

FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE

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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS RENAISSANCE SACRED VOCALISTS**  
**THE TALLIS SCHOLARS**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 8:00 P.M., IN FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**Sightlines: Pre-concert discussion with Tallis Scholars Director Peter Phillips at 7:00 p.m., moderated by Church of the Advent Music Director Paul Ellison**

**BERKELEY, October 20, 2003** – **The Tallis Scholars**, celebrating 30 years as the leading exponents of Renaissance sacred vocal music, return to Cal Performances **Wednesday, December 10 at 8:00 p.m.** at First Congregational Church in Berkeley. Having “attained superstardom among its ilk” (*The Boston Globe*), the ensemble is known internationally for the “admirably polished, seamlessly blended sound that has become their trademark” (*The New York Times*). Director **Peter Phillips** leads 10 members of his London-based ensemble in **Philip de Monte’s** *Laudate Dominum, Peccantem me quotidie, and Missa Sine Nomine*; **Gregorio Allegri’s** *Miserere*; and **Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina’s** *Stabat Mater, Alma Redemptoris mater, Magnificat, and Nunc Dimittis*. A free *Sightlines* pre-concert discussion with Tallis Scholars director Peter Phillips, moderated by Paul Ellison (music director of Church of the Advent in San Francisco), will take place from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m., one hour prior to the performance.

**The Tallis Scholars**, founded in 1973 by Phillips, takes its name from the great composer of the English Renaissance, Thomas Tallis. Each year, the Tallis Scholars give an average of 70 concerts, appearing in sacred and secular venues around the world. They tour the United States at least twice a year, give substantial tours in the Far East every year and a half, and have completed four major tours of Australia. In 1994, the Tallis Scholars performed in the Sistine Chapel to commemorate the restoration of the Michelangelo frescoes. That same year, they performed for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Palestrina in the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, Rome, where Palestrina trained.

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The Tallis Scholars' discography includes more than 40 acclaimed 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 honor—the only early music recording ever to win this coveted award. In 1989 the Tallis Scholars received two of France's prestigious Diapason d'Or awards for recordings of a mass and motets by Lassus and two masses by Josquin. Their recording of Palestrina's *Missa Assumpta est Maria* and *Missa Sicut Liliun* 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.

Gimell Records was founded in 1981 by producer Steve C. Smith and Peter Phillips 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 16<sup>th</sup>-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, and Victoria as well as those of lesser-known composers, including Clemens non Papa and Frei Manuel Cardoso.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

This performance is sold out. Tickets for the **Tallis Scholars** on **Wednesday, December 10 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$42.00** and may become available due to last-minute returns. Call the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 for availability. Half-price tickets may be available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, and other students receive a \$2 discount. For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu).

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*San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Francisco* magazine, and KDFC Classical 102.1 FM are season media sponsors of Cal Performances' 2003/04 performing arts season.

All Cal Performances programs are supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Zellerbach Family Foundation.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Wednesday, December 10, 7:00 – 7:30 p.m.**  
**SIGHTLINES**

**First Congregational Church**  
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Pre-concert talk with Tallis Scholars director **Peter Phillips**, moderated by **Paul Ellison**, director of music at the Church of the Advent in 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.

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**Wednesday, December 10 at 8:00 p.m.**

**First Congregational Church**  
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

*Music Before 1850*  
**The Tallis Scholars**

**Program:**

De Monte/Laudate Dominum; Peccantem me quotidie; and Missa Sine Nomine  
Allegrì/Miserere  
Palestrina/Stabat Mater; Alma Redemptoris mater; Magnificat; and Nunc Dimittis

**Tickets:** This performance is sold out. Tickets are \$42.00 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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