

PROGRAM NOTES BY JAMES M. POTTER, 2016

## THE TALLIS SCHOLARS

DIRECTOR PETER PHILLIPS

Tuesday, April 9 at 6 pm

Trinity United Methodist Church

**“INSPIRED BY  
THE SISTINE CHAPEL”**  
**GIOVANI PIERLUIGI DA PALESTRINA**  
**(1525–1594)**

**Missa Assumpta est Maria (Kyrie)**

**CRISTÓBAL DE MORALES (1500–1553)**  
**Regina caeli**

**PALESTRINA**  
**Missa Ecce ego Johannes (Gloria)**

**COSTANZO FESTA (1495–1545)**  
**Quam pulchra es**

**ELZEA GENET CARPENTRAS (?–1548)**  
**Lamentations**

**PALESTRINA**  
**Missa Papae Marcelli (Credo)**

INTERMISSION

**GREGORIO ALLEGRI (C. 1582–1652)**  
**Miserere**

**PALESTRINA**  
**Missa Confitebor tibi domine**  
**(Sanctus & Benedictus)**

**ALEXANDER CAMPKIN (B. 1984)**  
**Miserere Mei**

**JOSQUIN DES PREZ (C. 1450–1521)**  
**Inter natos mulierum**

**PALESTRINA**  
**Missa brevis (Agnus Dei)**

The Sistine Chapel, the heart of the Vatican in Rome, is well-known for having bequeathed a treasure trove of visual art to posterity. With one notable exception, it is rather less known for the musical treasures which it has nurtured for many centuries. In many cases this is due to the jealous guarding of the music by a series of popes, who would not allow certain pieces to pass beyond the walls of the chapel. Such is the case, famously, of Gregorio Allegri's *Miserere*, which acquired such a mystique through the Sistine Chapel's monopoly that tracing its journey has become one of the most intriguing musical problems of our time.

Tonight's program allows us a privileged glimpse into the heyday of the Vatican of the high Renaissance. The power and prestige of the papacy was at its apex, and before long the Council of Trent would spur liturgists and artists to the heights of the Counter-Reformation. In this spirit, the continuity in this program is provided by that most prolific of polyphonists, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina. Rather than choose just one setting of the Ordinary of the Mass, Director Peter Phillips has chosen individual movements from five different masses, forming a composite which shows the remarkable breadth and consistency of Palestrina's style.

Many of the masses are in the so-called *missa parodia* or “parody mass” form, meaning their music is based on a preexisting work, usually a motet. Hence *Missa Assumpta est Maria*, which draws its material from a six-voice motet for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Credo comes from the famous *Missa Papae Marcelli*, supposedly written to prove that sacred music could be both beautiful and intelligible, after officials at the Council of Trent considered banning complex polyphony. Certainly the prevalence of syllabic declamation in this movement suggests a particular concern that the words be understood. The mighty Sanctus is from a mass based on the double-choir *Confitebor tibi*, whilst the Agnus Dei is from the *Missa brevis*, a mass which, despite its name, is not a great deal shorter than any of the others! Instead, in the second statement of this freely-composed movement, Palestrina adds a further voice to enrich the polyphony.

The patronage of the papacy was keenly sought by Renaissance musicians. For a time, Spanish composers had an advantage due to a succession of Spanish popes who held them in high esteem. Cristóbal de Morales was one such beneficiary, spending a considerable portion of his life in the employ of the Capella Sistina. *Regina caeli*, a setting of the ancient hymn to Mary, could well have been first performed here.

A contemporary of Morales, Costanzo Festa was one of the first Italian polyphonic composers to achieve high renown. His sacred music would be a great influence on Palestrina, and his madrigals helped birth a new secular tradition. *Quam pulchra es*, a passage from the Song of Songs set for high voices, displays Festa's gift for easy, flowing polyphony.

