

The Baroque Singers

www.baroquesingers.co.uk

Directed by Anthony Purnell

Songs of Faith



Andrea Gabrieli: Missa Brevis

Martin Codax: "Cantigas de Amigo"

The "Laudario di Cortona"

(13th century praise songs from Italy)

with CACIONERO

SATURDAY 7th JUNE at 7:30pm

St John the Evangelist, Groombridge

Missa Brevis in F

Andrea Gabrieli (1510 – 1586)

1. Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison (*Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy*)
2. Gloria in excelsis deo (*Glory to God in the highest*)
3. Credo in unum deum (*I believe in one God*)
4. Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini (*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*)
5. Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, Dona nobis pacem (*Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, grant us peace*)

Andrea Gabrieli was a native of Venice but worked in Germany prior to being appointed organist at St Mark's in 1566 where he was succeeded by his famous pupil and nephew Giovanni. This Missa Brevis dates from his time in Germany. Like his contemporary Palestrina, who worked in Rome, Gabrieli was mindful of the requirements of the Council of Trent that the sense of sacred texts should be clear; at key moments the voices move together but at other times move independently to make the music more expressive.

Cantigas d'Amigo

Martín Codax (fl. c. 1230)



A Madrid bookseller found this manuscript of the Cantigas de Amigo by Martín Codax in 1914. It had been used to form part of the binding for a 16th century edition of a work by Cicero. The words had already been known from two other manuscripts but this is the

oldest surviving secular music from the Iberian Peninsula. Unfortunately the scribe did not write in the music for the sixth song, although he ruled the staff lines. Most modern performers borrow melodies from other songs of the period or compose something in a similar style. This is the earliest known example of a song cycle. The poems are written in the Galician dialect.

Ondas do mar

*O waves of Vigo's bay, have you seen my lover?
Ah God, will he soon come to me?*

Mandad' ey comigo

*My lover is returning, I have received a message,
Mother I shall go to Vigo.*

Mia irmana fremosa

*O my fair sister, come with me to the church at Vigo
by the sea: we will gaze upon the ocean.*

Ay Deus, se sab'ora meu amigo

*Ah God, if only my lover could know
that I languish in Vigo, deep in love.*

Quantas sabedes amar amigo

*All you who would be lovers, come to the sea at Vigo:
we will bathe in the ocean waves.*

Eno sagrado, en Vigo

*In the churchyard at Vigo there danced a lover:
I am so in love.*

Ay ondas, que eu vin veer

*Ah waves that I came to see, will you not tell me
why my lover thus tarries far from me?*

INTERVAL

THE LAUDARIO DI CORTONA

Venite a laudare

Cortona, Biblioteca Comunale, 91 No 1

Laude novella

Cortona, Biblioteca Comunale, 91 No 2

Stella nuova

Cortona, Biblioteca Comunale, 91 No 21

La Manfredina and Rotta

London, Brit.Lib., add 29987

Ave, regina gloriosa

Cortona, Biblioteca Comunale, 91 No 6

Dança Amorosa

Florence Archivio di Stato, Antecosimiano 17879

Salve, salve, virgo pia

Cortona, Biblioteca Comunale, 91 No 16

Fami cantar l'amor di la beata

Cortona, Biblioteca Comunale, 91 No 9

Saltarello No 3

London, Brit.Lib., add 29987

Alta trinità beata

Cortona, Biblioteca Comunale, 91 No 32

Sia laudato San Francesco

Cortona, Biblioteca Comunale, 91 No 38

Trotto

Anon (GBLbm. Add. 29987 f62v)

Gloria 'n cielo

Cortona, Biblioteca Comunale, 91 No 20

Saint Francis was born in 1182, the son of a cloth merchant from Assisi and a French mother. He was christened Giovanni but became known as Francesco since he was fluent in both the languages of France – northern French and southern Occitan. He grew up with a love of the songs of the southern troubadours - the first major poets to use their vernacular language rather than Latin. Francis wrote one of the first great poems in Italian – his canticle of the sun which was paraphrased in the English hymn “All Creatures of Our God and King”.

After Francis there was a religious revival in Italy. This led to the forming of guilds of *Laudesi*, groups of lay people who gathered together to hold praise meetings. They met in churches to sing to the accompaniment of professional musicians. The songs had verses which might be sung by soloists or small groups of carefully rehearsed singers with choruses in which everyone could join. The songs often had many verses and the repetition resulted in a trance-like state of heightened devotion. Two major collections of these songs (known as *Laudarios*) have survived: a late 13th century book from Cortona and an early 14th century book from Florence. Accounts from some of the guilds of “*laudesi*” survive which record payments to players of the *rebec*, *lute*, *vielle* and *harp* amongst other instruments. We have set out to recreate the spirit of these. In preparing the accompaniments we have looked at the groups of instruments depicted in contemporary paintings and sculptures.

