



Sweet and twenty

The Cardinall's Musick come of age

20
1989–2009



This year marks the 20th anniversary of the first ever concert by The Cardinall's Musick in Oxford in 1989. The vision of a group which makes a feature of individual vocal character and a rigorous academic approach to help set the music in its historical context remains as strongly held today as it was then. The year has seen many musical highlights already, with live performances for major festivals, and continued progress in our recording projects amply supported by the work of our trustees, agent and administrator. The year began with a breath-taking retrospective of the life and works of Ralph Vaughan Williams at Wigmore Hall. Fielding a larger group of sixteen singers, Andrew Carwood presented Vaughan Williams's sacred works in the context of his Tudor influences. It was a thrilling concert for both performers and audience alike: 'their latest appearance in this venue proved an inspiring experience' (*The Independent*). Other performances have taken us to Brasenose College, Oxford, the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, Petersham Church in West London and to

Kendal as part of the Lake District Summer Music Festival. Our summer highlight was to open the Proms Chamber Music Series at the Cadogan Hall in July. We explored the music of the reign of Henry VIII, setting some of Henry's own famous melodies alongside more unusual repertoire by Sampson and more substantial works by Fayrfax and Ludford (a happy return to the repertoire of our early

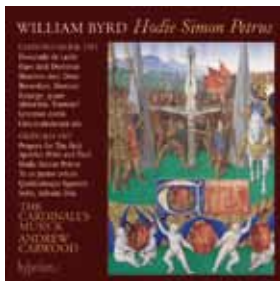
'Carwood's interpretation of Tudor music has a compelling momentum'

recordings). *The Times* was impressed by the cogency of the programming and Andrew's inspired direction: 'Carwood's interpretation of Tudor music has a compelling momentum'. The group also featured in the BBC's launch of the Proms season on Radio 3's In Tune singing motets by Byrd, Tallis and Taverner. Our anniversary year will continue with a look at William Byrd's forerunners in a concert at St Mary's Church, Warwick on Tuesday 3 November, and concludes with our annual Christmas Concert at St John's, Smith Square on Friday 18 December.

Diary for 2009/10

- 03 Nov **Concert: The path to Byrd**
St Mary's Church, Warwick
-
- 18 Dec **Annual Christmas Concert:
In honour of the Virgin**
St John's, Smith Square
-
- 05 Mar **Concert for Radio France:
Palestrina, genius of Rome**
Collège des Bernardins, Paris
-
- 12 Jul **Concert: Music from Spain's
'Golden Age'**
Wigmore Hall

Near miss for Cardinal's Gramophone hat trick



The critically-acclaimed eleventh volume of the Byrd series, *Hodie Simon Petrus*, came very close to winning the group a third

Gramophone Early Music Award in a row. Just five votes separated us from the winning disc!

CD offer

For a limited period only, all our discs are available for a discounted price of £12.50, or two for £20 (inc. p&p). To qualify for this special offer, mention our newsletter when ordering by phone, e-mail or post.



Recent marriage

The group were delighted to sing at the wedding in June of Jemima Sissons, daughter of Michael Sissons, our Chairman of Trustees. The ceremony was adorned with sumptuous music and later on, at the splendid reception, our director got to meet Simon Schama who was also a guest at the wedding; it was a true meeting of historical minds! All our trustees provide invaluable financial support and encouragement in our work and we were most grateful to Michael Sissons for organising a fundraising event earlier in June at the Ironmongers' Hall in the City of London shortly before his daughter's wedding.

New member

Rob Macdonald and Rebecca Outram, star bass and soprano in the Cardinal's Musick, are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son Thomas David George Macdonald on 19 September, weighing 6 lbs 10 oz and arriving 25 days early. Our first all-Cardinal's baby and a delight for us all!

THE CARDINALL'S MUSICK

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Fully-fledged Byrd

The Cardinal's Musick's survey of Byrd's Latin church music is complete

More than ten years on from the start of the group's project to record the Latin sacred music of William Byrd, this year we reached a thrilling finale.