Like many others at the time, the composer Carpentras spent considerable energy securing patronage for his artistic activity. Having been master of the papal chapel in 1514 for Pope Leo X, he made a swift exit after Leo was replaced by the rather less musical Adrian VI, only to return after a new pope was elected a year later. Intriguingly—and foreshadowing the later corruption of Allegri's music—he returned to the Sistine Chapel to find his music still being performed, but in “bastardized versions,” “so corrupted...that I scarcely recognized them.” He resolved to republish the works—dedicating the collection to the new Pope, Clement VII—which include many settings of the *Lamentations of Jeremiah*. It is no surprise that these were hugely popular at the time; passages of sonorous homophony vie in beauty with the austere Hebrew letters, which, following convention, are set to long, flowing melisma: “ritualized weeping in music.”

Of course, no piece of music in the history of the Sistine Chapel is more famous than Allegri's *Miserere*. The Papacy wanted it that way—a secret composition of such beauty that it could not be allowed beyond the walls of the Vatican, it magnified their power and status. However, just as Carpentras' music had been tweaked beyond his recognition, Allegri's was to suffer the manipulations of every age which followed,

Peter Phillips, Director  
Charlotte Ashley, soprano  
Emily Atkinson, soprano  
Amy Haworth, soprano  
Emma Walshe, soprano  
David Gould, alto  
Caroline Trevor, alto  
Steven Harrold, tenor  
Simon Wall, tenor  
Simon Whiteley, bass  
Rob Macdonald, bass

leaving the version we have today, which would be all but unrecognizable to the composer. A large part of this is due to the process of ornamentation with which the highly trained papal singers would embellish their parts, leading to the now-obligatory high C. Regardless of its authenticity, this tortuous musical journey has left us with one of the most beautiful choral pieces of all time.

About his composition of *Miserere Mei*, Alexander Campkin writes:

I will always remember hearing Allegri's *Miserere* for the first time. I was struck by the beauty of the music and the emotions that it conveyed. This was a recording of the Allegri by the Tallis Scholars, a recording which has remained close to my heart ever since. I was therefore thrilled to be commissioned by this choir to write a new setting of the same text.

The new piece reflects my emotional response to Allegri's strikingly moving *Miserere*. Like the Allegri, it is scored for double choir. Two musical elements are contrasted: that of the main choir and a more lyrical section sung by the off-stage solo group. As these sections alternate, the piece gradually builds in intensity with suspension after suspension. The harmony is intensified as the first soprano soars to a high C, hitting the climax on the words "Libera me de sanguinibus" ("Deliver me from blood guiltless").

Many a famous composer would leave their mark—quite literally in this case—in the Sistine Chapel. The scrawl "JOSQUINJ" on the wall testifies to the composer Josquin's membership of the papal chapel, where he likely composed many works. Josquin's considerable fame during and after his lifetime has led to the misattribution of many of his compositions. The authorship of the motet *Inter natos mulierum* is considered doubtful by scholars. All of its sources are posthumous and the style perhaps represents a slightly later composer, perhaps another musician associated with the Vatican. Nevertheless, its rich, full texture is distinctly satisfying.

## TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

### **Missa Assumpta est Maria (Kyrie)** **by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina**

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

*Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

### **Regina caeli** **by Cristóbal de Morales**

Regina caeli laetare, alleluia,  
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,  
Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia.  
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

*Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia,  
For he whom thou wast worthy to bear, alleluia,  
Hath risen as he said, alleluia.  
Pray for us to God, alleluia.*

### **Missa Ecce ego Johannes (Gloria)** **by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina**

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus  
bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te; benedicimus te;  
adoramus te; glorificamus te. Gratias agimus tibi  
propter magnam gloriam tuam, Domine Deus, Rex  
caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.

Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe; Domine Deus,  
Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis; qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe  
deprecationem nostram; qui sedes ad dexteram  
Patris, miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus; tu solus Dominus;  
tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto  
Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

*Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace,  
goodwill towards men. We praise thee; we bless  
thee; we worship thee; we glorify thee. We give  
thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God,  
heavenly king, God the Father almighty.*

*O Lord the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ; O  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that  
takest away the sins of the world, have mercy  
upon us; thou that takest away the sins of the  
world, receive our prayer; thou that sittest at*

*the right hand of God the Father, have mercy  
upon us.*

*For thou only art Holy; thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art Most  
High in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

### **Quam pulchra es** **by Costanzo Festa**

Quam pulchra es et quam decora  
Quam pulchra es, amica mea, columba mea  
Formosa mea, Veni dilecta mea  
Vox enim tua dulcis, et facies decora nimis

*How beautiful and fair you are  
How beautiful, my soul, my dove  
My beauty, come my joy  
Your truly sweet voice, and exceeding fair visage*

### **Lamentations** **by Elzea Genet Carpentras**

(bars 1 to 240 and 320 to the end)

Incipit lamentatio Ieremiae prophetae.  
Aleph. Quomodo sedet sola civitas plena  
populo: facta est quasi vidua domina gentium:  
princeps provinciarum facta est sub tributo.  
Beth. Plorans ploravit in nocte, et lacrimae  
eius in maxillis eius: non est qui consoletur  
eam ex omnibus caris eius: omnes amici eius  
spreverunt eam, et facti sunt inimici.

Ierusalem, Ierusalem, convertere ad Dominum  
Deum tuum.

*Here begins the Lamentation of the prophet  
Jeremiah.*

Aleph. *How desolate the city lies that was  
once thronged with people. The one-time queen  
of nations has become as a widow. Once a ruler  
of provinces, she is now subject to others.*

Beth. *By night she weeps in sorrow and tears  
run down her cheeks. Of all who love her, there's  
none to console her. All her friends have spurned  
her and have become her foes.*

*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your  
God.*

## Missa Papae Marcelli (Credo) by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Credo in unum Deum, Patrem omnipotentem, factorem caeli et terrae, visibilium omnium et invisibilium. Et in unum Dominum Jesum Christum, Filium Dei unigenitum, et ex Patre natum ante omnia saecula. Deum de Deo; Lumen de Lumine; Deum verum de Deo vero; genitum, non factum; consubstantialem Patri; per quem omnia facta sunt.

Qui propter nos homines, et propter nostram salutem descendit de caelis, et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto, ex Maria Virgine, et homo factus est. Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato; passus et sepultus est.

Et resurrexit tertia die secundum Scripturas; et ascendit in caelum, sedet ad dexteram Patris; et iterum venturus est cum gloria judicare vivos et mortuos; cuius regni non erit finis.

Et in Spiritum Sanctum, Dominum et vivificantem, qui ex Patre Filioque procedit; qui cum Patre et Filio simul adoratur et conglorificatur; qui locutus est per prophetas;

Et unam sanctam catholicam et apostolicam Ecclesiam. Confiteor unum baptisma in remissionem peccatorum. Et exspecto resurrectionem mortuorum, et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen.

*I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds. God of God; Light of Light; very God of very God; begotten, not made: being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made.*

*Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.*

*And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.*

*And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.*

*And I believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

## Miserere by Gregorio Allegri

Miserere mei Deus,  
secundum magnam misericordiam tuam.  
Et secundum multitudinem  
miserationum tuarum dele iniquitatem meam.  
Amplius lava me ab iniquitate mea  
et a peccato meo munda me.  
Quoniam iniquitatem meam ego cognosco  
et peccatum meum contra me est semper.

Tibi soli peccavi  
et malum coram te feci,  
ut justificeris in sermonibus tuis  
et vincas cum judicaris.  
Ecce enim in iniquitatibus conceptus sum  
et in peccatis concepit me mater mea.  
Ecce enim veritatem dilexisti:  
incerta et occulta sapientiae tuae  
manifestasti mihi.

Asperges me hyssopo et mundabor;  
lavabis me et super nivem dealbabor.

Auditui meo dabis gaudium et laetitiam  
et exsultabunt ossa humiliata.  
Averte faciem tuam a peccatis meis  
et omnes iniquitates meas dele.  
Cor mundum crea in me, Deus,  
et spiritum rectum innova in visceribus meis.  
Ne projicias me a facie tua,  
et spiritum sanctum tuum ne auferas a me.

