

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
TALLIS SCHOLARS
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 8:00 P.M.
AT THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Sightlines: Pre-performance talk with Tallis Scholars director Peter Phillips, moderated by Paul Ellison, Director of Music, Church of the Advent, San Francisco.

"To hear them perform is one of the great live music experiences of our time."
-- *The Boston Globe*

BERKELEY, October 18, 2004 – Arguably the finest exponent of Renaissance sacred vocal music in the world, the London-based **Tallis Scholars** return to Cal Performances Friday, **December 3 at 8:00 p.m.** at the First Congregational Church in Berkeley. Performing without instrumental accompaniment, The Tallis Scholars exemplify the purity and clarity that defines the Renaissance repertoire, with every detail of the musical lines clearly audible. It is the resulting beauty of sound for which the Tallis Scholars have become renowned. Director **Peter Phillips** leads his ten-member choral ensemble in *O Magnum Mysterium: Music for Christmas*, a program of works for the season by **Palestrina, Lassus, Isaac, de Rore, Appenzeller, and Zielenski.**

TALLIS SCHOLARS

The Tallis Scholars, founded in 1973 by Peter Phillips, take their name from the great composer of the English Renaissance, Thomas Tallis. They perform in both sacred and secular venues around the world, giving more than 80 concerts a year. Their performing history is remarkable: In 1994, they performed in the Sistine Chapel to mark the restoration of the Michelangelo frescoes. Later that year, the ensemble performed again in Rome for the 400th anniversary of the death of Giovanni Palestrina, in the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. They have given a performance with Sir Paul McCartney in New York, and celebrated their 25th Anniversary with a unique concert in London's National Gallery, where they premiered a John Tavener work written for the occasion and narrated by Sting. The group continues to commission

new pieces and recently premiered two works written for 40 voices, *I have thee by the hand, O Man* by Robin Walker and *When the wet wind sings* by Errollyn Wallen. Their 30th Anniversary U.S. tour last season was heard by capacity crowds and met with high acclaim.

The Tallis Scholars' discography includes more than 40 releases, many of them award-winners. Their recording of Josquin des Prés' *Missa La sol fa re mi* and *Missa Pange lingua* received *Gramophone* magazine's 1987 "Record of the Year" award—the only early music recording ever to win this coveted award. In 1989 the French magazine *Diapason* gave two of its "Diapason d'Or de l'Année" awards for recordings of a mass and motets by Orlandus Lassus and of Josquin's two masses based on the chanson "L'Homme armé". Their recording of Palestrina's *Missa Assumpta est Maria* and *Missa Sicut Liliium* was awarded *Gramophone's* Early Music Award in 1991. In 1994 they received the Early Music Award for their recording of music by Cipriano de Rore and Josquin des Prés, a disc that was also named "People's Choice" in a *Classic FM/Gramophone* competition. In 2001, the Scholars released the first four Magnificats by Nicolas Gombert, a uniquely expressive master of the Flemish Renaissance, and released Magnificats 5-8 in 2002.

Their CDs, as well as a 2004 DVD based on the BBC program entitled "Playing Elizabeth's Tune: The Tallis Scholars Sing William Byrd," are released under Gimell Records. The company was founded in 1981 by producer Steve C. Smith and Peter Phillips exclusively to record The Tallis Scholars. Their recordings have performed a pioneering role in the re-appraisal of unaccompanied sacred choral music of the 15th and 16th centuries. The consistently high artistic and technical standards achieved by the unique partnership between Gimell Records and the Tallis Scholars have been acknowledged by many prestigious record industry awards. The search for the ideal recording venue has led to the large 16th-century church at Salle in a remote part of Norfolk, England, chosen for the quality of its acoustics, the absence of traffic and other interference. Most of the recordings now take place in this church, while many of the previous recordings were made in the chapel of Merton College, Oxford. The Scholars have made recordings of works by composers such as Byrd, Tallis, Palestrina, Josquin des Prés, and Victoria as well as those of lesser-known composers, including Jacob Clemens non Papa and Frei Manuel Cardoso.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Tallis Scholars** on **Friday, December 3** at **8:00 p.m.** in First Congregational Church are priced at **\$42.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, December 3 at 8:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Sightlines:

Pre-performance talk with Tallis Scholars director Peter Phillips, moderated by Paul Ellison, Director of Music, Church of the Advent, San Francisco. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post-performance discussions with Cal Performances' guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience's experience. These events are free to ticketholders.

Music Before 1850

Tallis Scholars

Program:

O Magnum Mysterium: Music for Christmas, a program of works for the season by Palestrina, Lassus, Isaac, de Rore, Appenzeller, and Zielenski.

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