

# POLYPHONIA IN EXCELSIS



SACRED MUSIC BY CLAUDIO DALL'ALBERO

The Choir of Sidney Sussex College,  
Cambridge

David Skinner *director*



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Jim Cooper *organ*<sup>8</sup>

Laurence Carden *organ*<sup>9</sup>

Stephen Farr *organ*<sup>10</sup>

David Skinner *director*

About The Choir of Sidney Sussex College and David Skinner:

*'They sing with as much sensitivity and soul as many more famous rivals'*  
Gramophone

*'There's both freshness and fire in these accounts, Skinner underscoring the music's dramatic and madrigalian qualities, and enhancing dynamic and textural contrasts to elating effect.'*

BBC Music Magazine

*To Laura Dall'Albero  
In memoriam*

1. **In medio ecclesiae** [4:49]

2. **Parvulus filius** [2:53]

3. **Magnificat VIII Toni** [5:27]

4. **Non corruptibilis** [4:18]

**Missa 'De Angelis'**

5. Kyrie [3:10]

6. Gloria [7:34]

7. Credo [10:28]

**Trittico di Cantabrigia**

8. Sulle rive del fiume Cam [4:10]

9. Jogging nel parco Jesus Green [3:42]

10. Passacaglia per Lady Sidney [6:58]

**Missa 'De Angelis'**

11. Sanctus [3:05]

12. Agnus Dei [3:21]

13. **Psállite Domino** [3:47]

14. **Fuga Francescana** [4:39]

15. **Oratio in Festo S. Caroli** [4:10]

Total playing time [72:39]

*All world premiere recordings*



Claudio Dall'Albero

### Polyphonia in excelsis: Sacred music by Claudio Dall'Albero

The smells of ritual incense, the sound of evening bells ringing their invitation to the Christmas Novena or Easter Vespers, the cries of children playing in the Oratory, the chill of the sacristy, the mystical repetition of Latin prayers in the recitation of the Rosary. And Rome, with the eternity of its churches, always present.

All this represents the silent background to Claudio Dall'Albero's sacred music.

Due weight must be given also to the decades he spent with Maestro Domenico Bartolucci in the atmosphere of the Vatican, in those majestic rooms constantly echoing with Gregorian chant, polyphony, and the sounds of the organ.

Dall'Albero's music has a solid contrapuntal foundation and is characterised by sustained research into coherent compositional techniques, alternating between a severity borrowed from the language of early music and the Roman tradition, and the freedom given to spontaneous expression, sanctioned by the aesthetic requirements of our own epoch.

The artisanal nature of his works forms an

essential element of his style: the creative process is shaped by a true craftsmanship that combines notes into melodic lines and those lines into harmonies, impelled by a prolific need of concrete production, just like the Roman artisans of the past, including the 'cappellari' (hatters), 'chiavari' (keysmiths), 'baullari' (trunk makers), and 'leutari' (lute makers), terms which nowadays survive only in the city's toponymy.

This Roman composer moves easily through the paths of the old modal system to reach new destinations, thanks to a musical language that reconciles modernity with comprehensibility. His sacred works show a conviction that this is exactly what the liturgy requires in order to reconcile within the faithful a sensibility towards art and its spiritual dimension.

All this takes place without denying the twentieth century, but instead openly restoring a kind of *antiqua dissonantia*, looking to the past with the knowledge of the present.

**Psallite Domino** is anchored in the Mixolydian mode, and was composed for Ascension Day. The motet starts with a jubilant 'Alleluia' in ternary time, followed by the invitation to praise the Lord in song, where the six voices frantically chase each other in nimble ascending figures, polyphonically intertwined.

The first tenor then enunciates 'qui ascendet', and the other voices answer homorhythmically with a *crescendo*, dying away to arrive at a refreshing oasis on 'super caelos caelorum', where the melodic line features an initial leap of a major seventh. A return of the radiant 'alleluia' concludes the motet.

**In medio ecclesiae** is an Introit for five voices for the celebration of St Ambrose, built on the Phrygian mode on G. It begins with a loud homorhythmic 'plenum', immediately counterposed by a sweeter and more meditative polyphonic episode. The following ternary section, rich in dissonances that lend an edge to the close polyvocal weave, is then reiterated at a higher pitch, after an almost declamatory passage on the text 'et intellectus'. In the final part, 'induit eum,' the voices are linked in strict imitation until the last exultant 'alleluia' reiterates the theme of the opening section.

In **Parvulus filius**, the text of the Nativity, as often happens, inspires in the music the sweetness and intimacy of the Christmas mystery. 'Today a tiny child is born unto us', but the sacred baby 'will be called mighty God!' The music, composed in the Lydian/Ionic mode, interprets the liturgical narration with simplicity, supporting the semantic implications of the text.

**Magnificat VIII toni** uses the alternatim form, entrusting the even-numbered verses to the polyphonic chant of the *schola cantorum* while the assembly of clergy responds in Gregorian chant. The version recorded here is for a modern mixed chorus, and is pitched higher than the original, as it substitutes altos for the high tenors required in the Roman tradition. It isn't difficult for the listener to detect the *cantus firmus*, often circulating amongst the voices, or its canonic paraphrase, nor to savour the sweetness of the 'esurientes'. The Magnificat VIII toni, recently published, is dedicated to The Choir of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, and its director, David Skinner.

