



**WIMBLEDON
CHAMBER CHOIR**

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www.wimbledonchamberchoir.org.uk

CHRISTMAS IN VENICE

*Music by Andrea and Giovanni Gabrieli,
Claudio Monteverdi and their contemporaries*

with cornetts, sackbuts, theorbo and gamba

TAMARA RAVENHILL
(soprano)

ALEXANDRE GARZIGLIA
(tenor)



LORNA PERRY
(mezzo)

HENRY WICKHAM
(baritone)

Conducted by **PETER SMITH**

SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER 2023 AT 7.30PM
ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, DURHAM ROAD, WIMBLEDON, SW20 ODE

Tickets £16 (including refreshments and programme) online from
www.wimbledonchamberchoir.org.uk or at the door (cash only)

Children under 16 free

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ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, WEST WIMBLEDON

Saturday, 16 December 2023 at 7.30pm

Christmas in Venice

Tamara Ravenhill (soprano)

Alexandre Garziglia (tenor)

Odeon Consort

Peter Smith (conductor)

Lorna Perry (alto)

Henry Wickham (bass)

Marilyn Harper (organ)

PROGRAMME

Intonazione del Quinto Tono (Intonation on the fifth tone)	Andrea Gabrieli (1532-1585)
Hodie Christus Natus Est à 8	Giovanni Gabrieli (1557-1612)
Angelus ad pastores ait à 4	Andrea Gabrieli
O Porta Coeli	Alessandro Grandi (1586-1630)
Hodie Christus Natus Est à 7	Giovanni Bassano (1558-1617)
Ave Maris Stella	Francesco Cavalli (1602-1676)
Canzona Prima a 5	Giovanni Gabrieli
Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern	Michael Praetorius (1571 - 1621)
Angelus ad pastores ait à 7	Andrea Gabrieli
Verbum caro factum est	Heinrich Schütz (1572-1685)
Ave Maris Stella (from the Vespers of 1610)	Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)

Interval (*refreshments available*)

Hodie Christus Natus Est à 8	Baldassare Donato (1525-1603)
Ein Kind ist uns Geboren	Schütz
O Magnum Mysterium	Giovanni Gabrieli
Canzona Ariosa	Andrea Gabrieli
Hodie Nobis de Coelo	Grandi
Sancta et Immaculata à 5 (for instruments)	Andrea Gabrieli
Sonata Prima per Canto Solo	Dario Castello (1602-1631)
Exultent Coeli	Monteverdi
Ave Virgo, Sponsa Dei	Giovanni Croce (1557-1609)
O Magnum Mysterium	Pomponio Nenna (1556-1608)
Hodie Christus Natus Est à 10	Giovanni Gabrieli

As this programme consists of a large number of shorter items, it is suggested that any applause be reserved for the end of each half.

“Christmas in Venice”

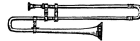
The story of how a collection of muddy islands in the Adriatic became one of the richest and most famous cities in the medieval world is a remarkable one. Built on foundations created by driving thousands of tree trunks into the mud, Venice grew to prominence thanks to its strategic location at the head of the Adriatic, the extraordinary skill of its seamen, and the cunning of its diplomats. The Venetian love of display and celebration also contributed to the city’s success: visiting dignitaries were treated to lavish spectacles, reinforcing the image of a rich and powerful state, and helping the Venetian Republic to punch well above its weight in international affairs.

Music played an important part in all of this, and Venice attracted many of the greatest musicians of the day. The *Maestro di Cappella* (Master of the Music) of the great basilica of San Marco was the most influential musician in the city, and the post was held by four of tonight’s composers: **Andrea Gabrieli**, his nephew **Giovanni**, **Claudio Monteverdi**, and **Francesco Cavalli**. The Gabrielis developed the polychoral style of grand ceremonial pieces written for two or more “choirs”, which in this context can mean a group of choristers or solo singers or instrumentalists, or any combination of them. It used to be thought that these polychoral works were performed using the many galleries in San Marco to create spatial effects, though this is now doubted. **Monteverdi** was one of the pioneers of opera, and many of his church pieces employ a more declamatory style, sometimes using one or more solo voices accompanied by a smaller group of instruments. **Cavalli** followed in the footsteps of his teacher Monteverdi, both as a composer of operas, for which he is perhaps best known, and as a church musician.

