



THE GESUALDO SIX AND OWAIN PARK: ENGLISH MOTETS

Guy James, *countertenor*
Josh Cooter, *tenor*
Joseph Wicks, *tenor*
Michael Craddock, *baritone*
Sam Mitchell, *bass*
Owain Park, *bass*

July 10th, 2022

3:00 PM

**Sponsored by Peter Barr and
Wendy Donohue**

The Gesualdo Six and Owain Park: English Motets

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Te lucis ante terminum	Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)
Ave verum corpus	William Byrd (1539/40-1623)
Afflicti pro peccatis nostris	William Byrd
Qualis est dilectus meus	John Forest (fl 1400-1450)
Ah, gentle Jesu	Sherynham (fl.c.1500)
Tristitia et anxietas	William Byrd
Vigilate	William Byrd
All people, clap your hands	Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623)
Christe qui lux es et dies	Robert White (c1538-1574)
If ye love me	Thomas Tallis
In manus tuas	Thomas Tallis
When David heard	Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)
Laudate pueri Dominum	William Byrd

Heartfelt thanks to St. Joseph's Church
for the use of their beautiful space.

Program Notes

During the renaissance, musical composition flourished, but it was a time of great change, fuelled by religious division. This programme traces music written by some of the English renaissance masters over a period of two-hundred years, encompassing florid medieval-sounding works by Forest and Sherynham, intricately woven polyphonic works by Tallis and Byrd, and the beautiful simplicity of Tomkins and White.

All of these composers were obliged to write in the musical style of the moment, which was constantly fluctuating in one of the most turbulent periods in English history. Lavish Catholic services required suitably elaborate music, with Latin texts and rich sonorities. The Protestants did away with such excess, and as the walls were whitewashed so too was the music, with demands placed on composers to set English words as simply as possible, so that every syllable could be clearly heard by the congregation. Then, in Queen Elizabeth I's reign, came a kind of relaxed simplicity, a halfway house, in which the ideal was both that the words could be heard clearly and also that the music should be interesting.

While all composers in Tudor England were flexible to the period's shifting religious requirements, none was quite as skilful at reinvention as Tallis, whose music remains absolutely consistent in its quality, even while his style changes dramatically. The recusant Byrd gave voice to the plight of Catholics in England through many of his compositions, using his royal favour to escape punishment for his beliefs, and in doing so wrote some of the most enduring and powerful music of the era. In anticipating his 400th anniversary year, we pay special attention to Byrd's music during this concert, one of the foremost composers of the Renaissance in Europe.

The incredible productivity of composers writing during this period, coupled with the advent of printed sheet music and licenses granted for its production, has resulted in a wealth of material available to us—and, as such, selecting only a handful to represent 'English motets' as a whole is by no means easy. But I hope that we manage to showcase something of the extraordinary journey which composition took around the English Reformation and, in turn, reflect our immense enjoyment in performing the music we all grew up singing.

Texts & Translations

Te lucis ante terminum

*Te lucis ante terminum,
Rerum Creator, poscimus,
Ut pro tua clementia,
Sis praesul et custodia.*

Thee, Lord, before the close of day,
Maker of all things, Thee we pray
For Thy dear loving kindness' sake
To guard and guide us in Thy way.

*Procul recedant somnia,
Et noctium phantasmata:
Hostemque nostrum comprime,
Ne polluantur corpora.*

Banish the dreams that terrify,
And night's fantastic company:
Keep us from Satan's tyranny:
Defend us from unchastity.

*Praesta, Pater piissime,
Patrique compar Unice,
Cum Spiritu Paraclito,
Regnans per omne saeculum. Amen.*

Protect us, Father, God adored,
Thou too, co-equal Son and Lord,
Thou, Holy Ghost, our Advocate,
Whose reign can know nor bound
nor date. Amen.

Ave verum corpus

*Ave verum corpus natum
de Maria Virgine:
vere passum, immolatum*

*in cruce pro homine:
cuius latus perforatum
unda fluxit sanguine:
esto nobis praegustatum,
in mortis examine.
O dulcis, O pie, O Jesu Fili Mariae.
Miserere mei. Amen.*

Hail the true body, born
of the Virgin Mary:
You who truly suffered and were
sacrificed
on the cross for the sake of man.
From whose pierced flank
flowed water and blood:
Be a foretaste for us
in the trial of death.
O sweet, O merciful, O Jesus, Son
of Mary
Have mercy on me. Amen.

Afflicti pro peccatis nostris

*Afflicti pro peccatis nostris,
quotidie cum lacrimis expectemus
finem nostrum:*

*Dolor cordis nostri
ascendat ad te Domine.*

*Ut eruas nos
a malis qui innovantur in nobis.*

Afflicted by our sins,
each day with tears we look forward
to our end:

The sorrow in our hearts
rises to thee, O Lord.

That you may deliver us from those
evils that originate within us.

Qualis est dilectus meus

*Qualis est dilectus
meus ex dilectis
o pulcherrima mulierum?
Amicus meus candidus et rubicundus
electus ex millibus.*

*Leva ejus sub
capite meo
et dextera illius amplexabitur me.*

What is my beloved
more than other beloveds
O fairest of women?
My beloved is white and ruddy
The chief among ten thousand.
His left hand should
be under my head,
And his right hand should embrace
me.

Ah, gentle jesu

Ah, gentle Jesu,
who is that, that doth me call?
I, a sinner, that oft doth fall.
What woud'st thou have?
Mercy, Lord of thee I crave
Why, lov'st thou me?

