

Missa Papae Marcelli at the Tower of London

Wednesday 8 July 2026 | Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula

Francesco Soriano (1549 – 1621)

Missa Papae Marcelli (after Giovanni da Palestrina, 1525 – 94)
Kyrie

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525 – 94)

Ave Regina coelorum a 8

Francesco Soriano

Missa Papae Marcelli
Gloria

Plainchant: Ave Maris Stella

Flor Peeters (1903 – 1986)

Toccata, Fugue et Hymne sur Ave Maris Stella (Op. 28)

Francesco Soriano

Missa Papae Marcelli
Credo

Plainchant: Gaudeamus omnes in Domino

Charles Tournemire (1870 – 1939)

Introit from L'Orgue Mystique (Op. 57, No.35 - In Assumptione BMV)

Plainchant: Assumpta est Maria

Charles Tournemire (1870 – 1939)

Offertoire from L'Orgue Mystique (Op. 57, No.35 - In Assumptione BMV)

Francesco Soriano

Missa Papae Marcelli
Sanctus, Benedictus

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Assumpta est Maria a 6

Francesco Soriano

Missa Papae Marcelli
Agnus Dei

Choir of the Chapels Royal, HM Tower of London

Colm Carey Director

Daniel Greenway Organ

The Choir of the Chapels Royal, HM Tower of London

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 English royal court has been an exceptional patron of music over the centuries, rivalled 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.

The repertoire performed by the choir encompasses choral music from all ages. Much new music has been composed especially for the Chapels Royal in the Tower, including works by James MacMillan, Martin Baker, Francis Pott and Iain Farrington. In early 2027 the Choir will perform a major new piece by Julian Philips, commissioned by the Chapel to commemorate the 1000th anniversary of the birth of William the Conqueror. The performances will take place in the Tower's sister Chapel Royal of St John the Evangelist, within the White Tower, Britain's oldest Norman chapel.

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 took 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. As well as numerous broadcasts of his performances, Colm has recorded 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 two historic Chapels Royal. Under his leadership the choir has gained a reputation for performances that are full of vitality and character. 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 pieces commissioned by, and dedicated to, Colm and the choir.

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 both in the UK and abroad.

Colm has many interests outside the world of music including literature, the visual arts, rugby and tennis, cooking and fine wine! He recently gained a Certificate in Psychodynamic Counselling Skills and is a Verified Reiki Practitioner (www.ccreikihealing.com)

This concert is supported by Arts Council England, The Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation, and The Mary Kinross Charitable Trust.

Daniel Greenway

Daniel Greenway is an organist, pianist and répétiteur. He is a graduate of Keble College, Oxford, where he held an Organ Scholarship, and has held organist posts at both Liverpool and Westminster Cathedrals. He now serves as Assistant Master of the Music at HM Chapel Royal at the Tower of London. Alongside this role, he is a répétiteur at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and has performed with leading UK ensembles and orchestras.

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