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**THE LEADING EXPERTS OF RENAISSANCE POLYPHONY,
THE TALLIS SCHOLARS RETURN TO CAL PERFORMANCES
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 AT 8:00 P.M.
AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN BERKELEY**

BERKELEY, October 30, 2009—England’s grand masters of Renaissance sacred music, **The Tallis Scholars**, led by founding director **Peter Phillips**, return to Cal Performances **Friday, December 4 at 8:00 p.m.** at First Congregational Church. Dubbed “the world’s most acclaimed purveyors of Renaissance polyphony” (*Boston Globe*), this unrivaled ensemble is among the busiest in the world, averaging 70 concerts each year around the globe. The group opens its holiday concert with **Josquin des Prez**’s spectacular mass in praise of the Virgin Mary, *Messa De beata virgine*. Renowned as Josquin’s most substantial setting of this text, it shows off every aspect of his bountiful technique. After intermission, The Tallis Scholars perform a variety of songs in English and Latin including **John Nesbett**’s energetic *Magnificat*; Thomas Tallis’s *Tunes for Archbishop Parker’s Psalter*; and **William Byrd**’s somber *Ye scared muses* and politically charged *Tribulationes civitatum* and *Vigilate*. With the ensemble’s “impeccable blend and balance...This is music where time stands still” (*Financial Times*).

THE TALLIS SCHOLARS

Since its founding in 1973, **The Tallis Scholars** have been a leading exponent of Renaissance sacred music through both recordings and concert performances. The ensemble’s renowned pure, clear sound—the results of meticulous work on tuning and blend—is ideal for presentation of Renaissance polyphonic repertoire because it permits every detail of each individual vocal part to be heard.

The Tallis Scholars have performed to sold-out audiences many times at Cal Performances, including last season’s spring concert. Recent festival appearances included the Salzburg, Milan Cathedral, Mostly Mozart, Ravinia and Tanglewood festivals in the United

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States and the BBC Proms in London. In 1994, they sang in the Sistine Chapel to mark completion of the restoration of Michelangelo's frescoes, an event that was televised around the globe. 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 group has released more than 50 recordings on its own label, Gimell Records, including a 1987 recording of Josquin's *Missa La sol fa re mi* and *Missa Pange lingua*, which is the only recording of early music to receive the *Gramophone* Record of the Year award. Other prizes for the Tallis Scholars' recordings include two *Diapason d'Or de l'Année* awards from the French magazine *Diapason*, two *Gramophone* Early Music Awards and a People's Choice award presented jointly by Classic FM and *Gramophone*. The Tallis Scholars have also produced several DVDs, including *Playing Elizabeth's Tune* released in 2003 in collaboration with the BBC, focusing on the life and works of Elizabeth I's favorite composer, William Byrd.

In addition to its demanding performance and recording schedule, The Tallis Scholars 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 members of the group.

PETER PHILLIPS

Peter Phillips, recently appointed Director of Music at Merton College, Oxford, has dedicated his life's work to the research and performance of Renaissance polyphony. He won a scholarship to Oxford in 1972 and promptly began experimenting with small groups and performing rare works of the Renaissance repertoire. In addition to founding The Tallis Scholars in 1973 and leading them ever since, Phillips has worked with the Collegium Vocale of Ghent, the Vox Vocal Ensemble of New York, Musix of Budapest and the BBC Singers, with whom he has broadcast live on BBC Radio Three, among other groups.

Phillips is also a highly regarded writer and academic, having authored two books: *English Sacred Music 1549–1649*, a scholarly work, and *What We Really Do*, an account of

touring with The Tallis Scholars. He also writes a regular music column in *The Spectator*, a weekly newsmagazine in the UK, and is owner and publisher of *The Musical Times*, the oldest continuously published music journal in the world.

Phillips was made a *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* by the Minister of Culture of France in 2005. In 2006, his song-cycle for contralto "Four Rondeaux by Charles d'Orleans" was premiered in the Guggenheim Museum to critical acclaim. In 2008, Phillips has set up a new Choral Foundation in Oxford. Through Phillips's work, Renaissance music has come to be accepted as part of the mainstream classical repertoire.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **The Tallis Scholars** on **Friday, December 4** at **8:00 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; 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 2009/10 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, December 4 at 8:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Music Before 1850

The Tallis Scholars

Peter Phillips, director

Program:

Josquin des Prez/*Missa De beata virgine*

Nesbett/*Magnificat*

Tallis/*Tunes for Archbishop Parker's Psalter*

Byrd/*Ye sacred muses, Tribulatines civitatum* and *Vigilate*

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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