Yea, my Maker I call thee.
Then leave thy sin, or I nill thee,
And think on this lesson that now I teach thee.
Ah I will, I will, gentle Jesu

Upon the cross I mailed I was for thee,
Suffered death to pay thy ransom;
Forsake thy sin, man, for the love of me
Be repentant, make plain confessions;
To contrite hearts I do remission;
Be not despaired, for I am not vengeable;
Gain ghostly en'mies think on my passion;
Why art thou froward, sith I am merciable
Ah, gentle Jesu!

My bloody woundes down railing by this tree,
Look on them well and have compassion;
The crown of thorn, the spear, the nailes three
Pierced hand and foot of indignation,
My heart riven for thy redemption;
Let now us twain, in this thing be treatable:
Love for love by just convention;
Why art thou froward, sith I am merciable
Ah, gentle Jesu!

Tristitia et anxietas

Prima pars

*Tristitia et anxietas occupaverunt
interiora mea.*

Sadness and anxiety have overtaken
my inmost being.

*Mæstum factum est cor meum in
dolore, et contenebrati sunt oculi mei.
Væ mihi, quia peccavi.*

My heart is made sorrowful in
mourning, my eyes are become dim.
Woe is me, for I have sinned.

Secunda pars

*Sed tu, Domine, qui non
derelinquis sperantes in te,*

But thou, O Lord, who dost not
forsake those whose hope is in
thee,

*consolare et adjuva me propter nomen
sanctum tuum,
et miserere Mei.*

comfort and help me for
thy holy name's sake,
and have mercy on me.

Vigilate

*Vigilate, nescitis enim quando
dominus domus
veniat,
sero, an media nocte, an
gallicantu, an mane.
Vigilate ergo, ne cum venerit
repente, inveniatur vos dormientes.
Quod autem dico vobis,
omnibus dico: vigilate.*

Watch ye therefore (for you know
not when the lord of the house
cometh,
at even, or at midnight, or at the
cock crowing, or in the morning):
Watch therefore, lest coming on a
sudden, he find you sleeping.
And what I say to you,
I say to all: Watch.

All people, clap your hands

All people, clap your hands, sing loud unto the Lord with a joyful voice.
God is gone up with triumph, e'en the Lord with the sound of the
trumpet.

Praise the Lord with harp, sing unto him with viol and instruments of
music.

Let us rejoice in the living God from this time forth for evermore.

Amen.

Christe, qui lux es et dies (I)

*1. Christe qui lux es et dies,
Noctis tenebras
detegis,
Lucisque lumen crederis,
Lumen beatum praedicans.*

1. Christ, who art the light and day,
You drive away the darkness of
night,
You are called the light of light,
For you proclaim the blessed light.

*2. Precamur Sancte Domine,
Defende nos in hac nocte,
Sit nobis in te requies,
Quietam noctem tribue.*

2. We beseech you, Holy Lord,
Protect us this night.
Let us take our rest in you;
Grant us a tranquil night.

*3. Ne gravis somnus irruat,
Nec hostis nos surripiat,
Nec caro illi consentiens,
Nos tibi reos statuatur.*

3. Let our sleep be free from care;
Let not the enemy snatch us away,
Nor flesh conspire within him,
And make us guilty in your sight.

4. *Oculi
somnum capiant,
Cor ad te
semper vigilet,
Dextera tua protegat
Famulos qui te diligunt.*

4. Though our eyes
be filled with sleep,
Keep our hearts forever
awake to you.
May your right hand protect
Your willing servants.

5. *Defensor noster aspice,
Insidiantes reprime,
Guberna tuos famulos,
Quos sanguine mercatus es.*

5. You who are our shield, behold;
Restrain those that lie in wait.
And guide your servants whom
You have ransomed with your
blood.

6. *Memento nostri Domine
In gravi
isto corpore,
Qui es
defensor animae,
Adesto nobis Domine.*

6. Remember us, O Lord,
Who bear the burden
of this mortal form;
You who are the
defender of the soul,
Be near us, O Lord.

7. *Deo Patri sit gloria,
Eiusque soli Filio,
Cum Spiritu Paraclito,
Et nunc et in perpetuum. Amen.*

7. Glory be to God the Father,
And to his only Son,
With the Spirit, Comforter,
Both now and evermore. Amen.

If ye love me

If ye love me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another
Comforter, that He may 'bide with you for ever, e'en
the spirit of truth.

In manus tuas

*In manus tuas, Domine,
commendo spiritum meum.
Redemisti me Domine,
Deus veritatis.*

Into your hands, O Lord,
I commend my spirit.
You have redeemed me, O Lord,
O God of truth.

When David heard

When David heard that Absalom was slain
He went up into his chamber over the gate and wept,
and thus he said: my son, my son, O Absalom my son, would God I had
died for thee!

Laudate pueri dominum

*Laudate, pueri, Dominum,
laudate nomen Domini:
sit nomen Domini benedictum, ex hoc
nunc et usque in saeculum.
Auxilium meum a Domino, qui fecit
caelum et terram.
⁸ Benefac, Domine,
bonis et rectis corde.*

Praise the Lord, ye children:
praise ye the name of the Lord.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
from henceforth now and for ever.
My help is from the Lord, who made
heaven and earth.
Do good, O Lord,
to those that are good, and to the
upright of heart.

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