

# byrd *ensemble*



PROGRAM #1

## IN THE COMPANY OF WILLIAM BYRD

**Thomas Tallis** *Candidi facti sunt*  
**William Byrd** *Quomodo cantabimus*  
**Philippe de Monte** *Super flumina Babylonis*  
**Thomas Morley** *Domine Dominus Noster*  
**Byrd** *Magnificat*  
  
**Byrd** *Ne irascaris, Domine*  
**Nico Muhly** *TBA New commission*  
**Byrd** *Ye sacred muses*  
**Byrd** *Tribue Domine*

*Modifications available upon request*

*Running Time*

1 hour 30 minutes with 15-minute intermission

In honor of 400 years since the death of English Renaissance composer William Byrd, we are presenting a program featuring music by William Byrd and his contemporaries who he knew well: Thomas Tallis, Philippe de Monte, and Thomas Morley. The highlight of the program is a new commission by American composer Nico Muhly, based on Byrd's most popular motet, *Ne irascaris, Domine*.

*For Booking Inquiries*

Marianne LaCrosse | Suòno Artist Management | (650) 773-7998  
marianne@suonoartistmanagement.com | byrdensemble.com

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*"A wonderfully crystalline performance"*

—GRAMOPHONE

## PROGRAM #2 (*Christmas*)

### WHAT CHEER

**Anon** Veni, veni Emmanuel

*arr.* **David Willcocks** Tomorrow shall be my dancing day

**Benjamin Britten** Hymn to the Virgin

**Herbert Howells** A Spotless Rose

**Michael Praetorius** Lo, how a rose e'er blooming

**John Rutter** There is a flower

**Kenneth Leighton** Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child

**Howells** Here is the Little Door

**William Walton** What Cheer?

*arr.* **Harold Darke** In the bleak midwinter

**Vaughan Williams** The truth from above

*arr.* **John Rutter** Wexford carol

*arr.* **Charles Wood** Ding dong! merrily on high

**Franz Gruber**/*arr.* **Riedel** Silent Night

*arr.* **Robert Pearsall** In dulci jubilo

**Michael Praetorius** In dulci jubilo

A festive Christmas program of traditional carol arrangements by John Rutter, David Willcocks, and Ralph Vaughan Williams. Accompanying the carols is a reading of *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. A family-friendly event, join us this holiday season for an evening of carols and storytelling.

#### *Running Time*

1 hour 30 minutes with 15-minute intermission

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*PROGRAM #3 (Christmas)*

## CEREMONY OF CAROLS

**Benjamin Britten** A Ceremony of Carols

**Gustav Holst** Four Old English Carols

**Herbert Howells** Long, Long Ago

**Harold Darke** In the bleak midwinter

**Kenneth Leighton** Lully, lulla thou little tiny child

**Trad.** While shepherds watched their flocks

The Byrd Ensemble presents a festive Christmas program featuring traditional carol arrangements by the finest English composers. Two works with harp frame the program: Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* and Gustav Holst's *Four Old English Carols*. Accompanying these pieces are traditional Christmas carol arrangements to ring in the holiday season.

*Running Time*

1 hour 30 minutes with 15-minute intermission

*Modifications available upon request*

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*PROGRAM #4 (Christmas)*

## IN DULCI JUBILO

**Hieronymus Praetorius** Magnificat Quinti Toni  
**Michael Praetorius** Quem pastores laudavere  
**M. Praetorius** Ein Kind geboren zu Bethlehem  
**Hans Leo Hassler** Christum wir sollen loben schon  
**J. S. Bach** Wachet auf (chorale prelude for organ)  
**M. Praetorius** Es ist ein Ros entsprungen  
**Hassler** Angelus ad pastores ait

**Franz Biebl** Ave Maria  
**Heinrich Schütz** Ach Herr, du Schöpfer aller Ding  
**Schütz** Hodie Christus natus est  
**Hassler** Hodie Christus natus est  
**Franz Gruber** Stille Nacht  
**Bach** In dulci jubilo (chorale prelude for organ)  
**Bach** In dulci jubilo  
**M. Praetorius** In dulci jubilo

Kick off the Christmas season with a festive program from Renaissance Germany. This program features a variety of German Christmas carols, chorales, and motets by Michael and Hieronymus Praetorius, Hans Hassler, Heinrich Schütz, and Franz Gruber.

