

South Bank Centre London
Queen Elizabeth Hall · Purcell Room

Improvisations: The Early Music Weekend

16-18 September 2005



www.rfh.org.uk/emw
08703 800 400

This Weekend celebrates the art of improvisation and musical elaboration in all its guises, through exhilarating performances by some of the most renowned early music ensembles from the UK and abroad. Oral performing practices, elaborating over a sequence of chords, learning melodic formulae and rhythmic patterns, ornamenting over a given vocal or instrumental line: all these improvisatory skills lie at the heart of music-making in all musical traditions and throughout the centuries. Join us for concerts of flair and imagination, stimulating talks and foyer events, and the chance to sing with The Tallis Scholars.

TESS KNIGHTON ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

‘...[the Weekend] deserves praise for drawing together such a diverse and stimulating programme. Roll on next year.’
Early Music Today, 2004

FRIDAY INTRODUCTION

Fri 16 Sep PR 6.15pm

Artistic Director Tess Knighton talks to Marcel Pérès and Federico Bardazzi, directors of the evening's concerts, about the art of improvisation.

ADMISSION FREE

ENSEMBLE ORGANUM

Fri 16 Sep PR 7.30pm

Marcel Pérès *director*

VESPERS FOR ST. JAMES

Ensemble Organum's aim to develop the vocal techniques and improvisatory skills of the early Middle Ages has resulted in a thrilling and highly distinctive soundworld. On a rare visit to London, this renowned French group will recreate a Vespers service for the feast of St James. Based on the repertory of the celebrated Codex Calixtinus preserved at the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, the performance includes improvisations in the manner of the earliest known polyphony.

£10 £8



ENSEMBLE SAN FELICE

Fri 16 Sep Foyer 9.45pm

Federico Bardazzi *director*
Maria Chiara Pavone,
Barbara Zanichelli *sopranos*
Francesco Ghelardini *tenor*
Leonardo Saggiocca *bass*
Luca Ferraris *staging*

CARISSIMI & THE ORATORIO

Renowned for their performances and recordings of a wide range of Italian music from early chant to Baroque, Ensemble San Felice from Florence make their London debut. They perform beautifully evocative semi-staged interpretations of three of Carissimi's sublime oratorios to mark the 300th anniversary of his birth, together with instrumental intermezzi by Frescobaldi, Castello and Uccellini.

ADMISSION FREE





THE TALLIS SCHOLARS

SATURDAY A TALLIS DAY: TUDOR MUSIC IN CONTEXT

The exact date of Thomas Tallis' birth is not known, but it is believed to have been in or very close to 1505, half a millennium ago. All these concerts explore the different repertoires and genres cultivated by Tallis and his contemporaries, from the improvisatory keyboard works through the flights of fantasy written for the viol consort to the highly measured, but no less imaginative, church music.

PHANTASM

Sat 17 Sep QEH 2pm

THE FOUR TEMPERAMENTS

Award-winning viol consort Phantasm presents a fascinating programme of four Elizabethan composers – Tallis, Byrd, Alfonso Ferrabosco I and Robert Parsons – whose music for viol consort seems to reflect four very distinct musical personalities. These in turn might be seen to correspond to the four temperaments: the sanguine, melancholic, phlegmatic and choleric.

£8



PHANTASM

Anthony Crickmay

THE SOUND OF TALLIS

Sat 17 Sep PR 3.15pm

Tallis expert John Milsom joins Timothy Day of the National Sound Archive and Peter Phillips, director of The Tallis Scholars, to talk about 500 years of interpreting Tallis' music.

ADMISSION FREE

GUSTAV LEONHARDT

Sat 17 Sep PR 4.15pm

FLIGHTS OF KEYBOARD FANTASY

Surely one of the greatest harpsichordists of all time, and a pioneering figure of the early music movement, Gustav Leonhardt presents a programme of the dazzlingly virtuoso keyboard music of Tallis and his contemporaries on the beautiful 16th-century Theewes harpsichord.

