
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*Maria plena virtute*  
Robert Fayrfax

<p>Maria plena virtute pietatis gratiae, mater misericordiae, tu nos ab hoste protege.</p> <p>Clementissima Maria, vitae per merita compassionis tuae pro nobis preces effunde, et de peccatis meis erue. Sicut tuus Filius petiit pro crucifigentibus, “Pater dimitte ignorantibus:” magna pietate</p> <p>pendens in latronibus dixit uni ex hominibus “In paradiso cum patribus mecum eris hodie.”</p> <p>Mater dolorosa plena lacrimosa videns ruinosa Filium in cruce,</p> <p>cum voce raucosa dixit speciosa “Mulier clamorosa Filium tuum ecce.”</p> <p>Vertens ad discipulum, sic fuit mandatum matrem fuisse per spatium et ipsam consolare;</p> <p>et sicut decebat filium servum paratissimum custodivit preceptum omnino servire.</p>	<p>Mary, full of the virtue of piety and grace, mother of mercy, protect us from the enemy.</p> <p>Most clement Mary, through the grace of your life of compassion, pour out prayers on our behalf, and release me from my sins. As your Son sought for the men who were crucifying Him: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do:” great was his piety,</p> <p>hanging there between the robbers, he said to one of the men “In heaven with my father along with me you will be today.”</p> <p>Grieving mother, full of tears, you saw your Son on the dreadful cross;</p> <p>in a loud voice he spoke glorious words: “Wailing mother, behold your Son.”</p> <p>He turned to his disciple, and this was his command, that she should be his mother for a while, and that he should console her;</p> <p>and, as befitted a son, that most willing disciple accepted his command and obeyed it in full.</p>
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<p>Dixit Jesus dilectionis  “Sitio salutem gentium.”  Audi orationibus nostris  tuae misericordiae, O Jesu.</p> <p>Rex amabilis  quid sustulisti pro nobis  per merita tuae passionis  peto veniam a te.</p> <p>Jesu, dicens clamasti,  “Deus meus, quid dereliquisti?”  Per acetum quod gustasti  ne derelinquas me.</p> <p>“Consummatum” dixisti.  O Jesu Fili Dei,  in hora exitus mei,  animam meam suscipe.</p> <p>Tunc spiritum emisit,  et matrem gladius pertransivit:  aqua et sanguis exivit  ex delicato corpore:</p> <p>Post ab Arimathia rogavit  et Jesum sepelivit,  et Nicodemus venit  ferens mixturam myrrhae.</p> <p>O dolorosa mater Christi,  quales poenas tu vidisti,  corde tenens habuisti  fidem totius ecclesiae.</p> <p>Ora pro me, regina coeli,  Filium tuum dicens; “Fili,  in hora mortis servi tui  peccatis suis indulge.” Amen.</p>	<p>Jesus spoke of his longing:  “I thirst for the salvation of mankind.”  Hear our prayers  in your mercy, O Jesus.</p> <p>Loving king,  what you suffered on our behalf  through the grace of your passion  I seek mercy from you.</p> <p>Jesus, you spoke out and cried:  “My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?”  By the vinegar you tasted  do not forsake me.</p> <p>“It is finished,” you said.  O Jesus, Son of God,  at the hour of my death  take up my soul.</p> <p>Then you breathed out your spirit,  and a sword pierced your mother’s soul:  water and blood came out  of your tender body.</p> <p>After, (Joseph) of Arimathea asked for  and buried Jesus,  and Nicodemus came  bearing myrrh mixed-up ready.</p> <p>O grieving mother of Christ  what torments you saw,  holding them in your heart you had  the faith of the whole church.</p> <p>Pray for me, queen of heaven,  saying to your Son: “My Son,  at the hour of your servant’s death  have mercy on his sins.” Amen.</p>
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*Intermission*

*Kyrie 'Le roy'*

John Taverner

b. ca. 1490 (England); d. 1545 (Boston, Lincolnshire, England)

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.	Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
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*Gloria from Mass for Five Voices*

William Byrd

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te. Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam, Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens. Domine Fili unigenite, Iesu Christe. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris. Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus altissimus, Iesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.	Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,  O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only art most high, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
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*Sanctus from Missa 'O quam glorifica'*

Robert Fayrfax

Arranged by Jim Blake from a published edition by Edwin B. Warren and an unpublished edition by Richard Taruskin

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.	Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.	Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*Agnus Dei from Missa 'Mater Christi'*

John Taverner

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.	Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.
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*Ave Maria*

Robert Parsons

b. ca. 1535 (England); d. 1572 (England)

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum: benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui. Amen.	Hail, Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with you. Blessed are you amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Amen.
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*We are grateful that for fifteen years, the Saint Anne community has supported Musica Spei with rehearsal space and the opportunity to perform in the acoustically magnificent sanctuary, as a member of the 'Choir in Residence' program. We are especially grateful to Father Gary Tyman and Sister Joan Sobala, the current leaders of the Our Lady of Lourdes / Saint Anne Cluster of Communities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, for their on-going support and encouragement.*