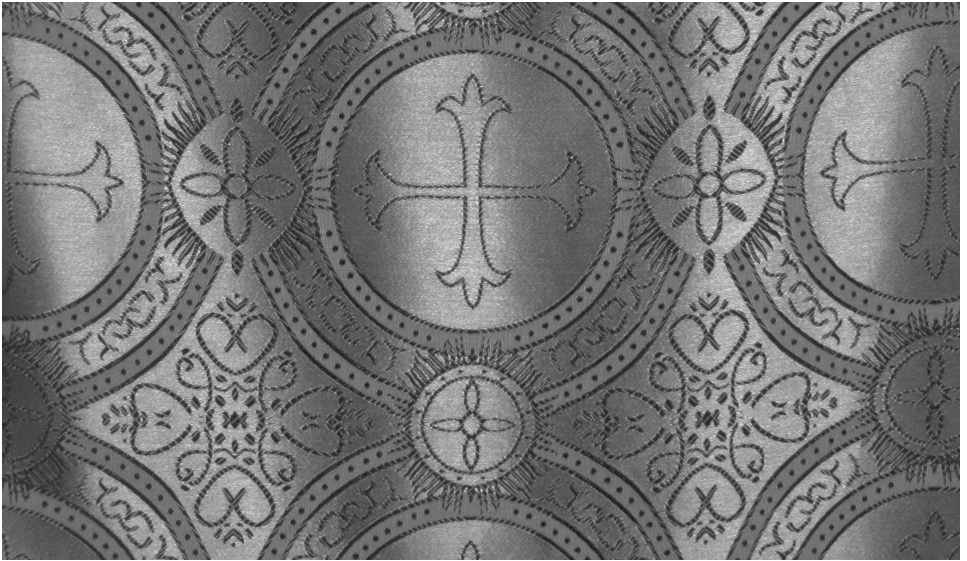


# The Cantilena Singers

Daniel Spreadbury – Director

## *Salvator mundi*



**Saturday 18 March 2023**

St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

# Programme

If ye love me	Thomas Tallis (1505–1585)
Jesu dulcis memoria	Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548–1611)
Miserere mei	Henry Purcell (1659–1695)
In manus tuas	Thomas Tallis
Salvator mundi	Thomas Tallis
<i>Three Sacred Miniatures</i>	Philip Stopford (b. 1977)
1. God be in my head	
2. God so loved the world	
3. Pater noster	
Ave Maria	Franz Biebl (1906–2001)



Selection from “Mass in E flat”, Op. 109	Josef Rheinberger (1839–1901)
Kyrie	
Agnus Dei	
Sicut cervus	Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525–1594)
All in the April evening	Hugh Robertson (1874–1952)
Were you there?	Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)
O Saviour of the world	Frederick Ouseley (1825–1899)
God so loved the world	John Stainer (1840–1901)



# About tonight's programme

The solemn season of Lent provides an opportunity for reflection and introspection as we move towards Holy Week and the celebration of Easter. Our programme this evening features sacred music spanning more than four hundred years, from the masters of the Renaissance in Tallis and Palestrina all the way to contemporary British composers of two more recent generations in Bob Chilcott and Philip Stopford.

Perhaps the centrepiece of the programme is the pair of Mass movements from the Liechtensteiner organist-composer Josef Rheinberger. This work for double choir is traditional, in the direct lineage of the music of (more-or-less) contemporaries, such as Mendelssohn and Brahms, their great influence, Bach, and all the way back to the antiphonal choral writing that had sprung up in Venice two centuries before. And yet it is also novel, with a textural, dynamic, and harmonic freedom that marks it as a reaction against the burgeoning Cecilian movement in Roman Catholic music that called for liturgical music to exist only as far as it serves the text, favouring the simple, syllabic style of medieval chant.

The *Kyrie* and *Agnus Dei*, the first and last movements of the Mass respectively, are rich, complex, and above all warm, the music and familiar text in happy balance.

Either side of this cornerstone, our programme winds through some of the great favourites of the sacred choral repertoire, bookended by two of the simplest and yet most effective anthems, written some three hundred years apart, both of which draw their text from St John's Gospel, the concert beginning with Thomas Tallis's *If ye love me* and ending with Sir John Stainer's sublime setting of *God so loved the world*, from his famous oratorio *The Crucifixion*.

Other treats lie in store: the serene *Sicut cervus*, Palestrina's setting of the first verse of Psalm 42, "Like as the hart desireth the water brook, so thirsteth my soul after thee, O God." Palestrina's counterpoint flows as inevitably as the brook itself, drawing singer and listener alike onwards, ever onwards.

We feel the moment of repose in Palestrina's divine final cadence, but we know our journey is not complete: we must yet travel with Christ to Jerusalem, to Gethsemane, to the cross – to Easter, and to resurrection.

*Daniel Spreadbury, Director*

# The Cantilena Singers

## *Soprano*

Amanda Bouskill

Hilary Burton

Alison McRobb

Jude Short

Cath Stubbs

Caille Sugarman-Banaszak

## *Tenor*

Steven Aronson

Sam Spreadbury

## *Alto*

Kate Clark

Miriam Craddock

Evelyn Payne

Judy Rowland

## *Bass*

Chris Fell

Mike Gait

Owen Johnson

Stephen Linden

Tim Rowland

The Cantilena Singers is a well-established chamber choir that performs regularly in Cambridge and the surrounding villages. 2023 is the choir's 40th anniversary, having been founded in 1983, and the choir remains committed to promoting the joy of choral singing.

We are always looking for new members. If you would like to join us, please get in touch.



**Daniel Spreadbury** read for a degree in music at University College, Oxford, where he studied singing with Alastair Thompson, founder member of the King's Singers, and sang with and directed a variety of college and chapel choirs around the city. Daniel has been the director of Cantilena since 2001.



The Cantilena Singers' next concert will be a celebration of its 40th anniversary, to be held on **Saturday 22 July 2023**.

More details will be forthcoming at [www.cantilenasingers.org.uk/next-concert](http://www.cantilenasingers.org.uk/next-concert)