

BASSVS GENERALIS.
SANCTISSIMÆ
VIRGINI
MISSA SENIS VOCIBVS.
AD ECCLESIA RV M CHOROS.

Ac Vesperę pluribus decantandę

CVM NONNVL LIS SACRIS CONCENTIBVS,
ad Sacella siue Principum Cubicula accommodata.

O P E R A
A CLAVDIO MONTEVERDE
nuper effecta

AC BEATISS. PAVLO V. PONT. MAX. CONSECRATA.

MONTEVERDI



VESPERS OF 1610

Venetia, Apud Ricciardum Amadinum.

M D C X.

MONTEVERDI

VESPERS OF 1610

RADLEY COLLEGE CHAPEL

SUNDAY 22nd MARCH 2015

7PM

RADLEY COLLEGE CHAPEL CHOIR
RADLEY COLLEGE CHAMBER CHOIR
RADLEY COLLEGE CHORAL SOCIETY
GUEST ORCHESTRA

SOLOISTS:

HANNAH NYE; PENELOPE APPELYARD;
LEO ADAMS; DANNY WYMBS
CALLUM CHAMBERLAIN WILLIAM DODD
ARRAN RYDER; EDWARD WALKER NED CAMPBELL
ETHAN CLARKE; ALEC GARRETT COX
ADAM HARGREAVES MAX BENSON; JOSH DERNIE

Director: Stephen Clarke

Welcome to this performance of the Monteverdi Vespers of 1610. Whilst the piece is completely new to the boys, it clearly wasn't to the loyal members of our wonderful choral society; I was really pleased to see so many signing up for this project. It really is a superb and unique piece of music, full of variety, imagination and passion, and opportunities to perform it are rare. It's been a joy to introduce it to the boys, who have pretty well spent the entire term learning it.

It is extremely complicated! Not only does Monteverdi require the choir to be divided into up to 10 parts, but he demands extremely complex rhythms too, often sung at great speed. Parts of it constitute a veritable mental workout. At the same time the piece is full of contrast as well. It moves swiftly from the very complex to the very simple, visiting vast Renaissance polyphony and the simplicity of early Baroque melodic writing within the same sections, and always wonderfully tuneful too, frequently daring and unexpected in its invention. Monteverdi's wit is particularly obvious in the beautiful echoes in the *Audi cœlum* – where he cleverly finds extra and appropriate Latin text for the echo to sing (not in the biblical text) by snipping off the end of the soloist's final word and repeating it. My favourite is taking 'solamen' and echoing 'Amen'. He would have been a fan of crosswords.

Other than performances sung by extremely small ensembles (1 voice to a part) nearly every performance will divide the music into solo and full passages according to a particular group's possibilities. Clearly some of the music is best sung full, and other passages will only work sung by soloists. In the middle is a grey area which could work either way. Tonight we are using 3 main combinations of forces: the full ensemble (230 singers), the chamber choir and finally a group of young soloists. The solo boys have responded magnificently to the task of learning music that is a challenge even for seasoned professionals.

Monteverdi was born in Cremona, Italy in 1567 at a time when the spiritual values and traditions of Renaissance music were giving way to the more human-centred values of the Baroque age. So it was a period of vast change, which included the birth of opera. By Monteverdi's own admission he wrote in two different styles – his *prima prattica* (a Renaissance polychoral style employing multiple choral parts interweaving rich textures) and his *seconda prattica* (the use of the new opera-influenced recitative style, which in its pure form constitutes a simple expressive vocal melody above a bass continuo).

Monteverdi was a musical prodigy – his first works were published when he was 15. He studied at Cremona cathedral and published several books of madrigals and motets, before being engaged as a string player and later as *Maestro di cappella* to the court of the Gonzagas at Mantua. During his life, which culminated in his appointment in 1613 as organist at St Mark's, Venice, he published many examples of secular and religious works including six operas, ballets, nine books of madrigals, and numerous motets and masses.

