

East Sussex
Bach Choir



President: Sir John Tomlinson CBE

Saturday 12th November 2005, 7.30 pm
St John sub Castro Church, Lewes

East Sussex Bach Choir

The Glories of
Venice

with

His Majestys Sagbutts and
Cornetts

and

The Esterházy Chamber Choir

Directors: John Hancorn and Bruce Grindlay

Deborah Roberts Soprano

Regina Coeli	Adrian Willaert (1480-1562)
→ Exsultate Justi	Lodovico Viadana (1560-1627)
Selig sind die Toten	Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672)
→ Jauchzet dem Herren (Psalm 100)	Heinrich Schütz
→ Egredimini et videte	Andrea Gabrieli (1510-1586)
Canzon Prima à 8 (1615)	Giovanni Gabrieli (1557-1612)
Sonata Decimaterza à 4 (1644)	Dario Castello (17 th C)
O Quam Suavis (<i>Deborah Roberts</i>)	Francesco Cavalli (1602-1676)
→ Laudate Dominum in Tympanis	Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)
→ Gloria à 12 (Sacra Symphoniae 1597)	Giovanni Gabrieli

Interval ~ 30 minutes with refreshments

→ Plaudite, Psallite à 12 (Sacrae Symphoniae 1597)	Giovanni Gabrieli
Sonata à 4 (1610)	Giovanni Paulo Cima (17 th C)
Diminutions on "Frais et Gaillard"	Giovanni Bassano (1558-1617)
Grillo Canzon Segunda à 8 (1818)	Giovanni Battista (c 1570-1622)
→ Crucifixus	Antonio Lotti (1667-1740)
→ Cantate Domino	Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)
Beatus Vir	Claudio Monteverdi
Parasti in dulcedine (<i>Deborah Roberts</i>)	Barbara Strozzi (1619-1677)
→ Dixit Dominus	Giovanni Antonio Rigatti (1615-1649)

Francesco Cavalli – O Quam Suavis

O how sweet and graceful you are, daughter of Jerusalem; queen of the angels. Queen, mother and virgin. Oh Mary, flower of virginity and like a rose or lilly, hear the prayers of your children.

Barbara Strozzi – Parasti in dulcedine

God prepares the sweetest feast for men. The mountains give forth sweetness and the hills flow with milk and honey. Come, sinners, and taste the heavenly food of angels; the provision of paradise. Oh saviour Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, the doorway for us to the eternal glory of heaven.

Come taste my honey and honeycomb and drink my milk with wine, and taste how sweet salvation is.

Oh saviour Christ etc.

His Majestys Sagbutts and Cornetts (Wind Instruments Ensemble)

His Majestys Sagbutts and Cornetts (HMS&C) is an ensemble of wind players specialising in the performance of music of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries on original instruments. The ensemble was founded in 1982 and is directed by Timothy Roberts.

The group's illustrious sounding name is taken from a seventeenth century ceremonial wind group, which as part of the "King's Musicke" was utilised by Matthew Locke when he wrote "five-part things for His Majestys Sagbutts and Cornetts". These and other six part pieces designated for the original HMS&C are thought to have been played during the celebrations for the coronation of King Charles in 1661. Cornetts and Sagbutts were not only favoured by English kings. Whenever the chapels or courts of Europe called upon musicians to add a sense of ceremony and atmosphere to a great occasion, a good ensemble of cornetts and sackbutts would have been considered indispensable. Since its formation, His Majestys Sagbutts and Cornetts has pioneered the rediscovery of pan-European repertoire of such groups and musicians; a repertoire which has incredible variety to offer the listener.

The core of the ensemble consists of two cornetts and four sackbutts accompanied by a harpsichord or chamber organ, but the group regularly expands when the repertoire demands. The group has toured Europe and Asia and has made over 15 recordings. They have collaborated with singers such as Emma Kirkby, Catherine Bott, and Charles Daniels, and numerous period instrument conductors, including Roger Norrington and John Eliot Gardiner. The ensemble has been featured at many prestigious music festivals, including those at Salzburg, Utrecht, and Edinburgh. Since 1995, His Majestys Sagbutts and Cornetts has been an ensemble-in-residence at the Royal College of Music, London.

The players are:

Jeremy West, Jamie Savan and Gawain Glenton - cornetts
Adam Woolf, Philip Dale, Tom Lees - alto and tenor sackbutts
Andrew Harwood-White, Stephen Saunders - bass sackbutts
Ben Bayl keyboard

Deborah Roberts

Deborah Roberts graduated from Nottingham University with an MA in the editing and interpretation of renaissance and baroque music and then began combining editorial work with singing in various professional early music ensembles. In 1981 she was a prize winner in the early music competition in Bruges, enabling her to study with Andrea von Ramm in Basel.

Over the years much of her career has been dedicated to singing with the Tallis Scholars, with whom she has given over a thousand concerts, but she has also made solo appearances with several other

noted ensembles, including the Consort of Musicke, the Deller Consort, the Parley of Instruments, London Baroque and the English Concert, as well as several solo recordings.

Having a great interest in the Italian renaissance and early baroque, she has worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Southampton and engaged in a research project into female vocal ensembles in 16th century Italy; but she also regularly gives lectures and workshops at various other universities, colleges and summer schools. Another area of research has been into music composed by 17th century nuns. She founded the ensemble Musica Secreta to perform much of this rare music, and the group has now released 5 CDs to high critical acclaim.

Deborah is one of the Artistic Directors of the burgeoning Brighton Early Music Festival.

The Venetian style

Throughout the Middle Ages and Renaissance, Venice, the "Most Serene Republic," was one of the most exciting cities in Europe. The centre of trade with the east, Venice was an extraordinarily wealthy, powerful, and cosmopolitan city. The ruling doge was selected by the ruling oligarchy and was more of a protector of the republic than a ruler. During the 16th century, high renaissance Venice was at a cultural pinnacle. Composers like Andrea and Giovanni Gabrieli, Adrian Willaert, and Claudio Merlo thrived in a musical environment which called for grand works that reflected the glory of Venice.

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Further information about the East Sussex Bach Choir may be found on our website: **www.bachchoir.org.uk**

Next concert by ESBC:

Saturday 17 December, 7.30 pm, St John sub Castro Church, Lewes. Charpentier: Messe de Minuit, Bach Cantata 140 (Sleepers Wake) and Seasonal choral music and carols.