



G R A D U A T E S I N G E R S

A CONCERT OF ENGLISH MUSIC

Pilgrim Church
Saturday, April 28th at 8.00 p.m.

1979

THE COMPOSERS

WILLIAM BYRD (1543-1623)

Byrd's Mass for Four Voices was first published, along with his other two Masses in 3 & 5 parts, in the period 1592-5, and, considering that the celebration of the Roman Mass was illegal in Elizabethan England, it is not surprising that the publisher issued them without title pages and described them evasively as "Kirries" (Kyries). These three Masses are among the finest of the genre & are unique in various ways - the only ones by an English composer up to that time which include polyphonic setting of the Kyrie; it had been a pre-Council of Trent custom to sing plainsong.

Although there are no indications concerning soloists in the original, it is generally accepted that it was normal Renaissance practice to sing some sections using only solo voices. This practice has been adhered to tonight. The criteria for the choice of these sections has been based on textural and musical considerations.

MICHAEL TIPPETT (b. 1905-)

In an introductory note for the first performance (1962) of his *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis* for the 450th anniversary of the foundation of St. John's College, Cambridge, Tippett states that his intention was to express the jubilation proper to the occasion without disturbing the essential character of the two canticles. Reminding us that these were originally songs expressing emotions of an individual, he uses a lyrical & melismatic style for the Magnificat, reserving all contrapuntal complexity for the impersonal text of the Gloria. The Nunc Dimittis is set for solo treble, over quiet sustained discords from the three lower parts, while the organ ' in contrast to the display of the Magnificat, is reduced to primitive onomatopoesis of the "thunderings" of God'.

E.C. BAIRSTOW (1874-1946)

Bairstow was organist of York Minster from 1913 until his death in 1946. He was a great organist, choral conductor, voice trainer and theorist & also one of the leading composers of Anglican Church Music in his generation. His sonata was written on the Isle of Arran on the west coast of Scotland in 1937. There are three movements. The second is a French-style scherzo. The last is a lyrical fugue which is full of contrapuntal devices without in any way limiting the romantic character of the work as a whole.

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1872-1958)

Vaughan Williams' only organ work appeared in 1920 and has endeared itself to organists chiefly through 'Rhosymedre'. The 19th century tunes on which they are based have a strength and austerity which surpasses the often maudlin and sentimental melodies favoured in England during the same period. His treatment shows the first tune as full of mystical fervour, the second as sweet and pastoral and the last as powerful and direct.

THE CONDUCTOR

Carl Crossin graduated from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 1975 with a Diploma in Music Education. He has conducted the University of N.S.W. Choral Society and has been Musical Director for a number of successful stage productions by societies at the Universities of Sydney & N.S.W. He formed & for 2½ years directed, the Lachrymae Singers - a 7-voice ensemble specialising in Medieval and Renaissance music. He moved to Adelaide early in 1978 to study Musicology at the University of Adelaide and has conducted the Flinders University Choral Society since then.

THE ORGANIST

David Swale is at present Chairman of the Department of Music in the University of Adelaide. He is also Organist of St. Peter's Cathedral. He has been concerned with editing and performing 17th Century Italian music and is active as a keyboard performer and conductor. Many performances have been given with the Italian Baroque Ensemble.

PROGRAMME

1. MUSIC OF THE RENAISSANCE IN ENGLAND

Hark All Ye Lovely Saints.....Weelkes
Construe My Meaning.....Farnaby
O Lord, Give Thy Holy Spirit.....Tallis
Sacerdotes Domini.....Byrd

2. FOUR PART SONGS FROM THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

The Shower.....Elgar
Serenade.....Elgar
The Dark Eyed Sailor.....Vaughan Williams
Wassail Song.....Vaughan Williams

3. ORGAN SONATA IN E^bE.C. Bairstow

Organist: David Swale

4. MAGNIFICAT AND NUNC DIMITTIS.....Tippett

Organist: David Swale
Soloists: Barbara Rennison
Bernard Mageean

(INTERVAL - 15 minutes)

5. THREE ORGAN PRELUDESVaughan Williams

Bryn Calfaria..... W. Owen
Rhosymedre..... J.D. Edwards
Eyfydol..... R.H. Pritchard
(Founded on Welsh Hymn Tunes)

6. MASS FOR FOUR VOICES.....Byrd

Soloists: Barbara Rennison
Ian Carrig
Bernard Mageean
Dave Cox
Dick Leeson

GRADUATE SINGERS

SOPRANOS

Nicola Bevan
Helen Carrig
Julia Drought
Sue Henry-Edwards
Chris Langviser
Brenda Nettle
Margaret Rawlinson
Barbie Rennison
Alison Whish

ALTOS

Jan Buchan
Ian Carrig
Jill Fulton
Joan Juniper
Kryisia Kitch
Margo Tamblyn

BASSES

David Bleby
Dave Cox
Tony Dooley
Rodney Kirk
Dick Leeson
Matthew Mitchell
Colin Telfer

TENORS

Ian Bollen
Bruce Hastings
Bernard Mageean
Christopher Rawlinson

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