

CAMBRIDGE TAVERNER CHOIR

Owen Rees *director*

1995-6



**A CELEBRATION OF THE MUSIC OF
JOHN TAVERNER**

c. 1490 - 1545

commemorating the 450th anniversary of his death

CAMBRIDGE TAVERNER CHOIR

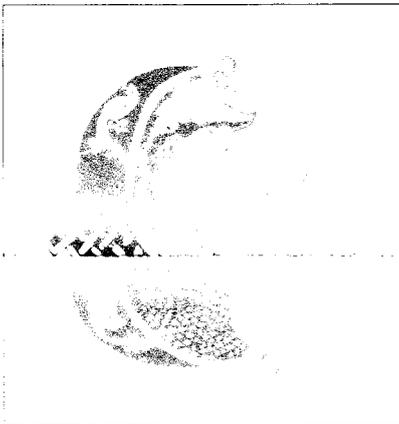
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Concerts in Jesus College Chapel and Ely Cathedral 1995-6

A CELEBRATION OF THE MUSIC OF JOHN TAVERNER

(c. 1490 - 1545)

JOHN TAVERNER AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES



Sunday October 8th, 8.15pm - Jesus College Chapel

TAVERNER AND CONTEMPORARIES

Taverner - Missa Corona spinea; Ludford - Domine Iesu Christe

Sunday December 3rd, 8.15pm - Jesus College Chapel

Taverner - Missa Mater Christi; Tallis - Salve intemerata virgo

Sunday February 25th, 8.15pm - Jesus College Chapel

TAVERNER AND CONTEMPORARIES

Taverner - Western Wynde Mass; Fayrfax - Maria plena virtute

The pre-reformation period in England was a period of extraordinary creativity in which a number of other figures produced works to rival Taverner's in quality. These three concerts throw his style into relief by juxtaposing three of his settings of the mass with major works by the finest of these contemporaries. **Robert Fayrfax** (1464 – 1521), a generation earlier than Taverner, represents a link between Taverner and the earlier composers of the Eton Choirbook. **Nicholas Ludford** (c. 1485 – 1557), probably a close contemporary, is now recognised as one of the great masters of Taverner's period. The early music of **Thomas Tallis** (c. 1500 – 1585) inhabits the same musical world as Taverner's in style and text, but, unlike these others, Tallis survived the subsequent period of religious change through the reigns of Edward and Mary and into that of Elizabeth.

FROM TAVERNER TO TAVERNER

Sunday April 21st, 8.15 pm - Jesus College Chapel

IN NOMINE DOMINI

John Tavener - A Prayer to the Holy Trinity
(Eternal Memory - John Tavener 1545) *World première*
In Nomines by **Taverner, Tye, Tallis, Byrd, Purcell**
and **Maxwell Davies**

Vocal works by **Taverner, Tye, Byrd**

Cambridge Taverner Choir, with Concordia (viol consort)

Taverner has provided inspiration for composers up to the present day, and this concert charts his continuing influence. The In Nomine from Taverner's Missa Gloria tibi Trinitas gave rise to a whole genre - the instrumental In Nomine - examples of which are performed here by the acclaimed young viol consort



Concordia, directed by Mark Levy. Additionally, we explore various types of connection in vocal music between Taverner and his successors - proposed influences, possible misattributions and acts of homage. A highlight of the concert is a specially commissioned piece by the contemporary John Tavener - a descendant of the earlier John Taverner - also inspired by the Missa Gloria tibi Trinitas, which will receive its first performance in this concert.



Saturday August 3rd, 8.15 pm
The Lady Chapel, Ely Cathedral

GLORIA TIBI TRINITAS

Taverner - Missa Gloria tibi Trinitas

Cambridge Taverner Choir Tenth Anniversary Concert

The Cambridge Taverner Choir was formed ten years ago to sing perhaps the finest of Taverner's six-part masses, the Missa Gloria tibi Trinitas, as part of a reconstruction of Mass for Trinity Sunday in one of the churches where Taverner worked - Tattershall in Lincolnshire. To mark the tenth anniversary of the choir, and to bring this celebration of Taverner's music to a close, we once again perform this mass, the most illustrious of Taverner's works, in one of the finest medieval buildings in England.

Booking Information

Tickets are available from the Corn Exchange Box Office, Wheeler Street, Cambridge, 01223 357851. All seats are unreserved. We strongly recommend that you book in advance. Tickets are often available on the door, but you are advised to phone the box office on the Saturday afternoon before the concert to check.

Prices Oct, Dec, Feb, Aug: £7 (£5 concessions), Apr: £10 (£8). In Jesus College Chapel, there are also a number of seats behind the screen (with no view, but good sound), prices: Oct, Dec, Feb, Aug: £3 (£2), Apr: £5 (£3). A discount of £1 on each ticket (full price or concessions) is available when tickets for three or more concerts are bought at the same time.

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A CELEBRATION OF THE MUSIC OF JOHN TAVERNER

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To mark the 450th anniversary of his death, the Cambridge Taverner Choir presents a season devoted to an exploration of the music of John Taverner, the best known composer of the pre-reformation period in England, at one time master of the choristers at Cardinal Wolsey's spectacular new college in Oxford - now Christ Church.

One of the most remarkable facets of Taverner's work is the enormous variety within his surviving masses. In this season, we perform two of the three surviving six-part festal masses, the extraordinary variation mass based on the Western Wynde theme, and a piece in more concise 'modern' style, the Missa Mater Christi. We also explore the works of his contemporaries, and his influence on later composers, culminating in the world première of a piece by the contemporary composer John Tavener, commissioned especially for this season.

The Cambridge Taverner Choir

'Sheer musicianship' Gramophone
'An absolute revelation' Early Music

Since its first performance in 1986, the Cambridge Taverner Choir, under the direction of its founder, Owen Rees, has established itself as one of the few specialist Renaissance choirs outside London. As well as regular concert series and festival appearances in Cambridge, it has performed in many parts of the U.K., and undertook a highly successful tour of Portugal in 1991. 1993 saw the release of the choir's first two CD recordings; both have been acclaimed by the critics, and *Music from Renaissance Portugal* was last year shortlisted for the Gramophone Early Music Award. The choir has also broadcast on Radio 3, and has been featured on Radio 4. The choir's principal emphasis is the performance of Renaissance polyphony in illuminating thematic, liturgical and physical contexts, aiming to recreate the grandeur and excitement of the music of the Tudor age in England, and the 'Golden Age' of Spain and Portugal.

Enquiries about the choir should be made to the Administrator, Helen Garrison, 1 Cloudesley Square, Islington, London, N1 0HT, 0171 2781590, or to the director, Owen Rees, Department of Music, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 5XH, 01483 274119.

Recordings

Music from Renaissance Portugal: CD (Herald HAVPCD 155) or cassette (HAVPC 155), available from music shops or direct from the choir.

Music for a Tudor Christmas: CD (Past Times PT6491) or cassette (PT6490), available from Past Times, Green Street, Cambridge and branches nationwide, or direct from the choir. Both recordings will be on sale at this year's concerts.

A new recording - *What is Our Life?* - is to be released in the winter of 1995-6, on the Herald label, featuring laments by Renaissance composers, including Weelkes, Ramsey, Byrd, Josquin, Gombert and Victoria.

The Cambridge Taverner Choir performs in Jesus College Chapel by the kind permission of the Master, Dean and Fellows of the College.

The illustrations in this brochure are decorative initials from a copy of Taverner's *Missa Gloria tibi Trinitas* in the Forrest-Ileyther partbooks (Bodleian Library, Oxford).