

stile antico

early music vocal ensemble

'It's never a good idea to miss a concert from this British vocal ensemble: There are no finer singers of early music'

New York Times



Celebrating their 20th anniversary, Stile Antico is firmly established as one of the world's most accomplished and innovative vocal ensembles. Working without a conductor, its twelve members have thrilled audiences on four continents with their fresh, vibrant and moving performances of Renaissance polyphony.

THE GOLDEN RENAISSANCE

A journey through Stile Antico's favourite music



In this attractive and highly contrasted programme, Stile Antico selects one piece from each of its sixteen awardwinning albums to create a thrilling journey through some of the greatest music of the Renaissance. Exuberant works by composers such as Byrd, Gibbons, Tomkins and Praetorius rub shoulders with tranquil motets by Taverner, Clemens non Papa and Tallis, and the alluring sounds of Huw Watkins' virtuosic *The Phoenix and the Turtle*, written especially for the group.

BYRD Exsurge Domine

TAVERNER Audivi vocem de caelo

GUERRERO A un niño llorando

PRAETORIUS Ein Kind geboren

TALLIS In manus tuas

TOMKINS O Praise the Lord

GIBBONS Hosanna to the Son of David

SHEPPARD I give you a new commandment

VICTORIA Recessit pastor noster

ALLEGRI Miserere (abbr.)

Interval

MORALES Jubilate Deo

GIBBONS O clap your hands

BYRD Retire my soul

DE WERT Gaudete in Domino

CLEMENS Ego flos campi

JOSQUIN Salve Regina à 5

WATKINS *The Phoenix and the Turtle*

POLYPHONIC POSTCARDS

Music from Europe's greatest Renaissance cities

The flourishing cities of Renaissance Europe played host to an explosion of cultural activity. Papal Rome dripped luxury, Paris was renowned as a centre of learning, and port cities such as Lisbon and Seville were deluged with treasure from newly discovered corners of the globe. These cities were fertile ground for musicians: the Sistine Chapel could afford to employ the finest composers of the day, the resources of seventeenth-century Venice spurred the groundbreaking music of Claudio Monteverdi, and the chaos of Parisian street markets provided inspiration for Jannequin's *Les cris de Paris*. This programme provides a fascinating snapshot of music, politics, and culture at the apogee of the European Renaissance.

TALLIS Loquebantur variis linguis

PARIS

MOULU Mater floreat

DE SEMIRSY Tant que vivrai

JANEQUIN Les cris de Paris

SEVILLE

GUERRERO Ave virgo sanctissima

GUERRERO Niño Dios d'amor herido

LOBO O quam suavis es

MUNICH

DASER Fratres, sobrii estote

SENFL Das Geläut zu Speyer

LASSUS Laudate Dominum, omnes gentes

ROME

ANERIO Christus factus est

VERDELOT Trist' Amarilli mia

PALESTRINA Tu es Petrus

LISBON

CARDOSO Lamentations a 6

DE ESCOBAR Pasame por Dios

PANIS angelicus

VENICE

MONTEVERDI Adoramus te, Christe

MERULO Vergine, madre figlia del tuo figlio

ANDREA GABRIELI Ecco Vinegia bella

THE LION AND THE EAGLE

The uneasy embrace of England and Spain



The sixteenth century saw the fortunes of Spain and England deeply entwined. The marriages of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, and later of Queen Mary and Philip II of Spain, brought the countries close; their royal choirs joined together to sing sumptuous services. Yet after Henry's divorce their relationship was turbulent and suspicious – and following the Reformation, Spain's support for the Catholic Mary, Queen of Scots led to war, and to Elizabeth I's famous victory over Philip's Armada. In bringing to these momentous times vividly to life, Stile Antico assembles rich repertoire by both English and Spanish composers, amply illustrating each country's claim to have enjoyed a musical Golden Age.

PROGRAMME TO INCLUDE

TALLIS Loquebantur variis linguis,

LASSUS Te spectant, Reginalde, Poli

PADILLA Circumdederunt me

WILBYE What needeth all this travail

MORALES Asperges me

COTES Mortuus est Philippus Rex

DISCORD TO HARMONY

Renaissance music of war and peace



ANON L'homme armé

OUR STRENGTH AND SHIELD

HASSLER Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott

PARSONS Deliver me from mine enemies

TOMKINS O God, the proud are risen against me

TO ARMS!

DERING Factum est silentium

JANNEQUIN La guerre

HOW ARE THE MIGHTY FALLEN

DE RIBERA Rex autem David

DUFAY Lamentatio sanctae matris

RAMSEY How are the mighty fallen

THE SPOILS OF WAR

ANON The Agincourt Carol

DE LAS INFANTAS Congregati sunt inimici

CESIS Cantemus Domino

PEACE AND DIPLOMACY

COMPERE Quis numerare queat

SCHUTZ Verleih uns Frieden

DE MORALES Jubilate Deo

THE PEACE OF HEAVEN

DE VICTORIA Agnus Dei from Missa Pro Victoria

DE RORE Da pacem

DE VICTORIA Laetatus sum

The Renaissance saw Europe regularly convulsed by war, as neighbours and rivals jostled for territory and power, Catholics and Protestants clashed over religious principle, and Christian nations contended with the threat of the Ottoman Turks. But it was also a time of great alliances, when peace treaties were celebrated with lavish diplomatic displays, and hostile nations were bound together through dynastic marriages. This fascinating programme explores the responses of composers to these turbulent times, drawing on almost two centuries of music from Dufay to Schütz. Along the way we experience the sounds of battle in Jannequin's remarkable chanson *La guerre*, encounter plangent laments for fallen cities and lost generations, and savour serene motets welcoming longed-for peace.

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