



## Neglected genius

*New Hyperion release of music by a forgotten master of choral invention, Hieronymus Praetorius*

October 2008 saw the release of a disc of music by Hieronymus Praetorius. Firmly in the tradition of The Cardinal's Musick's enterprising recording projects, Praetorius is a neglected genius who spent his entire working life in Hamburg as organist at the Jacobikirche.



His music is heavily influenced by the Italian double-choir style of writing established by the Gabriellis in Venice but it has a unique north German flavour with unusual harmonic twists and a real sense of drama. This varied disc presents a selection of motets and three settings of the Magnificat including the so-called Christmas Magnificat which includes two famous carols—*Josef lieber, Josef mein* and *In dulci jubilo*. The reviews have already started to arrive ...

‘The often highly expressive, sometimes quirky, and always well-crafted Magnificats and motets of Hieronymus Praetorius are a fine example of the strength-in-depth of German musical creativity. Andrew Carwood and The Cardinal's Musick ardently relish the interplay of voices in the eight-part scorings ... the overall impression is compelling, fresh and immediate.’

*Choir & Organ Magazine*

‘Hieronymus Praetorius gains his place in the sun with this outstanding release. The 16th-century organist and composer emerges as a master of vivid choral contrasts and effects.’

*Classic FM Magazine* ★★★★★

‘This [is a] superb disc ... These are stunning performances, which is of course to be expected from this remarkable vocal ensemble ... all are bathed in a richly textured and highly variegated choral sound ... Hieronymus Praetorius is considered by many to be one of the greatest North German composers of the first half of the seventeenth century. This release will surely go some way to convincing the rest of us of the truth of this assertion.’

*International Record Review*

Diary for 2008/09

- 19 Dec **Annual Christmas Concert: Hodie Christus natus est**  
*St John's, Smith Square*

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- 30 Jan **Concert: Inheritance— Vaughan Williams & the Tudors**  
*Wigmore Hall*

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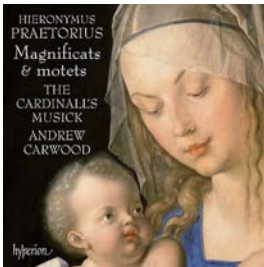
- 01 Feb **Concert**  
*Brasenose College, Oxford*

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- 05 Feb **Concert**  
*Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester*

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- 18 Apr **Concert**  
*Petersham Festival, Richmond, Surrey*



**CD offer**

For a limited period only our new Praetorius CD is available for £10.00 (inc. p&p). To qualify for this special offer,

mention our newsletter when ordering by phone, e-mail or post.



**Andrew Carwood at St Paul's**

Andrew has now been Director of Music at St Paul's Cathedral for just over 15 months and is enjoying a busy and productive time there. With nearly 30 choristers and 18 professional adult singers, St Paul's has the largest choir of any cathedral in the country and a very busy schedule as well. There are daily chorister rehearsals starting at 7.50 every morning which allow the Choristers to prepare for the daily Evensong and for three services every Sunday. This year the Choir has given the premieres of works by Sir John Tavener and John Rutter and next year will give the first performance of a new work by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies.

The Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral are fully supportive of Andrew's work with The Cardinal's Musick and, with a team of three organists working alongside him, Andrew is able to take the necessary time for concerts and recordings.

**NEW ADDRESS**

Please note that from 1 December our new address will be:

The Cardinal's Musick Ltd  
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[cardinalsmusick.com/contact.asp](http://cardinalsmusick.com/contact.asp)

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# Some recent concerts

## A round-up of The Cardinal's performances this year

2008 has seen The Cardinal's performing in a variety of venues and making its first foray into the world of theatre. Performances in London's Wigmore Hall, Canterbury Cathedral and in Brinkburn have been set alongside appearances in Holland and Poland with a variety of repertoires. William Byrd is still a popular choice for concert promoters but Paul McCreesh who now runs the Wroclaw Festival in Poland particularly asked us to re-visit some older repertoire by Ludford and Fayrfax. It was a particular pleasure for us to be able to share three concerts with the contemporary composer James Macmillan who conducted his own music after the interval.

The Brighton Festival this year played host to a remarkable play by Christopher Dixon called *The Bootmaker's Daughter*. It told the story of a young girl called Tomasina from the town of Lewes in Sussex who refused to accept the re-institution of Catholicism by Mary Tudor. Obstinate and with strong convictions, she was eventually martyred for her faith. An excellent company of actors was assembled by director Thomas Guthrie and four members of The Cardinal's Musick provided music on stage as comment and amplification of the themes in the drama. The performances were all given to capacity audiences and there was a genuine buzz of excitement after each final curtain call.