Redde mihi laetitiam salutaris tui  
et spiritu principali confirma me.  
Docebo iniquos vias tuas  
et impii ad te convertentur.  
Libera me de sanguinibus,  
Deus, Deus salutis meae,  
et exsultabit lingua mea iustitiam tuam.  
Domine labia mea aperies,  
et os meum annuntiabit laudem tuam.

Quoniam si voluisses sacrificium  
dedissem utique; holocaustis non delectaberis.  
Sacrificium Deo spiritus contribulatus:  
cor contritum et humiliatum,  
Deus, non despicies.  
Benigne fac, Domine,  
in bona voluntate tua Sion,  
ut aedificentur muri Jerusalem.  
Tunc acceptabis sacrificium iustitiae,  
oblationes, et holocausta:  
tunc imponent super altare tuum vitulos.

*Have mercy upon me, O God,  
according to your great mercy  
and according to the abundance  
of your compassion blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I acknowledge my offense  
and my sin is ever before me.*

*Against you only have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight  
that you may be justified in your sentence  
and vindicated when you judge.  
Behold, in guilt was I conceived  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.  
Behold, your delight in sincerity of heart  
and in my inmost being  
you teach me wisdom.  
Cleanse me with hyssop and I shall be purified;  
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.*

*Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness;  
the bones which you have crushed shall rejoice.  
Avert your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquity.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew in me a righteous spirit.  
Cast me not out from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

*Give me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.  
I shall teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners shall return to you.  
Deliver me from blood guiltiness,  
O God, God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall exalt your justice.  
O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

*For you are not pleased with sacrifices,  
else would I give them to you;  
neither do you delight in burnt offerings.  
The sacrifice of God is a contrite heart:  
a broken and contrite heart,  
O God, you will not despise.*

*Be favorable and gracious,  
unto Sion, O Lord,  
build again the walls of Jerusalem.  
Then you shall be pleased  
with the sacrifice of righteousness  
oblations and burnt offerings;  
they shall offer young bulls upon your altar.*

**Missa Confitebor tibi domine  
(Sanctus & Benedictus)  
by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina**

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus  
Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.  
Osanna in excelsis.

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

**Miserere Mei  
by Alexander Campkin**

Miserere mei, Deus,  
secundum magnam misericordiam tuam:

Et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum,  
dele iniquitatem meam.

Amplius lava me ab iniquitate mea,  
Et a peccato meo munda me.

Quoniam iniquitatem meam ego cognosco,  
Et peccatum meum contra me est semper

Tibi soli peccavi,  
Et malum coram te feci;  
Ut justificeris in sermonibus tuis,  
Et vincas cum judicaris.

Libera me de sanguinibus, Deus,  
Deus salutis meae,  
Et exultabit lingua mea justitiam tuam.

*Have mercy upon me, O God,  
according to thy loving kindness:*

*According unto the multitude of thy tender  
mercies,  
blot out my transgressions.*

*Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.*

*For I acknowledge my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.*

*Against thee, thee only, have I sinned,  
and done this evil in thy sight;  
that thou mightest be justified when thou  
speakest,  
and be clear when thou judgest.*

*Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God,  
thou God of my salvation;  
and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy  
righteousness.*

**Inter natos mulierum  
by Josquin des Prez**

Inter natos mulierum non surrexit maior Ioanne  
Baptista  
Qui viam Domino praeparavit in heremo. Alleluia.  
Fuit homo missus a Deo cui nomen erat Ioannes.  
Alleluia.

*Among them that are born of women there hath  
not risen a greater than John the Baptist,  
who prepared the way of the Lord in the  
wilderness. Alleluia.  
There was a man sent from God, whose name  
was John. Alleluia.*

**Missa brevis (Agnus Dei)  
by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina**

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere  
nobis  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere  
nobis.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis  
pacem.

*O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the  
world, have mercy on us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the  
world, have mercy on us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the  
world, grant us thy peace.*