BYRD

Festival of sacred music marking
William Byrd’s 400th anniversary
This year, 2023, witnesses the four hundredth anniversary of the death of William Byrd, one of England’s greatest Renaissance composers. The Latin Mass Society is marking the occasion with a Byrd 400 Festival of sacred music. From September 2023 the Southwell Consort, under the direction of Dominic Bevan, will perform music from Byrd’s Masses, *Cantiones Sacrae*, and sacred motets, as well as his organ music.

Byrd’s sacred music was composed for the Roman Catholic Mass during a time when English Catholics faced religious persecution. Despite the clandestine climate in which it was composed, much of Byrd’s polyphony is sumptuous. It represents the last artistic flowering of an English liturgical tradition almost stamped out at the Reformation.

The words, chant and ritual actions of the traditional Latin Mass were ancient in Byrd’s own day, and they have remained essentially unchanged ever since. It is within this context that this festival of sacred music will take place, presenting Byrd’s work in the original liturgical context for which it was composed.

The twelve festival Masses will be held at three London locations: the Shrine Church of Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane, the Oratory of St Mary Magdalen, Wandsworth, and the Dominican Shrine Church of Our Lady of the Rosary, Haverstock Hill.

*There is a certain hidden power …*

*as one meditates on the sacred words and constantly and seriously considers them, the right notes, in some inexplicable manner, suggest themselves quite spontaneously* (William Byrd)

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**Monday 4 September**  
**Mass of the Blessed Sacrament**  
Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane WC2E, 6.30 pm  
**Mass for three Voices**  
Gradualia II: Propers for 4 voices  
Introit: Cibavit Eos  
Gradual, Alleluia: Oculi omnium - Caro Mea  
Offertory: Sacerdos Domini  
Communion: Quotiescumque manducabis  
Communion motet: O Quam Suavis

**Friday 8 September**  
**Mass of the Nativity of Our Lady**  
St Mary Magdalen, Wandsworth SW18, 7 pm  
**Mass for Five Voices**  
Gradualia I: Propers for 5 voices  
Introit: Salve Sancta Pares  
Gradual, Alleluia: Benedicta et Venerabilis - Virgo Dei Genitrix - Felix es Sacra  
Offertory: Beata es Virgo  
Communion: Beata Viscera  
**Motet**  
Ave Maria
Monday 11 September
Mass of Our Lady
Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane WC2E, 6.30 pm
Mass for Four Voices
Gradualia I: Propers for 5 voices
Introit: Salve Sancta Parens
Gradual, Alleluia: Benedicta et Venerabilis - Virgo Dei Genitrix - Post Partum
Offertory: Ave Maria
Communion: Beata Viscera
Motet: Ecce Virgo Concipiet

Monday 30 October
Mass of the Holy Ghost
Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane WC2E, 6.30 pm
Mass for Four Voices
Gradualia II: Propers for 5 voices
Introit: Spiritus Domini
Gradual: Chant
Alleluia: Veni Sancte Spiritus
Offertory: Confirma Hoc
Communion: Factus es Repente
Motet: Non vos Relinquam

Monday 6 November
Mass of the Dead
Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane WC2E, 6.30 pm
Plainchant Requiem
Motets
Audivi Vocem
Peccantem me Quotidie
Libera me

Wednesday 1 November
Mass of All Saints
St Mary Magdalen, Wandsworth SW18, 7 pm
Mass for Five Voices
Gradualia I: Propers for 5 voices
Introit: Gaudeamus Omnes
Gradual: Timete Dominum
Alleluia: Venite ad me
Offertory: Justorum Animae
Communion: Beati Mundo Corde
Motet
O Sacrum Convivium

Tuesday 21 November
Mass of the Presentation of Our Lady
Rosary Shrine Haverstock Hill, London NW5, 8 pm
Plainchant Mass IX, Cum Jubilo,
with Byrd organ works
Gradualia I: Propers for 5 voices
Introit: Salve Sancta Parens
Gradual, Alleluia: Benedicta et Venerabilis - Virgo Dei Genitrix - Post Partum
Offertory: Ave Maria
Communion: Beata Viscera
Motet
Salve Regina

Monday 27 November
Mass of the Dead
Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane WC2E, 6.30 pm
Plainchant Requiem
Motets
Miserere Mei
Miserere Nostri, William Byrd/Thomas Tallis
Peccavi Super Numerum
Byrd and his contemporaries

Four additional Masses will feature motets by Byrd alongside Mass settings by his contemporaries. Three Masses will highlight his work in its wider European context, with music by Croce, Lassus, and Palestrina. A fourth Mass will juxtapose compositions by Byrd and his teacher, Thomas Tallis.

Monday 2 October
Mass of the Holy Guardian Angels
Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane WC2E, 6.30 pm

Missa Tertii Toni, Giovanni Croce
Venetian School

Motets
Laetentur Caeli, William Byrd
Laudibus in Sanctis, William Byrd

Monday 16 October
Mass of Saint Hedwig
Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane WC2E, 6.30 pm

Missa le Berger et la Bergère, Orlando Lassus
Flemish School

Motet
Domine Secundum, William Byrd

Monday 20 November
Mass of Saint Edmund
Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane WC2E, 6.30 pm

Mass for four voices, Thomas Tallis
Teacher of Byrd

Motets
Plorans Plorabit, William Byrd
Ave Verum, William Byrd

Monday 11 December
Mass of Saint Damascus
Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane WC2E, 6.30 pm

Missa Brevis, Giovanni Palestrina
Roman School

Motets
Vigilate, William Byrd
Alma Redemptoris Mater, William Byrd

Support the festival by giving to the LMS Music Fund

The Latin Mass Society (LMS) supports the traditional Latin Mass and its associated patrimony. In 2021 it established the Southwell Consort as a polyphonic choir to accompany the traditional liturgy. The consort includes professional and amateur singers and sings fortnightly at Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane WC2E.

Please support the festival by giving to the LMS Music Fund:

www.lms.org.uk/music

LMS Music Fund – Giving by cheque

Name ______________________________

Your gift: £200 □ £50 □ Other £________

House number & postcode ______________________

Cheques payable to ‘Latin Mass Society’
LMS, 9 Mallow Street, London EC1Y 8RQ

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