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**RENAISSANCE SACRED MUSIC ENSEMBLE THE TALLIS SCHOLARS
RETURNS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 8:00 P.M. AT
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

BERKELEY, October 25, 2005 – Celebrating the 500th anniversary of the birth of its namesake, composer **Thomas Tallis**, the London-based **Tallis Scholars** return to Cal Performances **Saturday, December 3 at 8:00 p.m.** in First Congregational Church. Arguably the world's premier practitioners of sacred choral music, The Tallis Scholars perform without instrumental accompaniment to exemplify the purity and clarity that defines the Renaissance vocal repertoire. Director **Peter Phillips** will lead his ten-member ensemble in works from 16th-century England, a time during which the country witnessed profound religious changes and political uncertainties. The evening begins with **John Taverner's** "Dum transisset Sabbatum" (an Easter dedication), and "Leroy Kyrie". Excerpts from Tallis's Christmas mass "Missa Puer natus" are followed by the motet "Suscipe quaeso, Domine"; "O sacrum convivium"; and "Lamentations I", a piece dominated by syllabic word settings. The program ends with **William Byrd's** much-loved "Ave verum corpus" and "Tribue, Domine", both personal expressions of faith. A pre-performance *Sightlines* talk will be given by Tallis Scholars director Peter Phillips, moderated by Paul Ellison, Director of Music, Church of the Advent, San Francisco on Saturday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. This event is free to ticket holders.

THE TALLIS SCHOLARS

Founded in 1973 by Peter Phillips, **The Tallis Scholars** perform more than 70 concerts each year in both sacred and secular venues around the world. Their remarkable performance history includes a 1994 concert at the Sistine Chapel, marking the restoration of the Michelangelo frescoes. Later that year, the ensemble returned to Rome for the 400th anniversary of Giovanni Palestrina's death at the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. In 1998, they celebrated their 25th Anniversary with a unique concert in London's National Gallery, where they premiered a John

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Tavener work written for the occasion and narrated by Sting. The group has also performed with rock icon Sir Paul McCartney. The Tallis Scholars continue 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.

The Tallis Scholars' discography includes more than 40 releases, many of them award-winners. Their recording of Josquin des Prés's *Missa La sol fa re mi* and *Missa Pange lingua* won *Gramophone* magazine's 1987 Record of the Year award, making them the only early music recipients of 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 for a recording of Josquin's two masses, which were based on the chanson "L'Homme armé". Their recording of Palestrina's *Missa Assumpta est Maria* and *Missa Sicut Liliun* was awarded *Gramophone*'s Early Music Award in 1991. Three years later, they received the Early Music Award for a Cipriano de Rore and Josquin des Prés recording, a disc that was also named People's Choice in a *Classic FM/Gramophone* competition. In 2001, the Tallis Scholars released the first four Magnificats by Nicolas Gombert, a uniquely expressive master of the Flemish Renaissance, and released Magnificats Nos. 5-8 in 2002.

The ensembles 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 for The Tallis Scholars' recordings. Their award-winning records—products of the consistently high artistic and technical standards achieved by Gimell Records and The Tallis Scholars' unique partnership—have pioneered the re-appraisal of unaccompanied 15th- and 16th-century sacred choral music. The Tallis Scholars have recorded 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.

PETER PHILLIPS

Composer, conductor and writer **Peter Phillips** is known for his life-long dedication to the performance and research of Renaissance polyphony. After winning a scholarship to Oxford in 1972, Phillips studied Renaissance music with David Wulstan and Denis Arnold. Since then, he has directed The Tallis Scholars in over 1300 concerts, encouraging international interest in polyphony. Aside from The Tallis Scholars, he works with other specialist ensembles such as the Collegium Vocale of Ghent, the BBC Singers, Officium of Lisbon, and Tudor Choir of Seattle. Also a successful writer, Phillips's first book, *English Sacred Music 1549 – 1649*, was published in 1991, and his second book, *What We Really Do*—a humorous account of what touring is like—was published in 2003. In 1995, he became owner and publisher of the oldest continuously published music journal in the world, *The Musical Times*.

TICKET INFORMATION

This performance is sold out. Tickets for **The Tallis Scholars** on **Saturday, December 3** at **8:00 p.m.** in First Congregational Church are priced at **\$46.00** and may become available due to last minute returns. Call the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 for availability. If available, half-price tickets are offered 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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Cal Performances' 2005/2006 Centennial Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, December 3 at 7:00 – 7:30 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's guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience's experience. These events are free to ticketholders.

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

First Congregational Church
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Music Before 1850

The Tallis Scholars

Peter Phillips, director

Program:

Taverner/"Dum transisset Sabbatum"; "Leroy Kyrie"

Tallis/excerpts from *Missa Puer natus*; "Suscipe quaeso, Domine"; "O sacrum convivium";
"Lamentations I"

Byrd/"Ave verum corpus"; "Tribue, Domine"

Tickets: This performance is sold out. Tickets are \$46.00 and may become available due to last minute returns. Call the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 for availability.

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