Among our other composers, **Heinrich Schütz** was German, and worked for most of his life at the court of Dresden, but spent two lengthy periods in Venice, studying first with Giovanni Gabrieli, then with Monteverdi. His music fuses the styles of those composers with the more austere German tradition. **Michael Praetorius** was also German; unlike Schütz, he is not known to have visited Venice, but he was influenced by the music of the Gabrielis, both directly and via Schütz. **Alessandro Grandi** was born in Venice and studied with Giovanni Gabrieli, later moving to Bergamo. His music enjoyed enormous popularity during his lifetime. **Giovanni Bassano** was famous as a virtuoso cornett player, and held a number of lesser posts in Venice. **Baldassare Donato** appears to have been a difficult character; he was singer at San Marco, later becoming become assistant *Maestro di Cappella*, but never achieving the top job. As well as his church music, he is noted for secular vocal pieces in a lighter style. **Giovanni Croce** was regarded as musically conservative, being more influenced by Andrea Gabrieli than Giovanni. He wrote many madrigals and other secular pieces, and is believed to have influenced the English composer Thomas Morley. **Dario Castello** was a violinist who worked with Monteverdi. Noted for his instrumental compositions, he suffered an early death in the plague of 1630. **Pomponio Nenna** worked mainly in Naples, but like other contemporary musicians came under the influence of Venetian music.

The feast of Christmas did not loom as large in the Venetian calendar as it does for us today. The one Christmas text which seems to have been set by almost every composer is *Hodie Christus Natus Est*, and we will hear four different settings of those words this evening. Celebrations of the Virgin Mary were very popular, and our programme includes a number of pieces in honour of the Virgin.

The instrumental ensemble this evening includes instruments which would have been used in seventeenth century Venice. The **cornett** (not to be confused with the cornet used in brass bands) was in common use from about 1500 to 1650. It is a conical wooden pipe with finger holes similar to those on the recorder, but with a cup mouthpiece similar to those used for modern brass instruments. The **sackbut** is the forerunner of the trombone; compared with a modern trombone it has a narrower bore and a less flared bell, and produces a gentler sound. The **theorbo** is a kind of lute with a greatly extended neck, which enables it to play bass notes. It was much used as a continuo instrument in early baroque music. The **viola da gamba** is an early string instrument, which, unlike its modern counterparts, has frets, as on a guitar.



Texts and Translations

Hodie Christus Natus Est

Hodie Christus natus est:
Hodie Salvator apparuit:
Hodie in terra canunt Angeli,
laetantur Archangeli
Hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Alleluia. [Noe, noe!]
Antiphon for Christmas Day

Angelus ad Pastores

Angelus ad pastores ait:
annuntio vobis gaudium magnum,
quia natus est vobis hodie Salvator mundi.
Alleluia.
[Parvulus filius hodie natus est nobis,
et vocabitur Deus fortis.
Alleluia.]
Luke 2:10-11 (altered)

Giovanni Gabrieli (two settings)

(also settings by Bassano and Donato)

*Today Christ is born:
Today the Saviour appeared:
Today on Earth the angels sing,
Archangels rejoice:
Today the righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory to God in the highest.
Alleluia. [Noel, noel!]*

Andrea Gabrieli (two settings)

*The angel said to the shepherds:
'I bring you tidings of great joy,
for the Saviour of the world
has been born to you today.' Alleluia.
[A tiny son is born to us today,
and he shall be called Mighty God.
Alleluia.]*

O Porta Coeli

O Porta Caeli, O stella maris,
 O Virgo Mater, O Mater et Virgo
 O Dei Filia, o Mater Virgo, Virgo Maria,

Exaudi voces quas fundunt populi
 clamores percipe et preces suscipe
 affer auxilium clamantes auspice.
 Exaudi supplicum preces fidelium, Virgo Maria.

