

This evening's concert takes us on a journey to a sound-world from a distant time - to Venice in the years around 1600. Venice - *La Serenissima* - 'Queen of the Adriatic' - was a major maritime power during the Renaissance, and from the thirteenth to the seventeenth century a crossroads of trade between Europe and Byzantium and the Muslim world at large. It played a major role in artistic development during the Renaissance, especially in painting and music, and its composers made a particular contribution to the formation of the emerging artistic sensibility which we have come to call the 'Baroque'. Tonight's concert offers glimpses of that movement from a music based on melody to sound structures rooted in harmony.

Monteverdi's *Vespers of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, published in Venice in 1610, are at the very crux of this change, offering at one moment polyphonic (many-voiced) choral passages of the kind established over the previous two centuries, and at the next a dramatic presentation of a text based on a strong harmonic ground and ordered by a sense of opposition and balance. Tonight's programme is based around a number of movements from the *Vespers*, interspersed with motets by Lassus and Giovanni Gabrieli which show that the development of this new style - it was called the *nuova musica* - began in the middle of the previous century.

Orlandus Lassus was born in Mons (modern-day Belgium) in 1532 (possibly 1530) and died in Munich in 1594. Between 1547 and 1554 he travelled, studied and worked in Italy, before taking up a post in 1556 at the court of Albrecht V, Duke of Bavaria, where he remained for the rest of his life, becoming maestro di capella there in 1564. In the 1570s Giovanni Gabrieli, the nephew of his friend Andrea Gabrieli, became his pupil. **Giovanni Gabrieli** was born in Venice c.1554/57 and died there in 1612 - exactly 400 years ago. He became principal organist at Saint Mark's Basilica in 1585, and succeeded his uncle Andrea in the post of principal composer there in 1586. **Claudio Monteverdi** was born in Cremona in 1567 and died in 1643 in Venice where he became *maestro di capella* of San Marco, Venice in 1613. His appointment at San Marco may well have been influenced by the publication of the *Vespers* in 1610.

Programme

Monteverdi: *Vespers*

*Deus in adiutorium meum intende. Domine ad adjuvandum.
Audi coelum: omnes hanc ergo sequamur*

Lassus

*Jubilate Deo
Laudent Deum
Resonet in laudibus*

Monteverdi: *Vespers*

Sonata sopra 'Sancta Maria ora pro nobis'

Lassus

Omnes de Saba venient

Monteverdi: *Vespers*

Ave maris stella

Giovanni Gabrieli

Hodie Christus natus est

Monteverdi: *Vespers*

Magnificat: Magnificat anima mea Dominum. Sicut erat in principio.



Queen's Park Sinfonia

Bill Thorp, Jenny Thorn *violins*
Dorit Lichtenstern, Moira Conway *violas*
Sophie Gledhill *bass continuo*
David Podd *keyboard continuo*

Queen's Park Singers

Soprano

Anna Mumford, Catherine Fried, Erline Johnson, Gillian Hallifax, Jana Burt-Jones, Jenny Garrett, Kate Worth, Katy Payne, Livi Hughes, Lucy Mottram, Margot Lunnon, Sasha Hardway, Stella Ruszczyński, Susan Clements, Virginia Walker, Virginie Pappantoniou

Alto

Denise O'Reilly, Evelyn Velleman, Frances Freeman, Graziella Doardo, Helen Dymond, Hinda Golding, Katherine Lawson, Linsay Samii Pour, Liz Till, Marie-Noelle Lamy, Marion Paul, Monica Healy, Pauline Wong, Rachel Donnison

Tenor

Amanda Robinson, Cathie Hammond, Colm Doherty, Glyn Jones, Jay Bannmuller, Julie Krausz, Mario Mansilla

Bass

Adam Ritchie, David Till, Mark Hine, Peter Walter, Roger Bloomfield, Simon Judge

Peter Burt-Jones *Conductor*



We are very grateful to Reverend Maggie Hindley and Reverend Laurence Hillel for permission to use the church, and to Nicole Cross for her assistance with booking accommodation.



Seasonal refreshments will be served after the concert in the Rotunda.



A Venetian Christmas

Sunday 2 December 2012 at 6.30pm

The Church of St Anne and St Andrew
125 Salusbury Road NW6 6RG