



# Choral Workshop

*Thomas Tomkins: Songs of 3, 4, 5 & 6 parts*

**Venue: to be decided - probably Brighton College**  
**Saturday 18 February 2012**  
**10.00am to 6.00pm**

Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656) is often referred to as 'the last Elizabethan'. He was of the same generation as Gibbons and Weelkes, but lived on for some 40 years after the death of his contemporaries, becoming in the process something of an anachronism. To put him further into context, this composer of music in a firmly Renaissance style died some thirteen years *after* the death of that pioneer of the Baroque, Claudio Monteverdi.

The majority of Tomkins' music was not published until after his death. However, he did see one major volume published during his own lifetime: the *Songs of 3, 4, 5 and 6 parts* (1622), an eclectic mix of sacred and secular music clearly designed to be something of a showcase for his style. The majority of works are madrigals, but the varied number of voices indicates that he was aiming for as wide a readership as possible. The volume therefore serves as a compendium of Tomkins' work at the height of his long career.

## Choral Workshop

The Esterhazy Chamber Choir will be holding a Choral Workshop on the sacred and secular music of Thomas Tomkins on **Saturday 18 February 2012**, using his *Songs of 3, 4, 5 and 6 parts*. Works will include his famous motet *When David heard* and probably his finest madrigal, *Music Divine*. There will also be an opportunity to sing some smaller works in groups with one or two voices to a part.

The course will be directed by David Thomas, former Musical Director of the choir, and will end with an informal concert to which guests are welcome (admission free).

**Timetable:** begin 10.00am; break for lunch 12.30-2.00pm. Tea break mid afternoon. Informal Concert at 5.30pm, to finish by 6.00pm. Refreshments will not be provided – please bring your own.

**Cost:** £10 (cash on the day) for non-members of Esterhazy Chamber Choir.

**Applications:** Please apply early (by 31 December 2011) so that we can plan which works to include. Acceptance will be subject to overall balance. Voice allocations and music will be sent out by email by 15 January. Please apply **by email only** to David Thomas ([dst@eggconnect.net](mailto:dst@eggconnect.net)) stating the following:

**Name**

**Address**

**Telephone No.**

**Email address**

**Voice**

*(please state 1st or 2nd if you have a preference)*

**Choir(s) you currently sing with**