O corona Virginitatis Maria
 O pretiosa mundi Margarita
 O decus Angelorum, O nostrum refugium
 O Lampas Caeli et terrae gloria Virgo Maria

Exaudi voces.... etc

O terror Demonum, O Virgo praeclara
 O Mater suavis O pulchra rosa
 O summa Regis filia
 Virgo Maria
 Exaudi voces.... etc

Ave Maris Stella

Ave, maris stella, Dei Mater alma,
 Atque semper Virgo,
 Felix caeli porta.

Sumens illud Ave Gabrielis ore,
 Funda nos in pace, Mutans Evae nomen.

Solve vincla reis,
 Profer lumen caecis,
 Mala nostra pelle, Bona cuncta posce

Monstra te esse matrem
 Sumat per te preces,
 Qui pro nobis natus Tulit esse tuus.

Virgo singularis, Inter omnes mitis,
 Nos culpis solutos,
 Mites fac et castos.

Vitam praesta puram, Iter para tutum,
 Ut videntes Jesum,
 Semper collaetemur.

Sit laus Deo Patri,
 Summo Christo decus
 Spiritui Sancto,
 Tribus honor unus. Amen.

Alessandro Grandi

*O Door to heaven, o Star of the sea,
 O virgin mother, mother and maid,
 O daughter of God, Virgin Mother, Virgin Mary.*

*Hear the voices of the people crying out to thee,
 and receive the prayers,
 offering help to those who implore thee.
 O Virgin Mary, give ear to the supplication of thy
 faithful.*

*O Mary, crown of virtue,
 O Margaret, prize of this world,
 O glory of the angels, O thou our refuge,
 O glorious light of heaven and earth, Virgin
 Mary,
 Hear the voices...*

*O terror of demons, O shining virgin,
 O sweet mother, O beautiful rose,
 O highest-born daughter of the King,
 Virgin Mary:
 Hear the voices...*

**Cavalli
Monteverdi**

*Hail, star of the sea, loving Mother of God,
 and also always a virgin,
 Happy gate of heaven.*

*Receiving that Ave from Gabriel's mouth
 confirm us in peace, Reversing Eva's name.*

*Break the chains of sinners,
 Bring light to the blind,
 Drive away our evils, Ask for all good.*

*Show yourself to be a mother,
 May he accept prayers through you,
 he who, born for us, Chose to be yours.*

*O unique virgin, Meek above all,
 Make us, absolved from sin,
 Gentle and chaste.*

*Keep life pure, Make the journey safe,
 So that, seeing Jesus,
 We may always rejoice together.*

*Let there be praise to God the Father,
 Glory to Christ in the highest,
 To the Holy Spirit,
 One honour to all three. Amen.*

Verbum caro factum est

Verbum caro factum est
 Et habitavit in nobis
 plenum gratiae et veritatis. Alleluia.
John 1:14

Schütz

*And the Word was made flesh,
 and dwelt among us,
 full of grace and truth. Alleluia.*

Ein Kind ist uns geboren

Ein Kind ist uns geboren,
 Ein Sohn ist uns gegeben,
 welches Herrschaft ist auf seiner Schulter
 und er heißt Wunderbar, Rat, Kraft, Held,
 Ewigvater, Friedefürst,

auf daß seine Herrschaft groß werde
 und des Friedens keine Ende
 auf dem Stuhl Davids und seines Königreichs,
 daß er's zurichte und stärke
 mit Gericht und Gerechtigkeit
 von nun an bis in Ewigkeit.
 Solches wird tun
 der Eifer des Herren Zebaoth.

Schütz

*A boy is born to us,
 a son is given to us,
 and the government will be on his shoulders,
 and His name will be called
 Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 Of the greatness of his government and peace
 there will be no end.
 He will reign on David's throne
 and over his kingdom,
 establishing and upholding it
 with justice and righteousness
 from that time on and forever.
 The zeal of the Lord Almighty
 will accomplish this.*

O Magnum Mysterium

O magnum mysterium
 et admirabile sacramentum,
 ut animalia viderent Dominum natum
 jacentem in praesepio.