In 1610, dissatisfied with his work at the Gonzaga court and beset by financial difficulties, Monteverdi travelled to Rome for an audience with Pope Paul V. He took with him his own publication of a Mass (*Missa 'In Illo Tempore'*) dedicated to Paul V and published in the same volume, the *Marian Vespers*.

Structurally the *Vespers* has always been a mystery: does it constitute a musical whole intended to be sung at a *Vespers* service – or is it rather a book of *Marian* settings of anthems, hymns and psalms? The biggest issue centres on the five 'sacred concertos' scored for various voices

(Nigra sum, Pulchra es, Duo Seraphim, Audi cœlum and the Sonata sopra ‘Sancta Maria ora pro nobis’). It is both the inclusion of these movements (which don’t strictly form part of the service, with their often fruity and worldly texts taken from the Song of Songs and other biblical texts) and the omission of other important parts of the service, that has caused the debate as to whether the Vespers was ever intended to be performed liturgically.

A further issue for modern interpreters is which pitch to perform it, and particularly the pitch of 2 of the largest movements: Lauda Jerusalem and the Magnificat. If performed literally then the range of all the parts jumps by a 4th for just these 2 movements, asking the string players to play in higher positions, and the brass players to play some almost impossibly high notes (not to mention extremely high tenor lines!) It’s a complicated area, as the choice of original higher clefs for these two movements by Monteverdi indicates, according to some scholars, that the notes would have automatically been transposed down by the performers on seeing these clefs. I have performed these movements in both versions, and I remain convinced that the lower pitch is more likely, but rather less exciting! Tonight, mainly due to the need to keep young voices within manageable ranges, we are adopting the more scholarly lower version!

We shall perform the piece as a continuous whole, and would encourage you to follow the text below in order to appreciate the composer’s wonderful imaginative setting of the text.

Vespers of 1610

1. Deus in Adjutorium.

Ps. LXIX,1

FULL

Deus, in adjutorium meum intende, Domine, ad adjuvandum me festina.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum.

Amen. Allelujah.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me: make haste, O Lord, to help me.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, without end.

Amen. Allelujah.

2. Dixit Dominus.

Ps. C.

CHAMBER CHOIR AND SOLOISTS

Dixit Dominus Domino meo:

Sede a dextris meis: donec ponam inimicos tuos scabellum pedum tuorum.

Virgam virtutis tuae emittet Dominus ex Sion: dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum.

Tecum principium in die virtutis tuae in splendoribus sanctorum: ex utero ante luciferum genui te.

Juravit Dominus, et non poenitebit eum: tu es sacerdos in aeternum secundum ordinem Melchisedech.

Dominus a dextris tuis, confregit in die irae suae reges.

Judicabit in nationibus, implebit ruinas: conquassabit capita in terra multorum.

The Lord said to my Lord,
sit at my right hand, until I make thine enemies
thy footstool.

The Lord shall send out the rod of thy strength from Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.

At thy beginning in thy day of glory in the splendour of the holy places,
before the first light I begat thee.

The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent: thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedech.

The Lord at thy right hand shall destroy kings in the day of his wrath.

He shall judge among the nations, fill them with the dead, and smash heads in many lands.

De torrente in via bibet:
propterea exaltabit caput.

Gloria Patri et Filio et
Spiritui Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in
saecula saeculorum. Amen.

He shall drink of the brook in the way:
thus shall he raise his head.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever
shall be, without end. Amen.

3. Nigra Sum. *Cant. cant. 1,4; [2,3;] 2,11-*

Soloist: Arran Ryder

Nigra sum, sed formosa, filiae Jerusalem.

I am black but comely, ye daughters of
Jerusalem.

Ideo dilexit me rex et introduxit me in cubiculum
suum et dixit mihi:

Therefore the king hath delighted in me and
brought me to his chamber and said to me:

Surge, amica mea, et veni.

