

The Baroque Singers

www.baroquesingers.co.uk

Directed by Anthony Purnell

Songs of Hope

**Palestrina: Missa
"Spem in alium"**

**The "Libre Vermell"
14th century pilgrim
songs from Montserrat**

**accompanied by
the Early Music Group**

CANCIONERO

www.kentminstrels.co.uk



SATURDAY 23rd MARCH at 7:30pm

St John's Church, Groombridge

Giovanni Pierluigi di Palestrina (1525-1594)

Missa “Spem in Alium” from the 3rd book of Masses published in 1570

1. Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison (*Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy*)
2. Gloria in excelsis deo (*Glory to God in the highest*)
3. Credo in unum deum (*I believe in one God*)
4. Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua (*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory*)
5. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini (*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*)
6. Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi; Miserere nobis (*Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us*)
7. Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, Dona nobis pacem (*Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, grant us peace*)

Palestrina’s career took him to Rome where he became the principal composer for the Capella Giulia choir in St Peter’s. He struck the ideal balance between expressive melodic counterpoint and setting the words so that they could be heard and understood. This is especially demonstrated in the central Credo of this mass. Only the tenors and basses sing the whole text. At the key moment, when it is declared that God became incarnate of the Virgin Mary and was made man, the voices move together. The altos join with the tenors and basses to relate Christ’s crucifixion, burial and rising on the third day. The sopranos take over as the music soars to announce the ascension to heaven.

The Llibre Vermell of Montserrat (c.1399)

1. O Virgo Splendens hic in monte celso miraculis serrato fulgentibus ubique quem fideles conscendunt (*O Virgin, resplendent on this high mountain, glowing with miraculous wonders, where the faithful of all nations climb.*)

2. Stella splendens in monte ut solis radium miraculis serrato exaudi populum (*Gleaming star of the mountain, like a sunbeam miraculously glowing, hear your people.*) The text then lists the many and varied occupations of the gathered pilgrims from Kings and priests to ploughmen and cobblers.
3. Laudemus virginem mater est et eius filius Jhesus est. Plangamus scelera acriter sperantes jugiter. (*We praise the Virgin Mother and her son Jesus. Bitterly we lament our sins; we place our hope on Jesus eternally.*)
4. Splendens ceptigera nostra sis advocata Virgo puerpera. Tundentes pectora crimina confitentes simus altissimus. (*Resplendent sovereign, intercede for us, Virgin Mother. Beating our breasts we confess our guilt before you, O highest one.*)
5. Los set goyts recomptarem et devotement xantant humilment saludarem la dolça verge Maria (*I shall tell you of the seven joys, and sing in devotion, and humbly praise the sweet Virgin Mary*)
Annunciation – Virgin Birth – Visit of the three Kings – the Resurrection – the Ascension – Pentecost – Assumption and coronation as Queen of Heaven
6. Cuncti simus concanentes, Ave Maria (*Let us all sing together "Hail Mary"*) The story of Gabriel's visit to Mary.
7. Polorum regina omnium nostra Stella matutina dele scelera (*Our queen of all heaven, morning star take away our sins.*) A hymn in praise of the Immaculate Virgin.
8. Mariam matrem Virginem attolite, Jhesus Christus extollite concorditer. (*Praise Mary, the Virgin Mother. Praise Jesus Christ with all your heart.*) A hymn of thanksgiving for salvation through the redemptive power of Jesus.
9. Imperayritz de la ciutat joyosa, de paradís ab tot gaug eternal, neta de crims, de virtuts habundosa, mayres de Dieu per obra divinal (*Empress of the joyous city of Heaven, where happiness is eternal, cleansed of sin, rich in virtues, Mother of God by divine wish*). A hymn of praise to the Virgin Mary.
10. Ad mortem festinamus peccare desistamus (*We hurry to death, we abandon sin.*)

The statue of the Black Madonna of Montserrat dates from around 1200. It attracted pilgrims from the surrounding area who climbed the steep mountain slopes to the monastery. The pilgrims were allowed to shelter overnight in the chapel. Since pilgrims were accustomed to pass the night singing and dancing the monks produced a book of suitable songs to be sung in such a holy place. Most of the songs are in Latin although the two local languages, Catalan (no.5) and Occitan (no.9), are also featured. The music shows the influence of contemporary French and Italian music as well as Arab influenced local tradition.

Cancionero:

Anne Purnell – hurdy gurdy, recorders and castanets
Helen Johnson – rebec
Anthony Purnell – bagpipes, shawm, recorder and lute
Tim Garside - percussion

The Baroque Singers:

Sopranos: Claire Evans, Ann Winter, Nicola Napleton
Altos: Sheila Anstead, Julia Webb, Mary Gurr
Tenors: Tim Oyler, Stephen Pollard, Brian Pearson
Basses: Dominic Webb, Andrew MacLaren, Martin Williams,
Howard Evans

Next Concert:

Saturday 8 June 2013 in All Saints' Church Tudeley

"Summer Romance"

Madrigals by John Dowland

Bach: Concerto for 2 organs in C minor BWV 1062

Brahms: Liebeslieder Waltzer Op52