Translations/Summaries of the Laude

Venite a laudare

Come and praise, for the sake of love sing to the loving Virgin Mary.

Mary, glorious and blessed, may great praise be yours for ever: we pray that you will intercede for us with your son, o holy virgin.

Holy sovereign queen, comfort the despairing, you are the great cure which heals, help us through your kindness.

Kindness which has great gifts, love which does not abandon us, we pray that you will forgive our sins.

Your leadership sets free the heart, mother of love. Sinners who know you my lady repent.

Strong, powerful blessed lady, for you this song of praise is sung: you are our advocate, the most faithful there could ever be.

Laude novella

Let us sing new praise to the high crowned Lady.

Fresh virgin, damsel, first flower, new rose, all the world calls to you who was born in goodness.

You are the rose, you the lily, you bore your sweet son, but, Lady, I must praise and honour you.

No tongue can tell how you are to be praised; your name makes Satan tremble with a thousand blows.

Stella nuova

Oh new star among men, that newly appeared, star that shone upon the world when the joyful King was born, shone in the midst of all the world to bring light to men.

The three magi did see it. They said: Born is the Saviour, God, Father omnipotent.

Ave regina gloriosa

Hail, glorious queen full of every consolation.

Hail beautiful pearl, clear shining light, fresh rose and fragrance, our joy and delight.

Hail adored queen, blessed virgin mother; since your salutation you have been our mother of great holiness.

Hail, gateway of salvation; you help whoever loves you well; save him from falling into error, and keep him from doubting thoughts.

Salve salve virgo pia

Hail, hail holy virgin, gleaming jewel, Mary.

Let us sing with great delight of that perfect love of ours who was prays to Christ for us, who is our light and our way.

Let us now sing with joy of our beautiful lover, for she is our solace: may she be ever blessed.

Fami cantar l'amor di la beata

Let me sing of the love of the blessed one who rejoices in Christ.

Give me comfort, Mother of love, and put your fire and flame into my heart that I may love you so much always as long as I live.

Glorious woman so kind, no other is found worthy as you, Madonna, who have the mark of the most high, living Creator.

Mother of Christ, full of knowledge, in you is solace, wisdom, in mercy grant understanding that our mind may always be with you.

Alta trinità beata

High blessed trinity, may we always worship you.

Glorious trinity, marvellous unity, you are delicious food from heaven, desired every hour.

We believe without doubting, firmly and with hope, in three persons one substance worshipped by the saints.

In all creation your splendour shines through, as told in the scriptures and the true prophets.

Power in creation, wisdom in ordering, goodness in governing everything that has breath

You, heavenly father, to protect us from all evil, you sent your son, equal to you, to the people who were sinning.

Joyful love of the Holy Spirit, who redeemed the whole world, save us from the depths of hell and pardon our sins.

O true Trinity, through your mercy grant that our humility might be raised to eternal life.

Sia laudato San Francesco

May St Francis be praised, the one who bore the marks of the crucifixion like the redeemer.

Made to resemble Christ he was branded with His wounds because he had carried the love for Him written in his heart.

On the holy mount of La Verna the holy man was weeping copiously: the comforting seraphim turned that weeping into a song.

By divine inspiration he was given the inspiration to save many sinners from perdition.

When blessed St Francis was sent by God the world, which was in darkness, received great splendour.

His followers, the poor lesser friars, are teachers of the people, preaching without error.

Through your holy virtue, given by God in such great measure, such sweet songs come from you Francis with your open heart.

Gloria 'n cielo

Glory in heaven and peace on earth.

Our Saviour is born.

The Baroque Singers:

Sopranos: Claire Evans, Nichola Napleton, Sarah Pinks

Altos: Sheila Anstead, Julia Webb, Mary Gurr

Tenors: Tim Oyler, Stephen Pollard, Brian Pearson

Basses: Dominic Webb, Martin Williams

Cancionero:

Anne Purnell – hurdy gurdy, recorders and castanets

Kate Sladen – vielle and rebec

Anthony Purnell – bagpipes, harp, psaltery, recorder and saz

Tim Garside - percussion

<http://www.kentminstrels.co.uk>

Future Concerts:

Friday 5 December 2014 in All Saints' Church Tudeley

Benjamin Britten: A Ceremony of Carols

accompanied by harpist Anna Wynne

and other seasonal music

Saturday 28 March 2015 in All Saints' Church Tudeley

George Frederick Handel: Messiah

The Baroque Singers rehearse on Thursday evenings from 8:15pm to 9:45pm in the Church Centre in Rusthall. We are always pleased to welcome new members. If you would like to join us please contact Anthony Purnell (01622 871161 or baroquesingers@btinternet.com).