Arise, my love, and come.

Jam hiems transiit, imber abiit, et recessit.

For the winter is passed, the rain is over and
gone;

Flores apparuerunt in terra nostra, tempus
putationis advenit.

Flowers have appeared in our land, the time
of pruning is at hand.

4. Laudate Pueri Domine. *Ps. CX*

CHAMBER CHOIR AND SOLOISTS

Laudate, pueri, Dominum:
laudate nomen Domini.

Praise the Lord, ye servants:
praise the name of the Lord.

Sit nomen Domini benedictum, ex hoc nunc, et
usque in saeculum.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, from this
time forth for evermore.

A solis ortu usque ad occasum, laudabile nomen
Domini.

From the rising to the setting of the sun, the
Lord's name be praised.

Excelsus super omnes gentes Dominus, et super
coelos gloria ejus.

The Lord is high above all nations, and his
glory above the heavens.

Quis sicut Dominus Deus noster, qui in altis
habitat,

Who is like the Lord our God, who dwelleth
on high,

Et humilia respicit in coelo et in terra?

Yet respecteth humbly what is in heaven and
earth?

Suscitans a terra inopem, et de stercore erigens
pauperem:

He raiseth the simple from the dust, and
lifteth the poor from the mire.

Ut collocet eum cum principibus, cum principibus
populi sui.

That he may set him with princes, even the
princes of his people.

Qui habitare facit sterilem in domo, matrem
filiorum laetantem.

Who maketh the barren woman to keep
house, a joyful mother of children.

Gloria Patri et Filio et
Spiritui Sancto.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in
saecula saeculorum. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever
shall be, without end. Amen.

5. Pulchra Es. *Cant. cant. 6,3*

Soloists: Hannah Nye and Penelope Appleyard

Pulchra es, amica mea, suavis et decora
filia Jerusalem.

Thou art beautiful, my love, sweet and comely
daughter of Jerusalem.

Pulchra es, amica mea, suavis et decora sicut
Jerusalem, terribilis ut castrorum acies ordinata.

Thou art beautiful, my love, sweet and comely
as Jerusalem, terrible as an army arrayed for
battle.

Averte oculos tuos a me, quia me avolare fecerunt.

Turn thine eyes from me, for they make me
flee away.

6. Laetatus Sum. *Ps. CX*

CHAMBER CHOIR AND SOLOISTS

Laetatus sum in his, quae dicta sunt mihi:
in domum Domini ibimus.

I was glad when they said to me:
we will go into the house of the Lord.

Stantes erant pedes nostri, in atriis tuis, Jerusalem.

Our feet shall stand in thy gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem, quae aedificatur ut civitas:
cujus participatio ejus in idipsum.

Illuc enim ascenderunt tribus, tribus Domini
testimonium Israel ad confitendum nomini
Domini.

Quia illic sederunt sedes in iudicio, sedes super
domum David.

Rogate quae ad pacem sunt Jerusalem:
et abundantia diligentibus te.

Fiat pax in virtute tua:
et abundantia in turribus tuis.

Propter fratres meos, et proximos meos, loquebar
pacem de te:

Propter domum Domini Dei nostri, quaesivi
bona tibi.

Gloria Patri et Filio et
Spiritui Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in
saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Jerusalem, that is built as a city
that is at one with itself.

For thither the tribes go up, the tribes of the
Lord, to the testimony of Israel, to give thanks
to the name of the Lord.

For there are the seats of judgement, the
thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
they shall prosper that love thee.

Peace be within thy walls,
and plenty within thy palaces.

For my brethren, and my companions, I will
seek
peace for thee.

For the house of the Lord our God, I will seek
to do thee good.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever
shall be, without end. Amen.

7. Duo Seraphim. *Is. 6,3; Joh. Epist. I. 5,7*

*Soloists: Arran Ryder, Edward Walker and Ned
Campbell*

Duo Seraphim clamabant alter ad alterum:
Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Plena est omnis terra gloria ejus.

