

THE LION AND THE EAGLE

The uneasy embrace of England and Spain

Thomas Tallis *Loquebantur variis linguis*

CATHERINE OF ARAGON: ENGLAND'S SPANISH QUEEN

Francisco de Peñalosa *Nigra sum sed formosa*

Attrib. Henry VIII *Pastime with good company*

Richard Sampson *Quam pulchra es*

MARY AND PHILIP: A CATHOLIC UNION

Thomas Tallis *Sanctus* from *Missa Puer natus est nobis*

Orlandus Lassus *Te spectant, Reginalde Poli*

Cristóbal de Morales *Asperges me*

ELIZABETH AND PHILIP: FROM ALLIES TO RIVALS:

William Byrd *O Lord make thy servant Elizabeth*

Pierre de Manchicourt *Tota pulchra es*

THE ROAD TO WAR

Francisco Guerrero *Vexilla Regis*

Ambrosio Cotes *O lux et decus Hispaniae*

Thomas Tallis *Discomfort them, O Lord*

"THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH"

John Wilbye *What needeth all this travail*

Attrib. Hernando Franco *Dios itlaçonantzine*

Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla *Exultate justi in Domino*

A GOLDEN AGE CLOSES

Ambrosio Cotes *Mortuus est Philippus Rex*

William Byrd *Nunc dimittis* from *Great Service*

The sixteenth century saw the fortunes of Spain and England deeply entwined. Both countries enjoyed a 'Golden Age', during which their courts and reputations were burnished by virtuosic masses and triumphant motets by the finest composers of their day, but their relationship was turbulent. After the bitterness of Henry VIII's divorce of his Spanish Queen, Catherine of Aragon, Philip II tried to unite the two countries through his marriage to Queen Mary, and later sought the hand of Mary's sister Elizabeth I so as to keep England in his Catholic orbit. When this failed, he lent his support to the cause of Mary, Queen of Scots, whose execution in 1587 led the rival powers to war, and England to her famous victory over the Spanish Armada. Stile Antico's programme draws together a rich selection of music by both English and Spanish composers to bring to life these momentous times.

'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