

The Cantilena Singers

Daniel Spreadbury – Director

Palestrina

Missa Papae Marcelli

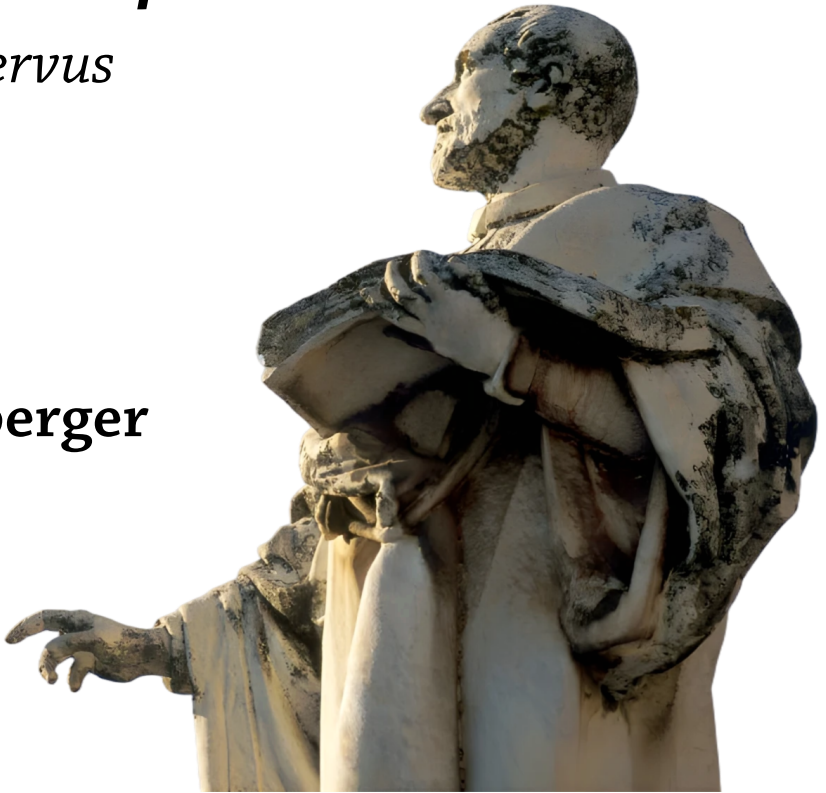
Sicut Cervus

Tallis

Byrd

Lotti

Rheinberger



Friday 21 March 2025

St Nicholas' Church, Great Wilbraham

Preparation and reflection

Thomas Tallis (1505–1585)

If ye love me

If ye love me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you another comforter,
that he may bide with you forever;
E'en the sp'rit of truth. (*John 14:15–17*)

William Byrd (c. 1540–1623)

Ave verum corpus

Ave verum corpus, natum
de Maria Virgine,
vere passum, immolatum
in cruce pro homine
cuius latus perforatum
fluxit aqua et sanguine:
esto nobis praegustatum
in mortis examine.
O Jesu dulcis, O Jesu pie,
O Jesu, fili Mariae.
Miserere mei. Amen.

Hail, true Body, born
of the Virgin Mary,
having truly suffered, sacrificed
on the cross for mankind,
from whose pierced side
water and blood flowed:
Be for us a sweet foretaste
in the trial of death!
O sweet Jesus, O holy Jesus,
O Jesus, son of Mary,
have mercy on me. Amen.

Penitence and mercy

Antonio Lotti (1667–1740)

Crucifixus à 8

Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato, passus
et sepultus est. (*from the Nicene Creed*)

He was also crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he
suffered [on the cross] and was buried.

The Mass

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525–1594)

Missa Papae Marcelli

I. Kyrie eleison
II. Gloria
III. Credo

IV. Sanctus and Benedictus
V. Agnus Dei I
VI. Agnus Dei II

Hope and light

Thomas Tallis

O nata lux

O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptor saeculi,
Dignare clemens supplicum
Laudes precesque sumere.

Qui carne quondam contegi
Dignatus es pro perditis,
Nos membra confer effici
Tui beati corporis.
(*Hymn of the feast of the Transfiguration*)

O Light born of Light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
with loving-kindness deign to receive
suppliant praise and prayer.

Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
for the sake of the lost,
grant us to be members
of thy blessed body.

Thomas Tallis

Salvator mundi

Salvator mundi, salva nos,
qui per crucem et sanguinem redemisti nos,
auxiliare nobis, te deprecamur, Deus noster.
(*Antiphon for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.*)

O Saviour of the world, save us,
who by thy cross and blood hast redeemed us,
help us, we pray thee, O Lord our God.

Closing reflection

Josef Rheinberger (1839–1901)

Abendlied

Bleib bei uns, denn es will Abend werden, und der
Tag hat sich geneiget. (*Luke 24:29*)

Bide with us, for evening shadows darken, and the
day will soon be over.

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Sicut cervus

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum, ita
desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus. (*Psalms 41:1*)

Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks, so
longeth my soul after thee, O God.



About tonight's programme

As we mark the 500th anniversary of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina's birth, this programme pays tribute to one of the most influential composers of the Renaissance while drawing us into the reflective and penitential spirit of Lent. At its heart is Palestrina's *Missa Papae Marcelli*, a masterwork of sacred polyphony whose balance and clarity embody the ideals of the Counter-Reformation.

Surrounding the Mass are works that guide us through the Lenten journey — from quiet contemplation to the solemnity of Christ's Passion. Thomas Tallis' *If Ye Love Me* and William Byrd's *Ave Verum Corpus* offer moments of intimacy and devotion, while the stark beauty of Lotti's *Crucifixus* bring us into the depths of suffering and redemption.

The programme concludes with Rheinberger's *Abendlied*, a gentle prayer for Christ's presence in the coming darkness — a fitting reflection for this season of repentance and renewal.

Through these works, we experience Lent as a time of introspection, humility, and hope, expressed through the enduring beauty of unaccompanied choral music.

Daniel Spreadbury, Director

The Cantilena Singers

Soprano

Hilary Burton
Elizabeth Longford
Alison McRobb
Cath Stubbs
Ana Sugarman-Banaszak
Caille Sugarman-Banaszak

Tenor

Steven Aronson
Tony Jolley
Sam Spreadbury
Robert Stevens

Alto

Kate Clark
Lesley Jordison
Evelyn Payne
Judy Rowland

Bass

Chris Fell
Mike Gait
Nick Longford
Tim Rowland

The Cantilena Singers is a well-established chamber choir that performs regularly in Cambridge and the surrounding villages. The choir was founded in 1983 and has been performing locally and promoting the joy of choral singing for more than 40 years.

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.



Next performances

Sunday 1 June: Evensong, Selwyn College, Cambridge

Saturday 19 July: Concert, venue to be confirmed