Tres sunt, qui testimonium dant in coelo:
Pater, Verbum et Spiritus Sanctus:
et hi tres unum sunt.

Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Plena est omnis terra gloria ejus.

Two seraphim cried to one another:
Holy is the Lord God of Sabaoth.
The whole earth is full of his glory.

There are three who bear witness in heaven:
the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit:
and these three are one.

Holy is the Lord God of Sabaoth.

The whole earth is full of his glory.

8. Nisi Dominus.

Ps. CX

FULL

Nisi Dominus aedificaverit domum, in vanum
laboraverunt qui aedificant eum.

Nisi Dominus custodierit civitatem, frustra vigilat
qui custodit eam.

Vanum est vobis ante lucem surgere:
surgite postquam sederitis, qui manducatis panem
doloris.

Cum dederit dilectis suis somnum:
ecce, haereditas Domini filii: merces,
fructus ventris.

Sicut sagittae in manu potentis:
ita filii excussorum.

Beatus vir qui implevit desiderium suum ex ipsis:
non confundetur cum loquetur inimicis suis in
porta.

Gloria Patri et Filio et
Spiritui Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in
saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Unless the Lord build the house, they labour
in vain who build it.

Except the Lord keep the city, he watcheth in
vain
who keepeth it.

It is vain for you to rise before dawn:
rise later, ye who have eaten the bread of
sorrows;

When he will give sleep to his chosen.
Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; a
reward, the fruit of the womb.

As arrows in the hands of the mighty,
thus are the children of outcasts.

Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of
them: they shall not be ashamed when they
confront their enemies in the way.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever
shall be, without end. Amen.

9. Audi Coelum.

*Soloists: Ned Campbell and Alec Garrett-Cox
(Echo)*

CHAMBER CHOIR

Audi, coelum, audi verba mea plena desiderio et perfusa gaudio.	<i>Audio</i>	Hear, O heaven, hear my words full of longing and pervaded by joy.	<i>I bear</i>
Dic, quaeso, mihi: Quae est ista quae consurgens ut aurora rutilat, ut benedicam?	<i>Dicam</i>	Tell me, I pray, who is she that shines like the dawn in her rising, that I might bless her?	<i>I will tell</i>
Dic nam ista pulchra ut luna, electa ut sol, replet laetitia terras, coelos, maria.	<i>Maria</i>	Tell me, for she, beautiful as the moon, radiant as the sun, fills with joy the earth, heavens and seas.	<i>Mary</i>
Maria virgo illa dulcis praedicta de propheta Ezekiel, porta orientalis?	<i>Talis</i>	Mary, that sweet virgin foretold by the prophet Ezekiel, the portal of the East?	<i>Even she</i>
Illa sacra et felix porta per quam mors fuit expulsa introduxit autem vita?	<i>Ita</i>	That sacred and happy portal through which death was driven out and life brought in?	<i>Even so</i>
Quae semper tutum est medium inter homines et Deum pro culpis remedium?	<i>Medium</i>	She who is always a sure intermediary between men and God, the cure for our sins?	<i>The Mediator</i>
Omnes hanc ergo sequamur quam cum gratia mereamur vitam aeternam. Consequamur.	<i>Sequamur</i>	Let us all therefore follow her through whose grace we may be granted eternal life. Let us go with her.	<i>Let us follow</i>
Praestet nobis Deus, Pater hoc et Filius et Mater cujus nomen invocamus dulce miseris solamen.	<i>Amen</i>	May God help us, God the Father, and the Son, and the Mother on whose sweet name we call as a comfort to the wretched.	<i>Amen</i>
Benedicta es, virgo Maria, in saeculorum saecula.		Thou art blessed, virgin Mary, for ever and ever.	