£10 £8

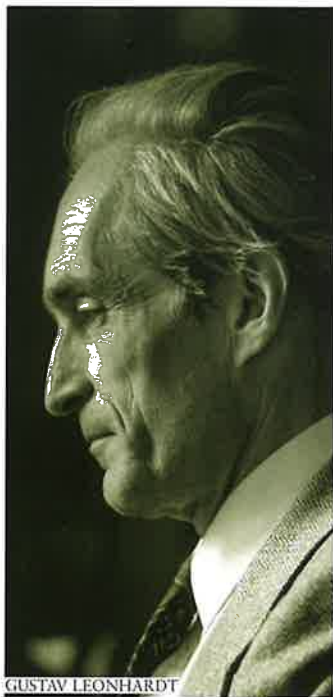
SING WITH THE TALLIS SCHOLARS!

Sat 17 Sep QEH 5.30pm

A unique opportunity to attend an open rehearsal directed by Peter Phillips and for a limited number of people to sing Tallis' extraordinary 40-voice motet *Spem in alium* alongside the singers of The Tallis Scholars. Scores available on the day: just bring your voice!

ADMISSION FREE BUT SINGING PLACES ARE LIMITED AND MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE. PLEASE INDICATE WHEN YOU BOOK WHETHER YOU SING SOPRANO I, SOPRANO II, ALTO, TENOR OR BASS.

NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE



GUSTAV LEONHARDT

JAMES GILCHRIST ELIZABETH KENNY

Sat 17 Sep PR 9.30pm

WELCOME BLACK NIGHT

The brilliant young British tenor James Gilchrist joins lutenist Elizabeth Kenny in a late night entertainment by John Dowland, Thomas Campion and other Elizabethan composers in the intimacy of a candlelit Purcell Room.

£8



JAMES GILCHRIST

Jim Four

‘...the South Bank Early Music Weekend gloried in the refinement and beauty of a genuine, rich art.’
The Evening Standard, 2004

THE TALLIS SCHOLARS

Sat 17 Sep QEJ 7.30pm

Peter Phillips *director*

A TALLIS CELEBRATION

The celebrated 40-voice motet *Spem in alium* is undoubtedly the highlight of The Tallis Scholars’ all-Tallis programme, but this is also an opportunity to hear some of his finest motets as well as his poignant and dramatic setting of the *Lamentations of Jeremiah*. A veritable feast of vocal polyphony.

£10 £8

SUNDAY SONNERIE

Sun 18 Sep PR 2pm

Monica Huggett *director*

Matthew Halls *fortepiano*

HAYDN AND THE GYPSIES

Gypsy music based on oral traditions had a profound influence on Haydn and other composers working at Esterháza, where gypsy bands played *verbunkos* in the courtyard to accompany the lively dancing of soldiers. Monica Huggett’s ensemble Sonnerie with fortepianist Matthew Halls offer a dazzling display of virtuosity in gypsy dances and works, such as Haydn’s famous *Gypsy Rondo*, indelibly marked by them.

£8



SONNERIE

APOLLO & PAN

Sun 18 Sep Foyer 3.15pm

BIRTH OF THE BAROQUE

The members of this exciting young ensemble combine performance and research into 17th-century repertory and playing techniques. They explore the confluence of improvisatory and written traditions in the early Baroque through exhilaratingly zany sonatas, capriccios and ciaconas by Biagio Marini, Dario Castello, Salamone Rossi and others.

ADMISSION FREE

THE DUFAY COLLECTIVE

Sun 18 Sep QEH 4pm

MUSIC FOR ALFONSO THE WISE

The Dufay Collective is renowned for highly distinctive interpretations of medieval music. Here they bring their astonishing improvisatory skills to bear on music, both vocal and instrumental, composed for Alfonso the Wise of Castile (1252-84) whose court was not only a refuge for troubadours fleeing persecution but also a meeting-point for Christian, Jewish and Arab cultures.

£8



IMPROVISING CADENZAS

Sun 18 Sep PR 5.15pm

Broadcaster, composer and performer David Owen Norris is a musician of extraordinary ability and range as well as an exceptional communicator. Here he discusses the improvisation of cadenzas in the early piano concerto, and demonstrates at the fortepiano.

