

Christ Church Concert Series

Presents

Early Music Chamber Singers

Lisa Kumaradjaja, Music Director

“Harmonies of the Renaissance and Baroque”

An Evening of Sacred Choral Music by Tallis, Victoria, Byrd, and More

Program

If ye love me – by Thomas Tallis

Verily, verily, I say unto you – by Thomas Tallis

O Lord, in thee is all my trust – by Thomas Tallis

Jesu dulcis memoria - by Tomás Luis de Victoria

Audivi vocem de caelo – by Thomas Tallis

O vos omnes - by Tomás Luis de Victoria

Hear the voice and prayer – by Thomas Tallis

Ubi caritas - by Ola Gjeilo

Gloria in excelsis (from Mass for 4 voices) – William Byrd

Locus iste - by Anton Bruckner

Purge me, O Lord – by Thomas Tallis

Ave verum – by William Byrd

I heard the voice of Jesus say – by Thomas Tallis

Ave verum – by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Sicut cervus - by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Since these are short pieces, there is no intermission.

Please hold your applause till the end of the program.

Donations to our patron Christ Church are welcome!

Program Notes

This program presents works by some of the greatest composers of the Renaissance and Baroque periods, with a smattering of modern compositions written in an early music style. The most important music of the early Renaissance was composed for the church—polyphonic

masses and motets in Latin for important churches and court chapels. These pieces showcase the beauty and power of sacred choral music and focus on the rich and intricate harmonies that were a hallmark of this era.

Polyphony was a common style of the Renaissance and Baroque periods, and many of the composers featured in this program were masters of this technique. Polyphony is a musical texture that features two or more equally prominent melodic lines played at the same time. Each of these lines can be thought of as a melody in its own right, which can be sung independently of the others. By layering multiple vocal lines, these composers were able to create music that was both intricate and expressive, with rich and complex harmonies.

Thomas Tallis and William Byrd were two of the greatest English Renaissance composers and were geniuses in composing polyphony. They worked during the turbulent times of separation from the Catholic Church that started when King Henry VIII created the Church of England which is also known as the Anglican Church. Both Tallis and Byrd were staunch Catholics but were favored by Queen Elizabeth I. Despite the enactment of the law requiring service to be conducted in English, Byrd often stuck to Latin. Tallis who was a court composer for Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I, and Elizabeth I largely avoided controversy by writing anthems and liturgical music in English. The Episcopal Church, as a member church in the Anglican communion, continues to rely on works of these two great composers.

Tomás Luis de Victoria was one of the most famous Spanish Renaissance composers and was a Catholic priest as well as an organist and singer. The translation of *Jesu dulcis memoria* is "The sweet memory of Jesus." *O Vos Omnes*, has text from Lamentations 1:12. The lyrics to *Ubi Caritas* begin with "Where charity and love are, God is there." The modern Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo's version of *Ubi Caritas* is just as beautiful as any early music motet. Mozart's *Ave Verum* is thought to be one of his best works. We present both his composition and William Byrd's. Wiki says *Ave Verum* is a meditation on Jesus' presence in the Blessed Sacrament. *Locus Iste* was written by a 19th century composer, Anton Bruckner, whose works are beautifully polyphonic in his sacred music compositions. The lyrics translate to "This place was made by God, a priceless sacrament; it is without reproach." We end with *Sicut Cervus* written by another great early music composer, Palestrina. It is a longtime favorite of ours and is one of his most popular motets, often seen as a model for Renaissance polyphony.

About the Early Music Chamber Singers

I founded the Early Music Chamber Singers out of a desire to recreate the experience of creating music in a small ensemble group. I've always loved early music and singing polyphonic motets, and I found others who share my passion. Together, we explore the intricate and beautiful music of the Renaissance and Baroque periods and share these with you. – Lisa Kumaradjaja

Lisa Kumaradjaja, Soprano
Barbara Doss, Alto
Ken Anderson, Tenor
Wilden Dannenberg, Bass

Durrie Golding, Soprano
Jeannie Aplin, Alto
Michael R. Lanzano, Tenor
Erik-Peter Mortensen, Bass