10. Lauda Jerusalem.

Ps. CXLVI

FULL

Lauda, Jerusalem, Dominum: lauda Deum tuum, Sion.		Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise thy God, O Zion.	
Quoniam confortavit seras portarum tuarum: benedixit filiis tuis in te.		For he hath strengthened the bars of thy gates; he hath blessed thy children within thee.	
Qui posuit fines tuos pacem: et adipe frumenti satiat te.		He maketh peace in thy borders, and filleth thee with the finest wheat.	
Qui emittet eloquium suum terrae: velociter currit sermo ejus.		He sendeth his commandment to the earth; his word runneth swiftly.	
Qui dat nivem sicut lanam: nebulam sicut cinerem spargit.		He giveth snow like wool; he scattereth hoar frost like ashes.	
Mittit crystallum suam sicut buccellas: ante faciem frigoris ejus quis sustinebit?		He casteth forth his ice like morsels; before his cold who can stand?	
Emittet verbum suum, et liquefaciet ea: flabit spiritus ejus, et fluent aquae.		He sendeth out his word, and melteth them; his spirit blows, and the waters flow.	
Qui annunciat verbum suum Jacob: justitias et judicia sua Israel.		He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and judgements to Israel.	
Non fecit taliter omni nationi: et judicia sua non manifestavit eis.		He hath not dealt so with any nation; and his judgments he hath not made manifest.	
Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.		Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.	
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.		As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, without end. Amen.	

11. Sonata Sopra Sancta Maria.

CHORISTERS

Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis. Holy Mary, pray for us.

12. Ave Maris Stella.

FULL with soloists: Leo Adams, Danny Wymbbs and Edward Walker

Ave maris stella,
Dei Mater alma
Atque semper Virgo
Felix coeli porta.

Sumens illud Ave
Gabrielis ore,
Funda nos in pace,
Mutans Evae nomen.

Solve vincla reis,
Profer lumen caecis,
Mala nostra pelle,
Bona cuncta posce.

Monstra te esse matrem,
Sumat per te preces,
Qui pro nobis natus,
Tulit esse tuus.

Virgo singularis,
Inter omnes mitis,
Nos culpis solutos,
Mites fac et castos.

Vitam praesta puram,
Iter para tutum,
Ut videntes Jesum
Semper collaetemur.

Sit laus Deo Patri,
Summo Christo decus,
Spiritui Sancto
Tribus honor unus. Amen.

Hail, star of the sea,
bountiful mother of God
and ever Virgin,
happy gate of heaven.

Taking that Ave
from the mouth of Gabriel,
preserve us in peace,
giving Eve a new name.

Loose the chains of the bound,
bring light to the blind,
drive out our ills,
invoke all things good.

Show thyself to be a mother,
may he who was born for us
receive our prayers through thee.

Singular virgin,
more gentle than all,
absolve us from sin and
make us gentle and pure.

Grant us a pure life,
prepare a safe way,
that in seeing Jesus
we may rejoice for ever.

Praise be to God the Father,
glory to Christ on high,
and with the Holy Spirit
honour to the three in one. Amen.

13. Magnificat.

FULL WITH SOLOISTS

Magnificat anima mea Dominum:
et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo.

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae:
ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes
generationes.

Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est:
et sanctum nomen ejus.

Et misericordia ejus a progenie in progenies timentibus
eum.

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo:
dispersit superbos
mente cordis sui.

Deposuit potentes de sede, et
exaltavit humiles.

Esurientes implevit bonis:
et divites dimisit inanes.

Suscepit Israel puerum suum,
recordatus misericordiae suae.

Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini ejus in saecula.

Gloria Patri et Filio et
Spiritui Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula
saeculorum. Amen.

Luc. 1,46-55

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my saviour.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden:
for behold from henceforth all generations shall call
me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath done great things to me,
and holy is his name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him from
generation to generation.

He hath shewed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud
in the imagination of his heart.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and
hath exalted the lowly.

He hath filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He hath sustained Israel his servant,
remembering his mercy.

As he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
without end. Amen.