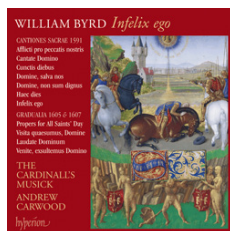
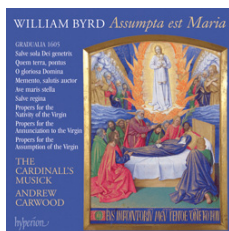


Byrd's eye view

The Cardinal's Musick's ground-breaking survey of Byrd's complete Latin church music has finally reached its thrilling conclusion



INFELIX EGO, the thirteenth and final volume in The Cardinal's Musick's project to record the entire Latin sacred music of William Byrd has been released to great critical acclaim. Recorded in April 2009 in the Fitzalan Chapel of Arundel Castle—the venue for the whole series—this disc contains the Propers for the final feast day of the Church's year, All Saints, as well as some of Byrd's most

popular motets. The project culminates in a performance of *Infelix ego*, a setting of Girolamo Savonarola's extraordinary text written while he was in prison a few days before his execution in Florence. This mammoth work has been performed by the group many times over the past twenty years, resulting in an integrity of interpretation and a depth of emotion that sets this recording »

Forthcoming concerts

- 21 May **Education workshop**
Cheam School, Newbury, Berks
-
- 12 Jul **Concert: Il siglo d'oro—
Music from Spain's 'Golden Age'**
Wigmore Hall
-
- 07 Aug **Concert: Tallis & Byrd**
Kilkenny Arts Festival, Ireland
-
- 17 Dec **Annual Christmas Concert**
St John's Smith Square, London
-

Byrd's eye view

« *continued from p. 1*

apart from other performances of the work. The piece explores the whole gamut of emotion experienced by a soul in torment, and acts as a distillation of all that Byrd expressed in his sacred music.

The release was marked by a party in St Etheldreda's Church in the City of London for the singers, producers, engineers, editors, record companies, administrators, and patrons who have supported this project over the last 13 years. The candlelit crypt of this hidden-away Catholic church in the heart of London seemed the perfect venue for a celebration of William Byrd and his artistic brilliance. Old friendships were renewed, and Andrew gave a speech celebrating the group's remarkable achievements while calling to mind that it has now reached middle age! With much to look forward to, we are able to approach our music-making with a wealth of accumulated knowledge. In a classical music world which values youth over experience, this

was a timely call to hope and optimism. The evening ended appropriately with an impromptu performance of Byrd's *Sing joyfully*.

Having already won two Early Music Gramophone awards for this series, the reviews for this final disc seem to have reached a new level of superlative! Already awards have included Editor's Choice in *Gramophone Magazine*, a Diapason d'Or (the French equivalent of a Gramophone award) and an Outstanding label from *International Record Review*. The reviews lavish praise on the 'best ensemble singing talent Britain can produce', and Andrew Carwood's 'subtle and distinguished direction' as well as his 'tremendously lucid' programme notes. There is also appreciation of the 'polish' of the engineering, and the 'scholarly intent' and 'artistic integrity' of the group. Ed Breen, a consistent advocate of the entire series, writing for musicalcriticism.com describes this as 'a desert island disc if ever there was one' as well as highlighting a general shift in performance practice as a result of the soloistic approach to singing on these recordings. Each review recognises the achievement of the whole series, which has presented this music with 'a kind of glory the composer, in his wildest dreams, could never have imagined'.

See the back page for a special offer on the new disc.

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The Cardinall's Musick has resumed its educational programme this spring with two workshops generously financed by money from our fundraising event last year.

The first at Fortismere School in Muswell Hill, North London gave an overview of European composers working in the sixteenth century—what united them and what marked them apart. Four singers joined Andrew in

Back to school

The hugely successful education and outreach project continues

the music surrounding the history of the Elizabethan age. Children from neighbouring schools will join in with vocal workshops led by soprano and singing teacher at Cheam Janet Coxwell, and culminating in six-voice music sung by The Cardinall's Musick.

addressing 100 eager GCSE music students. Later in May we will visit Cheam School near Newbury to explore

A round-up of recent concerts

An Italian in Paris

A concert of Palestrina concluded Radio France's sacred music project

On Friday 5 March The Cardinall's Musick boarded the Eurostar for a concert in Paris. Located in the newly-refurbished Collège des Bernardins, a former monastery now recreated as an arts venue, we were privileged to be concluding a year-long survey of sacred music sponsored and broadcast by Radio France. The programme celebrated the genius of Palestrina with music from the Sistine Chapel, interspersing sensual settings from the Song of Songs with monumental five-part motets for Advent and Trinity, two delicate upper-voice Marian motets, and a memorable performance of Allegri's *Miserere*.

Despite an alarming reduction in the acoustic resonance of the building from rehearsal to concert, the packed audience received the polished performance with great enthusiasm. The four-soprano line-up saw the welcome return of Carys Lane and Rebecca Outram following the births of their children Robyn and Thomas at the end of last year.

Christmas at St John's

Mary was centre stage at last year's annual Cardinall's Christmas concert



Our annual Christmas concert in St John's Smith Square took place to a pleasingly full house on 18 December. The programme contrasted Lassus's *Missa Osculetur me* with various Spanish Marian motets and the Propers for the Nativity of the Virgin by Byrd. It culminated in Palestrina's exhilarating double-choir *Magnificat*. As ever the audience warmed not only to the singing but to Andrew's expert commentary on the evening's music. A fitting conclusion to our twentieth-anniversary year.

Our ever-strengthening links with Wigmore Hall in the heart of London will be renewed on Monday 12 July when The Cardinall's Musick present a Spanish programme in honour of the Virgin Mary entitled *Il siglo d'oro*. This was the name Spaniards gave to their great flowering of music in the sixteenth century—their Golden Age. Francisco Guerrero was known as 'el cantor de Maria', and we shall be presenting a variety of works from well-crafted

Il siglo d'oro

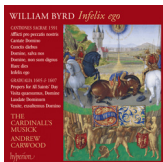
Monday 12 July at 7.30 pm
Wigmore Hall



small-scale motets to his finest double-choir devotions. This fascinating exploration of music from sixteenth-century Spain sets Guerrero alongside his contemporaries and colleagues Morales, Esquivel, Vivanco, Alonso Lobo and the brightest star of all, Tomás Luis de Victoria.

10% discount for Friends of The Cardinall's Musick

Box Office: 020 7935 2141
wigmore-hall.org.uk



Special offer

The latest disc, *Infelix ego*, is available for a discounted price of £12.50 (inc. p & p) when ordering by phone, e-mail or post.

A new disc of Guerrero's music, recorded in Arundel last November, will be released on the Hyperion label later this year.

Cardinall's to visit Emerald Isle



The group is to make its debut in Ireland this summer, appearing at the Kilkenny Arts Festival on Saturday 7 August. Kilkenny is a beautiful medieval city that sits snugly on the banks of the River Nore in the south-east of Ireland. The city was named after a sixth-century monk, St Canice, whose memory lives on in the beautifully restored St Canice's Cathedral.

In a programme of Tallis and Byrd, culminating in Tallis's majestic *Gaude gloriosa*, the Cardinall's signature sound will be presented to the Irish for the first time.