O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt
 portare Dominum Jesum Christum.
 Ave Maria, gratia plena: Dominus tecum.
 O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt
 portare Dominum Jesum Christum.
 [Alleluia!]

**Giovanni Gabrieli
Nenna**

*O great mystery
 and wonderful sacrament,
 that animals should see the new-born Lord
 lying in a manger!*

*O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb
 was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.
 Hail Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with you.
 Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
 was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.
 [Alleluia!]*

Hodie Nobis de Coelo

Hodie nobis de cœlo pax vera descendit:
 Hodie per totum mundum
 melliflui facti sunt cœli. Alleluia.

Hodie illuxit nobis dies redemptionis novæ,
 reparationis antiquæ, felicitatis aeternæ.
 Alleluia.

Grandi

*Today for us true peace from heaven came down:
 Today throughout the whole world the heavens
 flowed with honey. Alleluia.*

*Today there shone for us a day of new
 redemption, of long-expected restoration,
 of eternal happiness. Alleluia.*

Exultent Caeli

Exultent caeli et gaudeant angeli,
jubilent omnes, jubilent hodie canentes populi
in organo laetitiae,
in citharis et choris.

Nam hodie concepta es Beata Virgo Maria
per quam salus mundi
credentibus apparuit.

O Maria mater gratiae, mater misericordiae.
Sola fuisti digna portare talentum mundi.
O, Maria.

Exultent caeli....

Nam hodie Angelus Domini nunciavit Mariae
et concepit de Spiritu Sancto
elegit eam Deus et preelegit eam,
in tabernaculo Suo habitare facit eam.

O Maria mater gratiae....

Exultent caeli....

Ave Virgo, Sponsa Dei

Ave virgo, sponsa Dei,
Sancti Spiritus sacrarium,
In quo prater ordinem
Mirabili mysterio. Alleluia.

Verbum caro factum est,
Et tu Christi Redemptoris
Immaculata genitrix. Alleluia.

Monteverdi

*The heavens rejoice and the angels are joyful,
let all rejoice today with the people
singing with the organ of joy,
with strings and choirs.*

*For today is conceived of the Blessed Virgin
Mary the one through whom the salvation of the
world appeared to believers.*

*O Mary, Mother of Grace, Mother of Mercy,
you alone are worthy to bear the treasure of the
world. O, Mary.*

*For today the angel of the Lord appeared to Mary
and she conceived by the Holy Spirit,
chosen by God, and fore-ordained,
to dwell in his house.*

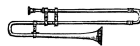
O Mary, Mother of Grace....

The heavens rejoice....

Giovanni Croce

*Hail, Virgin, bride of God,
shrine of the Holy Spirit, in which
beyond the normal order,
by a wondrous mystery.... Alleluia*

*....the word became flesh,
and you, O Christ,
the Redeemer's immaculate mother. Alleluia.*



Wimbledon Chamber Choir

Soprano

Rosalind Boxall
Margaret Austen
Alison Bullett
Sally Carter
Alison Emblow
Margherita De Fraja
Elizabeth Hargrave

Alto

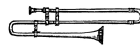
Susan Andrew
Heather Blake
Susan Clucas
Lorna Nunn
Joanne Salibi
Jane Smith
Susan White

Tenor

Philip French
Ian Hargrave
Kieran Hill
John Mitchell

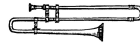
Bass

Christopher Baker
Andrew Black
Michael Boxall
Mark Lester
Howard Phillips
Neville Squires



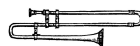
Odeon Consort

Richard Thomas (cornett)
Kate Allsop (cornett and recorder)
Stephanie Dyer, Phil Dale, Guy Morley (sackbuts)
Jacob Garside (viola da gamba)
Danny Murphy (theorbo)
with
Marilyn Harper (organ)



Our Next Concert

Saturday 16 March 2024 at 7.30pm
Trinity United Reformed Church, Mansel Road, SW19 4AA
Liszt Missa Choralis
and other music for choir and organ



To join our email mailing list, please contact wimbledonchamber@virginmedia.com

Wimbledon Chamber choir gratefully acknowledges the support of the H R Taylor Charitable Trust.