

ST GEORGE'S BLOOMSBURY

A Concert of French Choral Music for Holy Week & the Spring

THE GILTSPUR SINGERS

Conductor: Christopher Maxim

Wednesday, 8th April 2009, 7.00pm



Quatre Motets pour un Temps de Pénitence

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

*Timor et tremor
Vinea mea electa
Tenebrae factae sunt
Tristis est anima mea*

*Lute music performed by
Christopher Goodwin*

**Galliard
Tant que vivray**

Pierre Attaignant (c.1494-1551/2)
Claudin de Sermisy (c.1490-1562)



Josquin

Mille regrets

Josquin des Prez (c.1440-1521)

Il est bel et bon

Pierre Passereau (fl.c.1509-47)

Un doux regard

Pierre de Manchicourt (c.1510-64)
or Thomas Crecquillon (fl.1540-57)

Revoici venir du printemps

Claude le Jeune (c.1530-1600)



le Jeune

Lute music

Ne vous étonnez pas

Anon. (17th century)

Quatre Motets sur des Thèmes Grégoriens

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

*Ubi caritas
Tota pulchra es
Tu es Petrus
Tantum ergo*



The Giltspur Singers

...were formed in the autumn of 2003. They take their name from Giltspur Street, which leads up to the entrance of the church where they rehearse: St Bartholomew-the-Less, inside the grounds of St Bartholomew's Hospital in the City of London.

The members of the choir are professionals in a wide range of careers, including the law, finance, education, medicine, the entertainment industry, P.R. and I.T. Some are music graduates; but, for the majority, music has always been a hobby. It is the sense of music as a source of recreation and enjoyment that the Giltspur Singers hope to communicate in their performances.

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Sopranos Catriona Boyle‡, Julie Gonzalez Torres, Andrea Liu,
 Antonia Mott*‡, Elisabeth Somerville, Katy Turner

Altos Ian Goddard, Nicky Johns, Sophie Lunn-Rockliffe‡, Harriet Pask

Tenors Sam Butler, Simon Daniels, Christopher Goodwin‡

Basses Dan de Belder, Alex Milne, Timothy Murray, Nick Whitehead‡

* Soloist in *Tristis est anima mea* ‡ Verse soloists in *Revoici venir du printemps*

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Christopher Goodwin (Lute)

... is editor of *Lute News* and Secretary of The Lute Society, in which capacity he was a member of a round-winning team on *University Challenge: The Professionals*. He has performed on Radio 3 and has recorded CDs with the soprano Jeni Melia. He has the distinction of being the only contestant on *The Weakest Link* to have sung a song about Anne Robinson (accompanying himself on his lute) when booted off!

Dr Christopher Maxim (Conductor)

... is founder-conductor of the Giltspur Singers. His former conducting posts include the Cardiff Bay Singers and the Elizabethan Singers of London. As a composer, Chris is published by Allegro Music, the Royal School of Church Music, Stainer & Bell, and St James Music Press (USA); and his music is also available at www.sibeliusmusic.com. His work has been performed in the Vale of Glamorgan and Machynlleth Festivals, and the Annual Festival of New Organ Music. Chris is also published in the fields of musicology, music criticism and education. He is Organist of St Matthew's, Bethnal Green. To find out more about Chris and the Giltspur Singers please visit www.christophermaxim.co.uk.

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THE GILTSPUR SINGERS SUMMER CONCERT 2009
Hear my Prayer
A celebration of the music of
Henry Purcell (1659-1695) & Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

The Temple Church
Thursday, 16th July, 7.00pm

Translations of the texts

Timor et tremor

Fear and trembling have come upon me
and darkness descends on me.
Have mercy on me, O Lord,
for my soul trusts in you.
Hear my prayer, O God,
for you are my refuge and strong helper.
O Lord, I have called upon you,
let me not be confounded.

*Derived from the Bible
(This text was also set by Lassus)*

Vinea mea electa

You are my chosen vine, I planted you:
why is it that you have turned to bitterness
so that you crucify me and set Barabbas free?
I protected you, took the stones from near you
and built a tower.