## The Cardinal's in Brinkburn

[Thomas Hall reviews the group's debut performance at the festival for \*The Journal\*](#)

The second weekend of the 15th Brinkburn Music Festival was topped and tailed by the glories of English choral music, the Gabrieli Consort and Players revisiting their Purcell programme from the very first Brinkburn Festival and The Cardinal's Musick making its Brinkburn debut with a cappella music by William Byrd.

Byrd's career coincided with the reign of Elizabeth I, placing him among the recusant Roman Catholics whose beliefs put their lives in danger. But fame and friends in high places saw him through, and even as a member of the Chapel Royal his music was sung at clandestine masses.

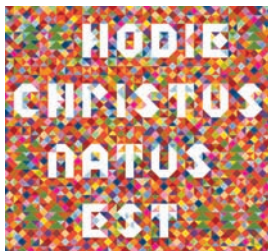
Replacing the 8-piece ensemble's indisposed director Andrew Carwood,

alto Patrick Craig seemed entirely at ease multi-tasking as singer conductor and commentator, explaining structural points in the psalm settings, motets and masses and hidden messages to the Catholic faithful in the texts. Whether in various permutations of voices drawn from pairs of sopranos, altos, tenors and basses, or all combined, the technical standards were outstanding with flawless tuning, pinpoint accurate entries and firmness of tone in even the quietest passages.

But it is interpretative choices that make a performance and every line had an inevitable flow, individual voices shifting seamlessly in or out of prominence to illuminate even the most involved counterpoints with a superb balance between the individual and the collective.

[cardinallsmusick.com/reviews](http://cardinallsmusick.com/reviews)

## Annual Christmas concert at St John's, Smith Square



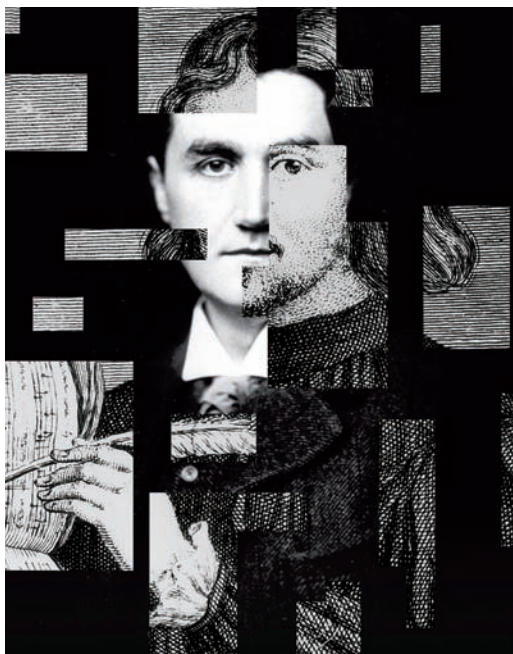
This year's Christmas concert from the Cardinal's Musick celebrates three important elements. The first is the great genius of Giovanni Perluigi

da Palestrina whose exuberant and festive *Missa Hodie Christus natus est* in eight parts forms the centre-piece of the first half of the concert. Then there is the first performance of a new piece from the contemporary composer Matthew Martin. Matthew has already written a Christmas piece for the Cardinal's which was premiered a few years ago and is producing a new composition to create a set

of three carols—*Ecce concipies*, *O magnum mysterium* and this new setting of a text for the Epiphany. Finally, there is the eight-part *Christmas Magnificat* from Hieronymus Praetorius complete with two German carols. This is the perfect end to a festive concert and a timely reminder that our latest CD will be available to buy just in time to slip it into the Christmas stockings!

We are very pleased to announce that Friends of The Cardinal's Musick are entitled to a discount of 10% on tickets for this concert. The discount can be claimed when buying tickets in person or over the telephone. Simply mention that you are a Friend to get the discount. St John's Box Office: 020 7222 1061

## A New Year concert at Wigmore Hall



### VAUGHAN WILLIAMS AND THE TUDORS **INHERITANCE**

Once Christmas has gone and the grey January days have arrived, the best way to re-invigorate the spirits would be to go the Wigmore Hall on 30 January. The Cardinal's are giving a concert in celebration of Vaughan Williams and his connection with English composers of the 16th century. At the centre of the concert is Vaughan Williams's *Mass in G minor* set alongside masterpieces by John Taverner and Thomas Tallis who gave Vaughan Williams the inspiration for the sound-world which was to become the hallmark of his vocal writing. Tickets for this event are already selling fast.

Tickets: £30 / £25 / £20 / £15  
Wigmore Hall Box Office: 020 7935 2141  
[www.wigmore-hall.org.uk](http://www.wigmore-hall.org.uk)