



Raising the bar

THE INNER TEMPLE, LONDON
Tuesday 6 March 2007

Any arts ensemble in the UK has to fight for sponsorship and support. A sad but undeniable fact. The Cardinal's Musick is extremely lucky in having a dedicated Management Board which, under the leadership of Michael Sissons and the inspired co-ordination of Naomi Russell, mounted a memorable fund-raising evening at the Inner Temple on 6 March. This proved to be an excellent venue and the staff were thoroughly helpful throughout the planning process (all made considerably easier by the gentle guidance of Michael Kennedy, whose chambers are located there and who first suggested the venue). Through the generosity of those who attended and supported us, The Cardinal's Musick is able to continue with its ambitious plans, having raised in excess of £40,000.

The evening started with a champagne reception and a thirty-minute recital



before a three-course meal, punctuated by further musical numbers. Henry VIII was the main theme of the evening and all of the music (except for a fond farewell at the end) was connected to him and his court. The entertainment was enhanced by brief speeches from Andrew Carwood and Michael Sissons, and an auction of

lots (everything from a day's salmon fishing to a private performance by The Cardinal's Musick) brought the evening to a close.

None of this would have been possible without the extremely generous support of Mrs Beatrice Tollman and Red Carnation hotels. This is the second year in which they have been our partners and we are deeply grateful to them.

The success of this evening together with the invaluable support we regularly receive from our Friends, Benefactors and Patrons has become the bedrock of current and future success, and it allows us to move to the next level of our Education Project (see overleaf). Many thanks to you all.

New web site

A SMART NEW LOOK FOR THE CARDINALL'S ONLINE

One of the most important tools in selling any product in the 21st century is a smart, sharp and effective web site. 2007 saw the launch of a new Cardinal's Musick site designed by Henry Capper-Allen of ARCH Design. Not only does it look good but it is also easy to navigate. It contains full details of our concert performances and recordings as well as pages of programmes

for promoters and information about our education project and our Friends organisation. For the first time we have an edition which can be downloaded free of charge and a section on the home page which lists recent news and developments. In the future we hope to make available webcasts of our concerts (and possibly recording sessions), provide back-up material for our workshops and give visitors to the site the opportunity to buy discs directly from us.

Diary for 2007

- 1 May **Friends Annual Recital**
St Bartholomew the Great, London
Byrd, Praetorius, Tallis and others
- 3 May **Workshop**
Prospect House School, Putney
- 4 May **Workshop**
South Hampstead School for Girls
- 21 May **Workshop**
The Renaissance Singers, London
- 25 May **Concert: Tallis & Byrd**
Beverley Early Music Festival
- 23 Jun **Concert: Hidden Genius**
Stour Music Festival
- 25 Jun **Workshop**
Chestnut Grove School, London
- 4 Sep **Concert**
Vale of Glamorgan Festival
- 14 Sep **Concert: The Reformation**
Goodnestone Music Festival
- 15–17 Sep **Concerts: Palestrina & Wert**
Wroclaw Festival, Poland
- 28 Sep **Concert: The Sistine Chapel**
St Asaph Festival
- 12–14 Nov **Recording Sessions**
Arundel Castle, Sussex
William Byrd
- 18 Dec **Annual Christmas Concert**
St John's, Smith Square, London
J. S. Bach and his forebears



Ben Rayfield

Not so secret agent

RAYFIELD ARTISTS: FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Since September 2005, The Cardinal's Musick has been represented by Ben Rayfield of Rayfield Artists. Ben brings a wealth of experience to his work and is himself a singer who has not only an unparalleled knowledge of and interest in vocal performance but also understands the pitfalls and difficulties of touring and concert organisation. He has the right mix of charm and firmness to deal with promoters around the world, and he has an excellent roster of singers, including Emma Kirby and Robin Blaze, the great organ virtuoso Dame Gillian Weir, and the medieval ensemble Gothic Voices. The full list can be seen at www.rayfieldartists.com.

Throughout the year, Ben is in contact with promoters and festivals about performances by TCM. Telephone conversations, e-mails, letters and personal correspondence flow constantly to keep people up to date with our new programmes and developments. Like any market brand, we have to be new, fresh and interesting at all times. This can be a slow process as festival directors are often inundated with requests from ensembles and soloists alike but with one of the most sympathetic and dedicated agents in the business, all seems set fair for a continuing increase in the Cardinal's concert schedule.

