

# London Concord Singers

conductor Malcolm Cottle

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2005

## A Musical Tour of the EU

Luca Marenzio – Dolorosi Martir

Krystof Harant – Missa super 'Dolorosi Martir': Kyrie, Credo

Anton Bruckner – Os Justi

Rihards Dubra – Salve Regina

Johann Gottfried Schicht - Alles, was Odem hat, lobe den Herrn

Zoltán Kodály – Öregek (*The Old Ones*)

Camille Saint Saens – 2 Chansons Op. 68

Henryk Górecki - Totus Tuus, Op. 60

Vagn Holmboe – Laudate Dominum (Liber Canticorum Vol Vb)

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### **Luca Marenzio (1553 – 1599) – Dolorosi Martyr**

Italian composer; Madrigal sung in Italian, text by Tansillo, first published in 1580

*Bitter pains, fierce torments  
Unbearable punishment, biting ropes, chafing chains  
Whilst I spend the night, the day, the hours, the minutes  
In wretchedness, bewailing my lost love.  
Sad moans, wailing, cries, laments,  
Heavy tears and endless misery  
Are my meat, and the dear tranquillity  
of my life is bitterer than any gall.*

### **Krystof Harant (1564 – 1621) – Missa super 'Dolorosi Martyr': Kyrie, Credo**

Czech Composer; Mass sung in Latin, based on Marenzio's madrigal **Dolorosi Martyr**

**Kyrie:** *Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy*

**Credo:** *I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God. Born of the Father beyond all ages. God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God. Begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father. By whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven. And he became flesh by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary: and was made man. He was also crucified for us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was buried. And on the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. And of his kingdom there will be no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. Who together with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, and who spoke through the prophets. And one holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. And I await the resurrection of the dead. And the life of the world to come. Amen*

### **Anton Bruckner (1824 - 1896) - Os Justi**

Austrian composer; Motet sung in Latin, written in 1879, text taken from Psalm 37

*The mouth of the righteous man utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks what is just. The law of his God is in his heart; his feet do not slip. Alleluia*

### **Rihards Dubra (1964 - ) – Salve Regina**

Latvian composer; Motet sung in Latin

*Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy! Our life, our sweetness and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve, to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb Jesus; O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

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### **Johann Gottfried Schicht (1753 - 1823) - Alles, was Odem hat, lobe den Herrn**

German composer; motet sung in German, text taken from Psalm 150

*Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord (Psalm 150, verse 6)*

### **Zoltán Kodály (1882 – 1867) – Öregek (The Old Ones)**

Hungarian composer; sung in Hungarian; written in 1933 to words by Sándor Weöres (1913 – 1988)

*So forlorn are the old. I sometimes watch them from the window, Watch how they trudge home In the shivering wind with twigs on their backs, Or sit in the sweltering summer In the sun before the house, Or sleep on a winter's evening Soundly beside the stove. With palm outstretched they stand Before the church Sadly, despondently, Like withered autumn leaves.*

*And when they trudge down the street with a stick Even the sunshine looks ill at ease, And so strangely everyone says, Good day to you, old man! The summer sun, The winter's snow, The autumn leaves, the spring's fresh flowers, all sing in their ears:*

*"Old food in the kettle of life, old straw in the cart of life, wax run down the candle of life, you have been eaten, you have been strewn, you have been burned, you may fall asleep..."*

*And sometimes, when their old hands Fondle a fair child's head, It may be with pain that they feel Those hands, Those hard-working hands Those hands of blessing Are of use to no one any more.*

*And they are captives now, Listless, dozing captives chained, Their chains are seventy hard years, The crimes, troubles, sorrow of seventy years, In chains of seventy hard years they await A charitable hand's, A dreadful hand's, An undisobeyable hand's Word of command: "Come, lay it down."*

### **Camille Saint Saens (1835 – 1921) – 2 Chansons Op. 68 (Calme des Nuits; Les Fleurs et les arbres)**

French composer; chansons sung in French, anonymous texts set by Saint-Saens in 1882.

### **Henryk Górecki (1933 - ) - Totus Tuus, Op60, 1987**

Polish composer; motet sung in Latin, written for the 3rd visit of Pope John Paul II to Poland in 1987, text by Maria Boguslawska

*I am wholly yours, Maria, Mother of Our Redeemer Virgin of God Pious Virgin, Mother of the Saviour of the World*

### **Vagn Holmboe (1909 – 1996) – Laudate Dominum (Liber Canticorum Vol Vb)**

Danish composer; sung in Latin, written in 1984

*I. Alleluia! I cried unto the Lord with my voice. Alleluia! Blessed be the Lord, my God. Alleluia*

*II. Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. (Psalm 61, v. 1-2)*

*III. O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord. (Psalm 117, v. 1-2)*

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**London Concord Singers** are an award-winning chamber choir of about 30 mixed voices, based in central London, with a broad-ranging repertoire. The choir was established in 1966 by the conductor, Malcolm Cottle and he has remained the Musical Director. In November 2006, the choir will be celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The choir gives three main concerts each year in central London, and have given a number of world, UK and London premieres of works by composers such as John Rutter, Andrzej Panufnik, Richard Rodney Bennett, John McCabe, Kenneth Leighton and Michael Ball, as well as pieces specially written for the choir. The choir has also given performances of major contemporary pieces such as Alfred Schnittke's Choral Concerto and Malcolm Williamson's Requiem for a Tribe Brother.

Each year the choir makes a trip abroad to perform; previous years we have performed in Rouen, Caen, Ghent, Bruges and Barcelona. In July 2003 we sang in Rheims Cathedral as part of the music festival, *Les Flaneries Musicales d'Ete de Reims*.

For further information please see our website: <http://www.londonconcordingers.org.uk/>