



MICHELMAS
SINGERS

Thomas Tallis (1505-1585) was a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal from 1543 until his death, and from 1585 shared the post of organist with William Byrd. Elizabeth granted to Tallis and Byrd a twenty-one year monopoly in 1575 for polyphonic music and a patent to print and publish music, which was one of the first arrangements of that type in the country. Tallis and Byrd could work for two opposing religions as long as they did not bring their beliefs into their jobs.

Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623) is best known for his vocal music, especially his madrigals and church music. He was born in Sussex, organist at Winchester College and later at Chichester Cathedral. Heavy drinking and immoderate behaviour caused problems with the Chichester Cathedral authorities - in 1616 he was reported to the Bishop for being 'noted and famed for a comon drunckard (sic) and notorious swearer & blasphemmer'.

The Michelmas Singers always welcome new members. We sing mainly early and 20th Century music, usually unaccompanied. We rehearse on Friday evenings and perform three concert programmes each year. Anyone interested in joining us is asked in the first instance contact Dave Simpson on 01642 590044.

If you are not already on our mailing list, and would like to receive information about our concerts, please give your name and address to any member of the Singers, or contact Dave Simpson.

David Bolton, who died on 23 February, had been a long serving member of the Michelmas Singers, and later accompanied us or provided instrumental interludes in many of our programmes. We have lost a good friend and an outstanding musician.

ST MARY MAGDALENE'S CHURCH, YARM

8th MARCH 2008

A CONCERT FOR

**CLEVELAND ORGANISTS' & CHOIRMASTERS'
ASSOCIATION**

This is our first concert under Matt Lennox, whom we welcome as our Musical Director. He follows Mark Anyan, who has moved to Durham, and is now conducting the Newcastle Choral Society.

The Cleveland Consort includes some present and past members of the Michelmas Singers. They have performed early music in the region for many years, and have been regular contributors to Michelmas Singers' concerts.

PROGRAMME

Mass for Four Voice

William Byrd

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|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Kyrie eleison | Lord have mercy... |
| Gloria in excelsis Deo | Glory be to God on high... |
| Credo | I believe in God... |

Cleveland consort

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| My lovely Phyllis | Michael East |
| Pavan & Galliard á 6 | William Byrd |
| 3 old English ballads | Anon |
| (Strawberry leaves, Packington's pound, Light of love) | |

Mass for Four Voices

William Byrd

| | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| Sanctus | Holy, holy... |
| Benedictus | Blessed be the Lord God... |
| Agnus dei | Lamb of God... |

Interval (20 Mins)

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|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sing Joyfully | William Byrd |
| Ave Verum Corpus | William Byrd |
| Almighty and everlasting God | Orlando Gibbons |
| Call to remembrance | Richard Farrant |
| Haec Dies | William Byrd |

Cleveland Consort

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|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| L'homme armé | Robert Morton |
| When shall my sorrowful sighing slake | Thomas Tallis |
| Pavan, galliard & almain | Anthony Holborne |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Teach me O lord | William Byrd |
| Hide not thou thy face | Richard Farrant |
| If ye love me | Thomas Tallis |
| O nata lux | Thomas Tallis |
| Hosanna to the son of David | Thomas Weelkes |

One of tonight's **anthems**, Teach me O Lord, is a Verse Anthem and requires an accompaniment. The others are Full Anthems which are normally sung unaccompanied, although they were probably originally performed with accompaniment.

William Byrd (1543 – 1623) was probably born in Lincoln, where he became Organist in 1563. He was the foremost composer of the Elizabethan period and among the three or four English composers since the Renaissance who have stood unequivocally as equals with their continental contemporaries. A master of keyboard music and the madrigal as well as Latin and English church music, he was a member of the sovereign's private religious establishment, the Chapel Royal. Yet he remained throughout his life a dedicated Roman Catholic who was persecuted as a recusant and who upheld the old faith through his art. Byrd wrote three masses between 1592 and 1595, for three, four and five voices, providing up to date music for use in covert recusant chapels. That for four voices was probably written first. The full mass comprised the Proper of the Mass (parts which varied from season to season, or even day to day) and the Ordinary of the Mass, invariable whatever the season of the Church year. Propers were usually plainsong, whereas the other sections were set for chorus and are a part of tonight's programme.

Michael East: (1580 – 1648) is known mainly for his madrigals and was also a music publisher

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625) was a choir boy at King's College, Cambridge, and at 21 became organist at the Chapel Royal of James I. His choral music is distinguished by his complete mastery of counterpoint, combined with his wonderful gift for melody.

Richard Farrant (d 1581) was organist to Queen Elizabeth at St Georges Chapel, Windsor. Few of his compositions survive; the best known are a service and the anthems in tonight's programme.

Anthony Holborne (1545 – 1602) was a composer of English consort music during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

Robert Morton (c.1430 – c 1479) was an English composer at the Burgundian court in the late C15. All his known works are secular.