

Sing Joyfully: Tudor and Jacobean Music for the Chapel Royal

Wednesday 10th July 2024

Tower of London - The Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula

William Byrd

Sing Joyfully

O Lord, grant thy servant Elizabeth

O God, the proud are risen against me

Reading

Isabella Whitney Extract from 'Wyll & Testament' (1573)

Thomas Tallis

Dum transisset Sabbatum

If ye love me

Reading

Thomas Tallis Epitaph (1585)

Philippe de Monte

Super flumina Babylonis

William Byrd

Quomodo cantabimus

Readings

Richard Barnfield Sonnet XI - Sighing (written 1595)

John Donne The Flea (written 1590s)

Thomas Weelkes

When David heard

O Lord, arise

O Lord, grant the king a long life

Reading

Walter Raleigh What is our life? (printed 1612)

Orlando Gibbons

Almighty and everlasting God

O Lord, in thy wrath

O clap your hands

The Choir of the Chapels Royal, HM Tower of

London is widely regarded as one of Britain's leading chapel choirs and occupies a place at the heart of the nation's royal heritage. Formed of twelve professional singers - who also perform regularly with distinguished consorts and opera companies in the UK and abroad - the choir continues the tradition of musical excellence central to the English royal court.

The choir sings regularly at the Tower of London's two Chapels Royal, the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, built by Henry VIII in 1520, and the Chapel of St John the Evangelist, historically the monarchs' private chapel. Their services have a reputation for excellence, with a thriving congregation which includes visiting dignitaries, members of the Tower community, including Yeoman Warders ('Beefeaters') and their families, and some of the Tower's three million annual tourists.

The Choir of the Chapels Royal is often invited to sing at high-profile public and private occasions. Television and radio highlights include broadcasts for BBC television and Radios 3 and 4 (Channel 4 television and Classic FM). It has toured to South Africa, Ireland and Italy and has recorded two critically acclaimed CDs.

The repertoire performed by the choir encompasses choral music from all ages, including music composed especially for the Chapels Royal in the Tower, including works by James MacMillan, Martin Baker, Francis Pott and Ben Rowarth. The English royal court has been an exceptional patron of music over the centuries, rivaled only by the Vatican. Musicians that have written and performed for English monarchs and their court include Handel, Tallis, Byrd, Gibbons, Purcell, Elgar, Howells, Tippett and Maxwell Davies, and the choir is proud to continue this distinguished tradition today.

Choir of the Chapels Royal, HM Tower of London

Colm Carey Conductor

Henry Goodman Narrator

Colm Carey

Master of Music, Chapel Royal, HM Tower of London

Colm Carey is widely acclaimed as an exciting, innovative and distinctive performer.

Born in Dublin, Colm studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and subsequently at the Conservatoire de Musique de Genève, winning the top performing awards, with distinction, at both institutions.

Colm's studies laid the foundation for a career as a concert organist which has taken him all over Europe, as well as to the USA, Canada and Australia. From 2003-16 Colm was Belfast City Organist and in addition to giving numerous recitals on the Mulholland Grand Organ in the Ulster Hall, he performed many concertos. In addition to many of his performances being broadcast, Colm has produced a number of CDs, as soloist, chamber musician and director. He was the featured organist on Paul McCartney's classical album, *Ecce Cor Meum*, which premièred at the Albert Hall in London (available on DVD) and the Carnegie Hall in New York, and his interpretation of Bach's *The Art of Fugue* (his first CD) has been admired for its originality and scholarship.

Latterly Colm Carey's career has focused on choral conducting. As Master of Music of the Chapels Royal, HM Tower of London, Colm directs the choir for the weekly services in the Chapels as well as for special events – including royal visits – in the two historic Chapels Royal. He has toured with the choir to South Africa, Italy and Ireland, and, as well as releasing a CD of music inspired by the Psalms of David, they have broadcast both live and recorded for Radio and TV.

Under his direction the choir performs regularly in concert, with a wide repertoire ranging from medieval music to many pieces commissioned by, and dedicated to, Colm and the choir. The Chapel's latest commission – *Jubilate* by Francis Pott – was written to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and was premièred in a filmed service that was broadcast around the world following the Coronation.

Colm's interest in assuring imaginative and stimulating programming has led to the formation of Odyssean Ensemble - a flexible group of musicians brought together by him to explore, through innovative projects and collaborations, the notion of music being a journey that challenges the listener and stimulates the mind, body and senses. Odyssean Ensemble has carved a reputation for its lively and characterful live performances, and its début recording was released to 5* reviews in both the UK and abroad.

Henry Goodman

Leading British actor Henry Goodman is a multiple award winner who received best actor nominee in Olivier Awards, Evening Standard Awards and the Critics' Circle.

He played Sir Humphrey in the BBC's *Yes Minister* and Henry Kissinger in Sky One's *Nixon's the One*. On stage, he starred as Hercule Poirot, (Murder on Orient Express), Sir Humphrey in *Yes Minister* & Arturo UI at Chichester Festival Theatre and in the West End, *The Winslow Boy* at the Old Vic, and Roy Cohn in *Angels in America* amongst other roles. Henry Goodman has also appeared on Broadway in title roles in *Tartuffe*, *The Producers* and *Art*. He is a major BBC radio actor and starred on Radio 4 recently as Franz Kafka/Leopold Bloom on *Bloomsday Radio* - an all-day adaptation of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. His numerous films include roles as Trotsky in *The Chosen One*, *Taking Woodstock*, *The Saint*, *Notting Hill*, *Merchant of Venice*, and the TV drama *Last Days of Lehman Brothers*. He currently stars in the HBO TV series, *The Regime* (HBO/Sky Atlantic).

Henry Goodman frequently appears with concert pianist Lucy Parham in her words and music programmes "*Odyssey of Love*", "*Nocturne*", "*Reverie*" and "*Beloved Clara*" and has recently performed at Wigmore Hall narrating Rachmaninov in *Elegie*, and at The Royal Albert Hall narrating Dvorak with The Halle Orchestra. His most recent work includes narrating the audiobook *Melting Point* by Rachel Cockerell.