*3rd Responsory in the 1st Nocturn
at Matins on Good Friday*

Tenebræ factæ sunt

Darkness fell as the Jews crucified Jesus:
and at about the ninth hour
Jesus cried out with a loud voice:
“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
Exclaiming, Jesus said with a loud voice:
“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

*5th Responsory in the 2nd Nocturn
at Matins on Good Friday*

Tristis est anima mea

My soul is sorrowful unto death:
remain here and watch with me,
now you will see a crowd that will surround me.
You will flee, and I shall be scarified for you.
See, the hour approaches and the Son of Man
will be given over into the hands of sinners.

*2nd Responsory in the 1st Nocturn
at Matins on Maundy Thursday*

Mille regrets

It is with a thousand regrets that I leave you
and lose sight of your loving face;
I suffer such grief and pain
that you will see my days are numbered.
Anon.

Il est bel et bon

“He’s a good bloke, my husband,
I tell you, neighbour.”
There were two women from the same parts
asking each other,
“What’s your husband like?”
“He’s a good bloke, my husband,
I tell you, neighbour.
He doesn’t annoy me or beat me;
He does the chores and feeds the chickens
while I amuse myself.
I tell you, neighbour,
It’s a laugh when the chickens cluck:
Little coquette, co-co-dac. What’s this?
He’s a good bloke, my husband,
I tell you, neighbour!”
Anon.

Un doux regard

A gentle look, a loving word,
And then a kiss received at her pleasure
Are the three gifts that make the lover happy
And which ensure his complete contentment.
O my lady, what unforgettable joy
If just one these three you would give me;
For a single blessing lavishly bestowed
Is worth so much more than three given grudgingly.
Anon.

Revoici venir du printemps

*Once again springtime is coming,
the season of love and beauty.*

The water’s current seeks again its summer
channel and is clear.
And the calm sea with its waves softens its sad
turbulence;
And the duck delights in diving and bathes

and preens himself in the water;
And the crane with its broken flight
criss-crosses the sky and departs.

*Once again springtime is coming,
the season of love and beauty.*

The sun, shining so brightly, with a most
serene radiance
Chases the shadows from the clouds,
which play and run and darken.
And forests, fields and hillocks, with human
labour are made verdant again,
And meadows reveal their flowers.

*Once again springtime is coming,
the season of love and beauty.*

Cupid, the son of Venus, scatters his darts
over the world
And with his flame will rekindle animals that
fly in the air,
Animals that crawl in the fields, animals that
swim in the water.
Even that which has not feeling senses love
and pleasure.

*Once again springtime is coming,
the season of love and beauty.*

Let us laugh, too, and let us seek the revels
and games of springtime:
Everything laughs with pleasure:
let us praise the happy season.

*Once again springtime is coming,
the season of love and beauty.*

J.-A. de Baïf

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Ubi caritas

Where charity and love are, God is there.
The love of Christ has brought us together as one.
Let us rejoice and be glad in this.
Let us fear and love the living God.

And let us love from a pure heart.
Where charity and love are, God is there.
Amen.

*Antiphon at the Washing of the Feet
at the Solemn Evening Mass on
Maundy Thursday*

Tota pulchra es

You are all beauty, Mary,
And original sin is not in you.
Your garments are white as snow,
And your face is as the sun.

You are glory of Jerusalem,
You, the glory of Israel,
You, the source of honour to our people.
You are all beauty, Mary.

*Antiphon at 2nd Vespers of the Feast of
the Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary (Dec. 8th)*

Tu es Petrus

You are Peter, and upon this rock will I build
my church.

*Antiphon at 1st Vespers of the Feast
of the Holy Apostles Peter & Paul
(Eve of June 29th)*

Tantum ergo

Let us venerate this great sacrament
With our heads bowed to the ground;
And let the ancient pattern
Give way to a new rite.
Let faith make good
The insufficiency of our senses.

Unto the Begetter and the Begotten
Be praise and rejoicing,
Might, honour,
Virtue and blessing;
And unto him who proceeds from both
Be equal praise.
Amen.

*From the Hymn at 2nd Vespers of the
Feast of the Blessed Sacrament
(Corpus Christi)*

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