Education project update

SCHOOL WORKSHOPS ARE A GREAT SUCCESS

The Cardinal's Musick has now undertaken eight workshops in schools around the UK. By using historical themes and subjects as a starting point—Henry VIII and The Gunpowder Plot appear to be the most popular—we hope to give students an entrée into the wonderful world of Renaissance music. The advantage of this approach is that we do not exclusively need to target children who are studying music but can appeal to anyone who has studied a little of this history. We spend time talking about the context and how the music is put together and go on to discuss our own voices, the nature of our professional work and how to direct the group in performance—some of the young conductors have proved to be rather good!

So far we have been reliant on the generosity of private sponsors who have connections with various schools but now, thanks to the success of our own fund-raising efforts, The Cardinal's Musick is in a position to promote three workshops ourselves.

Having devised a successful format, want to take it further into the community, especially to those schools for whom such an event would normally be impossible because of insufficient funding.

The first of these will happen on 25 June at Chestnut Grove School in Wandsworth and we have plans for two more further north in the country. The support of our friends has helped to turn this ambition into a reality.

Christmas success at St John's Smith Square

ANOTHER GLOWING REVIEW FROM THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

The Cardinal's Musick's appearance at St John's, Smith Square has become an annual event and we were delighted by the capacity audience for our Tallis and Byrd concert on 18 December 2006. So was *The Daily Telegraph* ...

Thrilling echoes of turbulent times

'This concert was devoted to two composers who epitomised those turbulent times in music: Thomas Tallis and his pupil—and eventual colleague and business partner—William Byrd.

'If there was a theme evident in the sound itself, it was the fierceness of the doctrinal debates over music. On the one hand we had the ostentatiously plain English psalm tunes by Tallis. These were written for the new

English liturgy, so comprehensibility was the rule. On the other, we had long, glorious swathes of old-style Catholic polyphony, written by both composers even after the Reformation (Queen Elizabeth turned a blind eye to their religious backsliding). Here the words seem to go on so long that you forgot what the first syllable was: in any case, you hardly cared, because the tangle of melodic lines was so gorgeous in itself.

'These performances eloquently revealed the virtues of both styles. Tallis' psalm tunes may look plain, but when their melodies are made shapely and supple, and the words uttered with conviction, they're revealed to

Continued overleaf »

CD offer

FAYRFAX MASSES (ASV GAUDEAMUS CDGAX353)



The Cardinal's Musick won its first Gramophone Award for a recording of music by Robert Fayrfax, one of the most famous composers of the early

16th century. He worked for both Henry VII and Henry VIII and produced five magnificent festal masses, that is, large-scale, grand settings designed to please the Almighty and impress visitors to the royal court. The complete works of this great man were recorded on five CDs but there is also a boxed set which contains all five masses—*Missa O quam glorifica*, *Missa Tecum principium*, *Missa Albanus*, *Missa O bone Jesu*, *Missa Regali*—together with a newly discovered motet *Resurrexio Christi*, recorded and released here for the first time.

'After their stunning series of Byrd, even a re-release drawn from The Cardinal's Musick's volumes of Fayrfax is cause for excitement. For those who missed it the first time around, this is nearly four hours of astonishingly lovely singing. For those who have already heard the earlier discs, the hook is the newly-discovered elevation motet *Resurrexio Christi*: naturally, it's the highlight. The group's tone has deepened, allowing them a greater range of expression without sacrificing their distinctive clarity.'

The Independent

For a limited period only this three-CD set is available for £19.99 (inc. p & p). To qualify for this special offer, mention our newsletter when ordering by phone, e-mail or post.

Please visit our web site to view the full range of Cardinal's Musick CDs.

Christmas review

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be little gems. The bigger, more elaborate pieces needed a different approach. They're written in long, overlapping paragraphs which can so easily lose their tension and sag. But by cleverly varying the pace and making the counterpoint vividly clear, the director, Andrew Carwood, created a thrilling cumulative tension. The ending of Tallis' *Salve intemerata virgo* was as overwhelming as a Mahler symphony, at a tenth of the volume.'

The Daily Telegraph, 21 December 2006

ST PAUL'S APPOINTMENT

As this newsletter is going to print, it has just been announced that Andrew Carwood, the director and co-founder of The Cardinal's Musick, has been appointed Director of Music at St Paul's Cathedral in London. This is the first time that a professional singer has been offered such a post and is an exciting development both for the Cathedral and for Andrew. His commitment to The Cardinal's Musick remains a high priority and the Dean and Chapter have already signalled that they are keen for him to continue his work with the ensemble.

THE CARDINALL'S MUSICK

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