ADMISSION FREE

AKADEMIE FÜR ALTE MUSIK, BERLIN

Sun 18 Sep QEH 7pm

BAROQUE IMPROVISATIONS

Much of the instrumental music of the Baroque is about elaboration and ornamentation, about taking a simple structure, such as the rhythmic patterns of a dance or a sequence of chords (the passacaglia or folia, for instance) and weaving melodies and variations over it in an improvisatory manner. The highly acclaimed Akademie für Alte Musik, Berlin, performs virtuoso grounds, sonatas and concertos from Biber and Muffat to Vivaldi and Geminiani.

£10 £8

L'ARPEGGIATA

Sun 18 Sep PR 9pm

Christina Pluhar *director*
Gianluigi Trovesi *clarinet*
Lucilla Galleazzi *voice*
Philippe Jaroussky
counter-tenor

ALL' IMPROVISO

A truly innovative and enticing programme from one of the leading ensembles specialising in the improvisatory & virtuosic music of the 17th century. L'Arpeggiata is joined by jazz clarinetist Gianluigi Trovesi to blend historical and contemporary techniques of improvisation.

£8



THE DUFAY COLLECTIVE

EXPLORATIONS IN TIME: OTHER EARLY MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

SEQUENTIA

Wed 7 Dec 2005 PR 7.45pm

Benjamin Bagby *voice, lyre, harp*
Norbert Rodenkirchen *wooden flutes, swanbone flute, lyre*

APOCALYPSE: FRAGMENTS FOR THE END OF TIME

From the beginnings of European Christianity until the end of the first millennium, images of the Last Judgement were widespread in literature and the visual arts. They often displayed a remarkable similarity to the pagan-germanic descriptions of the world's destruction.

Sequentia explores the musical world of these powerful medieval images through some of the earliest surviving lyrics, including the *Lay of the Last Survivor* from Beowulf, the Alsatian monk Otfrid's rhymes of advice on preparing for the last day, and the Norse Edda's harrowing description of Ragnarök, when the armies of the giants Surt and Loki launch their final, deadly assault on the northern European gods.

£15 £12 £9

KEN ZUCKERMAN

medieval lute, sarod

Wed 1 Feb 2006 PR 7.45pm

Swapan Chaudhuri *tabla*
Keyvan Chemirani *zarb*

CARTE BLANCHE

Ken Zuckerman is one of the world's most eclectic masters of improvisation. Whether playing the medieval lute, oud or sarod, and whether appearing alone, with his mentor Ali Akbar Khan, with Jordi Savall's Hesperion XXI or with medieval chant expert Dominique Vellard, his electrifying performances of medieval, Renaissance and Classical Indian music leave his audiences breathless with delight. In this eagerly awaited return to the Purcell Room he is joined by two of his favourite musical colleagues, both master percussionists.

£15 £12 £9

DIALOGOS

Wed 26 Apr 2006 PR 7.45pm

Katarina Livljanic *voice*
Ljerka Koncar Gamulin *lirica*

THE AGONY OF JUDITH

A pious woman, Judith is also a beautiful and dangerous seductress who infiltrates the palace of the enemy, seduces the powerful Holofernes and beheads him. Reconstructed from Venetian and Croatian texts, with music from Beneventan and Glagolitic sources, this Croatian masterpiece retells the ancient biblical story through vivid and dramatic poetry and music. Founded by Katarina Livljanic in 1997, the Paris-based medieval ensemble Dialogos has been universally acclaimed for its award-winning recordings and performances.

£15 £12 £9

HOW TO BOOK



www.rfh.org.uk/emw (£1.50 transaction fee)



08703 800 400 (daily 9.30am – 8pm, £1.50 transaction fee)



Box Office (daily 11am – 8pm, no fee)

CONCESSIONS 50% off (Limited availability / Jobseekers Allowance, Income Support, Senior Citizens, 16 and unders, full time students / Appropriate cards will be checked on admission)

SERIES SAVINGS (not available online)

Book 2 paid events and save 10%

Book 3 or 4 paid events and save 15%

Book 5 or 6 paid events and save 20%

Book 7 or more paid events and save 25%

