

# stile antico

*In a single decade, Stile Antico has established itself as one of the world's most accomplished early music vocal ensembles. Offering new programmes for 2018, the ensemble enjoys a prestigious touring career and has an award-winning discography with Harmonia Mundi.*

## QUEEN OF MUSES

**Elizabeth I as Monarch, Patron & Lover – 12 singers**

The reign of the great Tudor Queen, Elizabeth I, saw an unparalleled flowering of the arts in England. The 'Virgin Queen', herself a talented musician, presided over a court which revelled in the skill of great composers such as Thomas Tallis, William Byrd, and John Dowland. This programme explores the way music was used to gain favour with the Queen by courtiers and diplomats and even by suitors, seeking to gain the royal hand in marriage. Along the way, we meet foreign spies, disgraced favourites and plotting noblemen, illuminating the life of a court which rejoiced in some of the finest music ever created in England.

## DIVINE CONSOLATIONS

**Music of reflection and hope by Bach and his predecessors – 12 singers plus continuo**

In this alluring programme, Stile Antico explores an exquisite selection of German Baroque repertoire. Delving into the rich tradition of Lutheran funeral music written to console and uplift the living, the ensemble traces a journey from the polyphonic works of the late Renaissance (often performed in Bach's Leipzig), by way of Schütz's masterpiece, the *Musikalische Exequien*, to Bach's longest and most moving motet, *Jesu meine Freude*. This programme marks the first time that Stile Antico has collaborated with basso continuo.

## TENEBRAE RESPONSORIES

**Tomas Luis da Victoria's intense settings of the Tenebrae Responsories – 12 singers**

Arguably the finest work of the Spanish Renaissance, Tomas Luis da Victoria's intense settings of the Tenebrae Responsories provide an unrivalled glimpse into the Catholic liturgy at the height of the church year. The emotionally charged motets follow the story of Christ's passion from his betrayal to his burial, displaying a composer at the height of his powers. The Responsories were traditionally performed in the services at the end of Holy Week and Stile Antico's programme is particularly suitable for performance by candlelight.

## A SPANISH NATIVITY

**NEW for Advent, Christmas & Epiphany – 13 singers**

For its latest Christmas programme, Stile Antico turns to the sensuous musical world of Renaissance Spain, drawing together an irresistible mix of sumptuous polyphony and infectiously joyful folk dances. A superbly rich and luminous mass by Alonso Lobo, based on a motet by Guerrero and intended for performance at Toledo Cathedral, forms the programme's centrepiece. Interspersed between its movements are an exuberant 'ensalada' by Mateo Flecha, inviting us to be present at the nativity through the use of traditional dance rhythms, beautiful Christmas miniatures by Tomás Luis de Victoria, and classic *villancicos* - Spain's answer to the traditional carol. And just as in Spain the feast of the Epiphany forms the climax of the Christmas season, so this enthralling selection is capped by a magnificent motet by Morales retelling the story of Herod and the Three Kings.

'...the singing is staggeringly beautiful' **Sunday Times**

