

CONTACT:
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714
ckellogg@calperformances.org
Joe Yang 510.642.9121
scyang@calperformances.org

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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
RENAISSANCE TREASURE THE TALLIS SCHOLARS AND ITS
VICTORIA PROJECT SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MARCH 26 & 27, AT
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BERKELEY**

BERKELEY, February 22, 2011—Praised for bringing “down a piece of heaven for our musical adorations” (*Last FM*), the universally celebrated vocal ensemble **The Tallis Scholars** will return to Cal Performances for a weekend of concerts on **Saturday, March 26**, and **Sunday, March 27**, at **3:00 p.m.** at the **First Congregational Church of Berkeley**. The ten-member *a cappella* group led by conductor and scholar **Peter Phillips**, will present *The Victoria Project*, a two-concert series showcasing the work of Spanish Renaissance composer **Tomás Luis de Victoria**, whose 400th anniversary the ensemble is celebrating. Saturday evening’s program *Victoria’s Spanish Predecessors* places Victoria in context and explores not only the work of his contemporaries, forebears and followers, including **Cristóbal de Morales, Francisco Guerrero, Juan Padilla, Alonso Lobo** and **Sebastian de Vivanco**, but also the musical range of Victoria himself, moving from the extrovert energy of his *Missa O Magnum Mysterium* to the charged restraint of the Lamentations for Holy Week. The following afternoon’s program reflects the breadth of Victoria’s work from the beauty of a Marian antiphon or the energy of a Pentecostal motet to his most potent in the stripped-back music of penitence, the Requiem, and the music for Holy Week. “The evening’s big work was Victoria’s *Requiem*, a Tallis specialty. This is music with wings and was sung with such calm conviction that it barely touched the ground” (*Washington Post*).

THE TALLIS SCHOLARS

The Tallis Scholars, founded in 1973, is dedicated to preserving Renaissance music and launching the genre into mainstream Western music. The group is named after Thomas Tallis, a renowned early British composer. The ten-member group became leaders in Renaissance music through their acclaimed recordings and live concerts. The ensemble has produced over 50 records on its own label, Gimell Records, which its director Peter Phillips founded with Steve

-MORE-

Smith in 1980. These albums have garnered many awards including two Diapason d'Or de l'Année awards from the French magazine *Diapason*, People's Choice Award, and also two Gramophone Award including Gramophone Record of the Year in 1987, the first and only Renaissance recording to win this prestige. The group has had four Grammy Award nominations in total. Their most recent album, *The Lamentations of Jeremiah*, nine settings of texts from the Old Testament book of Jeremiah, has been praised as a “beautifully understated recording of one of the greatest achievements of Spanish Golden Age polyphony” (*Guardian*, UK).

The Tallis Scholars are also known for its vast number of concerts that they have given in both secular and sacred venues, averaging around 70 per year. The group has toured extensively internationally throughout Europe, Asia and the United States. One of their most remembered performance was in 1994 at the Sistine Chapel making the completed restoration of the Michelangelo Frescoes which was broadcasted on television. In the 2010—2011 season, The Tallis Scholars will tour in the United States, including the pair of concerts in Berkeley, as well as a return tour in Japan and Australia.

In addition to presenting Renaissance music, The Tallis Scholars have premiered and commissioned works by contemporary composers, including John Tavener, Robin Walker and Errollyn Wallen. The ensemble and director Peter Phillips annually present three weeklong summer schools—one each in the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia—at which talented amateur musicians can learn from and sing with the group.

PETER PHILLIPS

Director of The Tallis Scholars, **Peter Phillips** has made a career out of researching and performing Renaissance polyphony music. As scholar of Oxford, Phillips gained experience in conducting early music repertoire early on. This ensemble later became permanently established as The Tallis Scholars. Phillips has also worked with other vocal ensembles, including the Collegium Vocale of Ghent, the Netherlands Chamber choir, the Choeur de Chambre de Namur, the Finnish Radio Choir, Musix of Budapest, the Studeio de Musique acciene de Montreal, and the BBC Singers. Phillips has made numerous television and radio broadcasts, and was featured in a 2002 documentary about the life of William Byrd, Queen Elizabeth's favorite composer, as

well has having been featured on BBC Music Weekly, NPR and many other international radio stations. His work was praised in 2005 when he was made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettre, by the French Minister of Culture, for his contribution to the understanding of French culture in the world. Last year, Phillips was also made a Fellow for Life of Merton College, Oxford.

Phillip, along with conducting, tries to advance Renaissance music by teaching. He gives numerous master-classes and choral workshops every year around the world and is also the Artistic Director of The Tallis Scholars Summer School. He also established a new choral foundation at his recent appointment at Merton College.

As a scholar, Peter Phillips is well known in his writing on Renaissance music. He is a regular contributor in *The Spectator*, a weekly UK magazine, as a music contributor and is also the publisher and owner of *The Musical Times*, the oldest continuously published music journal in the world. He has also written a book based on his knowledge of classic English repertoire titled *English Sacred Music, 1549–1649* as well as a second bout, *What We Really Do*, that recounts what touring is like with the Tallis Scholars.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **The Tallis Scholars** on **Saturday, March 26**, at **8:00 p.m.** and Sunday, **March 27**, at **3:00 p.m.** at **First Congregational Church** are priced at \$52.00. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.net; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperformances.net.

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced three hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance;

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quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20 for all other community members. Information is available at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, three hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances 2010/11 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:
CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

Saturday, March 26 at 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 27 at 3:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church

2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Early Music

The Tallis Scholars

The Victoria Project

Peter Phillips, director

Program A (March 26): Victoria's Spanish Predecessors

Cristóbal de Morales/ *Regina Caeli* and *Exaltata est Sancta Dei Genitrix*

Francisco Guerrero/ *Hei mihi domine, Usquequo domine*, and *Regina caeli*

Juan Padilla/ *Lamentations*

Francisco Penalosa/ *Sancta mater*

Alonso Lobo/ *Versa est in luctum*

Sebastián de Vivanco/ *Magnificat Octavi Toni*

Tomás Luis de Victoria/ *Lamentation for Holy Thursday*

Program B (March 27): Victoria's Greatest Hits

Tomás Luis de Victoria/ *Dum complerentur, Quem vidistis, pastores? Nigra sum, 4 Responsories for Tenebrae, Surrexit pastor bonus, Requiem*

Tickets: \$52.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.net; and at the door.

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