

**St Peter's and St Paul's Church, Wantage**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2002**

**8pm**

# **Cantemus**

**Conductor      Ian Westley**

**Organ            Jonathan Cox**

**Admission by programme £6.00**

**Concessions £3.50**

**Net proceeds in aid of St Peter's and St Paul's Church**



# Programme

Jubilate Deo	Giovanni Gabrieli (1557-1612)
<i>Fugue on the Magnificat</i>	J.S.Bach (1685-1750)
Miserere	Gregorio Allegri (1582-1652) <i>(Soprano solo: Angela Ham)</i>
<i>Plein chant du premier Sanctus en Canon</i> <i>Recit de Cornet</i> (from Messe pour les paroisses)	Francois Couperin
Dixit Maria Crucifixus a8 O vos omnes	Hans Leo Hassler (c1564-1612) Antonio Lotti (c1667-1740) Carlo Gesualdo (c1561-1613)

## Interval

Jesu, meine Freude	J.S.Bach (1685-1750)
i) <i>Jesu, meine Freude</i>	
ii) <i>Es ist nun nichts Verdammliches</i>	
iii) <i>Unter deinem Schirmen</i>	
iv) <i>Denn das Gesetz</i>	<i>(Trio: Angela Ham, Sheenagh Dornie, Heather Sims)</i>
v) <i>Trotz dem alten Drachen</i>	
vi) <i>Ihr aber seid nicht fleischlich</i>	
vii) <i>Weg mit allen Schätzen!</i>	
viii) <i>So aber Christus</i>	<i>(Trio: Pippa Thynne, Heather Sims, Ian Haslam)</i>
ix) <i>Gute Nacht, o Wesen</i>	<i>(Tenor Solo: Barrie Seaman)</i>
x) <i>So nun der Geist</i>	
xi) <i>Weicht, ihr Trauergeister</i>	

## Programme notes

### Jubilate Deo

Giovanni Gabrieli was born in Venice in 1557 and from 1585 until his death held the post of organist at San Marco, Venice. Once appointed to the post, he composed prolifically for the civic and religious festivals for which Venice had become renowned.

*Jubilate Deo* dates from this period and is from Gabrieli's *Sacrae Symphony*, which was first published in Venice in 1597. The text of the composition is not that of Psalm 100, but seems to have been especially arranged for some great occasion. The piece consists of constantly shifting division and subdivision of the choir, into antiphonal duets, trios and quartets.

### Miserere

Gregorio Allegri was a singer, composer and priest who lived and worked all his life in Rome. In 1630 he was appointed to the Papal choir for which he wrote his *Miserere*.

The text is taken from Psalm 51 and was sung by the Papal choir in the Pontifical Chapel just once a year during holy week. The threat of excommunication hung over anyone who dared to make a copy of it or take it from the choir.

### Dixit Maria

Hans Leo Hassler studied under Andrea Gabrieli (uncle of Giovanni) in Venice before returning to Germany to take up an appointment with the wealthy Fugger family in Augsburg. It was during this period that he published his first collection of sacred music, which included *Dixit Maria*. The piece was probably written for the Feast of the Annunciation.

### Crucifixus a8

Antonio Lotti was born and lived most of his life in Venice. In 1736 he was appointed to the prestigious position of Maestro di Cappella at San Marco.

The eight-part *Crucifixus a8*, part of the Credo, is the piece for which he is best known. It dates from his period at the court of Dresden (1717-1719). He also arranged the piece for six and ten voices.

### O vos omnes

Gesualdo, Prince of Venosa, is remembered as much for the murder of his adulterous wife and her lover as for his music. An amateur musician, his madrigals are noted for the eccentric and adventurous chromaticism, which sometimes appeared in his religious works. *O vos omnes* comes from his first book of *Cantiones Sacrae* (1603), which was a volume of music for Holy week.

### Jesu, meine Freude

This motet for five part chorus was probably first performed at Nikolaikirche, Leipzig on Sunday 18 July 1723 in memory of Johanna Maria, the late wife of Oberpostmeister Kase. The words of the odd-numbered sections are from Johann Franck's hymn published in 1653, the evens from Romans VIII.

**Cantemus** was formed in 1999 and has given performances in the Newbury, Thatcham and Marlborough area. As well as providing West Berkshire with a new Chamber Choir the group aims to raise money for locally based charities. The singers come from as far afield as Reading, Marlborough, Swindon and Wantage and rehearse in St Gabriel's School, Newbury.

**Ian Westley** studied music at Reading University where he specialised in piano and organ. He pursues a career as an instrumental and singing teacher as well as acting as an accompanist and répétiteur. He conducts the Erleigh Cantors and is director of music at St Peter's, Caversham.

**Jonathan Cox** was born in St Albans in 1977. For five years he was a chorister at the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Albans, singing under Colin Walsh and Barry Rose. He studied for a degree in music at the Colchester Institute, and learnt the organ with John Cooper. He was also appointed Organist and Choir Master at St James the Great, Colchester.

Jonathan is currently teaching music at the Downs School in Compton and holds the post of Director of Music at Wantage Parish Church.

Cantemus	Sopranos	Hilary Cox Sheenagh Dernie Angela Ham Edwina Northam	Altos	Dinny Barker Patricia Robson Georgina Seaman Heather Sims Pippa Thynne
	Tenors	Barrie Seaman Jonathan Cox	Basses	Mike Ananin Stephen Blinman Ian Haslam

The Choir has limited vacancies in some voices and welcomes applications from singers of an appropriate standard. If you are interested please telephone Ian Haslam on 01635 820379 or e-mail [cantemus.newbury@ntlworld.com](mailto:cantemus.newbury@ntlworld.com)

Cantemus thanks the Vicar and Parish Council for granting permission to use the Church and for their help in staging the concert.

The choir is affiliated to the national Federation of Music Societies, which represents and supports amateur vocal, instrumental and promoting societies throughout the UK.