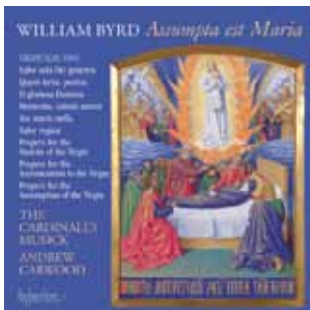
In April we recorded the thirteenth and final volume in Arundel. This disc will be released in 2010 and will feature the Propers for the most joyful of the church's festivals, All Saints. We also assembled an impressive

cast of twelve singers to record *Infelix ego*, Byrd's momentous setting of Girolamo Savonarola's pre-execution text. A piece with important memories for the group, it was recorded in two complete takes with only minimal need for patching retakes. It was a most a fitting and moving end to a project which has engaged us all in a close relationship with Byrd and his music.

New Cardinal's release

Assumpta est Maria (Hyperion CDA67675)
Volume 12 of the Byrd Edition

In September Hyperion released the latest volume in The Cardinal's Musick acclaimed Byrd series. All of the music on this disc is drawn from the first volume of *Gradualia* published in 1605, in which the Byrd's overtly



Catholic agenda is clearly displayed.

These pieces show a glimpse of the man that is rather different from our more usual perception

of the composer racked with misery at the deprivation of Catholics in England. Relaxed and confident, he indulges his considerable wit and imagination, and employs the most up-to-date musical styles. Here there is no wringing of hands, nor downcast eyes but rather the musical embodiment of an unshakeable faith.

Here's what the critics have been saying:

'The Cardinal's Musick continues its odyssey through Byrd's vocal output with the Propers for three feasts of the Virgin Mary, together with four hymns and a couple of antiphons, all taken from his 1605 *Gradualia* collection. The contrast between their confident mood, unrepentantly Catholic, and the pessimistic, heart-rending works of the earlier *Cantiones Sacrae* is extreme. It's as if, although doing something forbidden, Byrd was by now confident that his position in society would protect him. The singing here is clean and balanced, with no attempt to make women's voices resemble those of boys.'

The Sunday Times

'Some of Byrd's best writing, with complex imitation enlivened by madrigal-style word settings. The Cardinal's Musick seize on the subtleties and expressiveness of these settings ... The inventiveness and depth of this recording outweigh its rare longueurs.'

BBC Music Magazine

'The Cardinal's Musick under Andrew Carwood show the deep feeling as well as the dignity of these illicit and originally secret settings.'

The Independent on Sunday

Annual Christmas concert at St John's, Smith Square

In honour of the Virgin



Twenty years ago in Oxford—Christmas 1989—a new early-music ensemble called The Cardinal's Musick performed their very first concert. Now established as one of Britain's leading vocal groups, they return to the most exciting and vibrant composers of the sixteenth century in this year's festive programme dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Lassus' stunning double-choir *Missa Osculetur me* is interleaved with motets by Victoria, and William Byrd is represented by a set of Mass Propers for the Nativity of the Virgin. The evening is brought to a stirring conclusion with Palestrina's vivacious, celebratory double-choir *Magnificat*—an inspiring collection of great names from the past to prepare for the season of Christmas.

Friends of The Cardinal's Musick are entitled to a 10% discount for this concert 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 concert at St Mary's Church, Warwick

It is impossible to escape our influences. Those whom we meet when young who impress us or experiences which have an indelible effect on our lives. The young William Byrd spent his formative teenage years in the middle of the maelstrom of the Reformation in England. With Mary's accession to the throne in 1553, composers felt at liberty to return to their Latin texts and to produce ecstatic music on a large scale after the strictures of Edward VI's Protestant revolution. This programme sets the music of some of the salient composers of this time—Robert White, Robert Parsons, Thomas Tallis—with that of William Byrd himself.

THE PATH TO BYRD



Tuesday 3 November at 7.30 pm

Tickets: £16 reserved, £13.50/£11 unreserved
Box Office: 01926 776438
www.bridg Housetheatre.co.uk