### *Running Time*

1 hour 30 minutes with 15-minute intermission

*Modifications available upon request*

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*PROGRAM #5 (Christmas)*

## HODIE CHRISTUS NATUS EST

**Luca Marenzio** Hodie Christus natus est

*Chant* Puer natus est nobis

**Cipriano de Rore** Missa Praeter rerum seriem

*Chant* Laetabundus

**Josquin** Praeter rerum seriem

**Josquin** Benedicta es, caelorum regina

**Palestrina** Hodie Christus natus est

Travel back in time to 17th century Rome and

experienced a re-imagined Christmas mass at the

Sistine Chapel. In the format of a mass, this program

features Vatican Renaissance composers Luca

Marenzio, Cipriano de Rore, Josquin, and

Palestrina, alongside chant, and readings that will

transport you back to the Renaissance.

*Running Time*

1 hour 30 minutes with 15-minute intermission

*Modifications available upon request*

*For Booking Inquiries*

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PROGRAM #6

## FLEMISH MASTERS

**Thomas Crecquillon** Pater peccavi  
**Jean Mouton** Ave Maria virgo serena  
**Josquin des Prez** Absalon, fili mi  
**Nicolas Gombert** Lugebat David Absalon

**Crecquillon** Ego flos campi  
**Orlande de Lassus** Alma Redemptoris mater a8  
**Lassus** Missa super Bell' Amfitrit' altera

### *Running Time*

1 hour 30 minutes with 15-minute intermission

*Modifications available upon request*

This concert features the best Franco-Flemish composers of the Renaissance. The centerpiece of the program Orlando Lassus's mass setting *Missa super Bell' Amfitrit' altera*, scored for eight voices. Accompanying the mass, are two motets by Josquin and Gombert, based on King David's lament over his beloved son Absalon.

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PROGRAM #7

## EVOLUTION OF CHANT: A Starting Point

**Thomas Tallis** Loquebantur variis linguis

**Eric Whitacre** Sainte-Chapelle

**Tallis** Videte miraculum

**Hildegard** O viridissima virga

**Arvo Pärt** Magnificat

**John Sheppard** Reges Tharsis

**Pärt** I Am the True Vine

**John Tavener** Two Hymns to the Mother of God

**Hildegard** O virga ac diadema

**Arvo Pärt** Seven Magnificat Antiphons

Chant has been the cornerstone of Eastern and Western music since the 9th century. It has provided a musical foundation for the evolution of Renaissance, Baroque, and contemporary music. While composers like Renaissance master Thomas Tallis use actual chant to construct their music, others simply draw inspiration from it. This program explores the use of chant in a variety of motets from Renaissance and contemporary composers.

*Modifications available upon request*

*Running Time*

1 hour 30 minutes with 15-minute intermission

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PROGRAM #8

## MUSICAL POLITICS

**William Byrd** Ne irascaris, Domine

**Gabriel Jackson** To Morning

**Thomas Tallis** Gaude gloriosa

**Gregorio Allegri** Miserere mei, Deus

**Arvo Pärt** The Woman with the Alabaster Box

**Byrd** Tribue Domine

*Running Time*

1 hour 30 minutes with 15-minute intermission

*Modifications available upon request*

Sacred music generally served a liturgical purpose, and often also a political one. Whether it was Tallis and Byrd dedicating large collections of motets to the Queen in return for a monopoly on music printing rights, or the music from Tallis's *Gaude gloriosa* used as a battle rallying cry when the King was at war with France, or the legend behind the famous Allegri *Miserere*; each piece on the program comes with an interesting story and gives us a peek into the composers' allegiances and a sense of the intertwined religious and political turbulence of the time.

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