We cannot but view the legacy of the alternatim liturgical forms as the most notable aspect of the history of sacred music. **Missa 'De Angelis'** by Claudio Dall'Albergo is an excellent example of liturgical-aesthetic integration. Firstly, the distribution of the Gregorian Mass themes lends familiarity when listening to a highly sophisticated and complex polyphonic musical texture, here skilfully woven by the composer; and secondly – owing to the refinement and propriety that befit sacred music – we certainly find here all those characteristics through which chanted praise can exemplify the phrase of Jerome, 'psallite sapienter' (Psalm 47:7) – 'music-which-embraces-the-logos' [Benedict

#### XVI, *Cantate al Signore un canto nuovo*, 1996.

Confidently and finely written with an essential touch by a composer of wide-ranging and consummate experience, a connoisseur of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century polyphony and, moreover, an expert cantor – which should not be underestimated – Dall'Albergo's *Missa 'De Angelis'* is to be welcomed into the repertoire of all those vocal ensembles which aim constantly to cultivate our legacy from the best of traditions.

**Oratio in festo S. Caroli** was composed for the Feast of St Carlo Borromeo, and this piece employs the more archaic Lydian mode, altering the fourth note of the scale, resulting in somewhat rough melodic lines. The polyphonic episodes are linked together in succession, interrupted by a homorhythmic passage on the text 'gloriosum redditit.' After a few harmonic pedals, the finale evokes the sweetness of a love of divine origin, encouraging the fervour of the faithful.

**Non corruptibilis auro vel argento redempti estis** – 'not with perishable things such as silver and gold have you been redeemed'. This piece is a Responsory for Holy Week, in the traditional structure A *corpus* – B *repetitio* – C *versus* – B *repetitio*.

Polyphonic and homorhythmic passages alternate, playing on timbral contrasts generated by the different treatment of the voices. Based on the Dorian mode on G, after a substantial *corpus*, the softly-sung *repetitio* leads the music to a rest. In the verse for three solo voices the *repetitio* returns *pianissimo*, this time serving as a finale.

Perhaps the journey made by St Francis to Palestine in 1219 in an attempt to end the fifth crusade influenced the composer in his choice of an Arabesque mode for **Fuga Francescana**. This, as he explains in the notes at the beginning of the score, makes use of the HiSaar, a conjunction of two tetrachords within which the characteristic interval of an augmented second has a fundamental role.

The **Fuga** is part of a cantata originally commissioned for a documentary marking the first anniversary of the dramatic earthquake in Umbria in 1997. Later, Dall'Albergo expanded the material used on that occasion, which had been worked up quickly because of the urgency of the commission. Setting to music the verses: 'Laudato si' mi' Signore per sora nostra morte corporale, / da la quale nullu homo vivente pò skappare: / guai a quelli ke morrano ne le peccata mortali' (Praised be my Lord for our sister bodily death, From which no living man can escape. Woe to

those who die in mortal sin!), the word ‘skappare’, to escape in medieval Italian, prompted the composer to choose the fugue form. Even the *stretti* in the final part of the fugue contribute to the depiction of the effects caused by the fear of death felt by every ‘homo vivente’...

The *Trittico di Cantabrigia* was composed for the new organ, built by Flentrop, of the Chapel of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge and completed in 2016. The first movement of the Triptych – based on the Lydian mode – is an *andante cantabile* entitled ‘On the Banks of the River Cam,’ inspired by the beautiful places dear to Lord Byron. The following *Allegro*, in the Phrygian, was conceived during a workout in the park, when the measured steps of the run suggested to the author the title ‘Jogging nel Parco Jesus Green’. During a visit to the austere and ancient halls of the University, looking at the portrait of Lady Frances Sidney (1531-1589), Countess of Sussex and founder of the eponymous college, the composer decided to dedicate to her the concluding part, in the Dorian mode, thus creating the ‘Passacaglia for Lady Sidney’.

In the *Trittico* the Dall’Albero uses altered notes and naturals simultaneously, cadences with double leading notes, sophisticated

contrapuntal processes such as the canon in the ‘Passacaglia’, ornamentation in virtuosic passages, harsh harmonic pedals... the result is spontaneous and contemporary, and makes for a pleasing composition, making full use of dynamic possibilities and the rich palette of colours available to the instrument.

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*Translation by Andrea Manchée D’Agosto*

#### **Polyphonia in excelsis. Musica sacra di Claudio Dall’Albero**

Il profumo dell’incenso rituale, le campane serali che invitano alla novena natalizia o al vespro pasquale, le grida dei bambini che giocano nell’oratorio, il freddo delle sacrestie, la mistica ripetizione delle orazioni latine nella recita del Rosario. E Roma, con l’eternità delle sue chiese, sempre presente.

Tutto ciò rappresenta un tacito antefatto della musica sacra di Claudio Dall’Albero.

Non possiamo evitare di riconoscere il giusto peso ai decenni da lui trascorsi a contatto con il suo maestro Domenico Bartolucci e con l’ambiente vaticano, nelle maestose sale dove costantemente risuonava un sottofondo di canto gregoriano, di polifonia o il suono dell’organo.

La formazione di Dall’Albero poggia le sue fondamenta su solide basi contrappuntistiche ed è caratterizzata da una ricerca pressante di coerenza compositiva, oscillante tra la severità – mutuata dalla letteratura musicale antica e dalla tradizione romana – e la licetà dell’espressione spontanea, come concesso dalle istanze estetiche della nostra epoca.

Un elemento imprescindibile del suo stile consiste nella natura artigianale dei suoi lavori, la cui *poiesis* passa attraverso un vero e proprio “ mestiere”, che combina le note in linee melodiche e queste in armonie, mosso da un fecondo bisogno di produzione concreta, analogo a quello degli artigiani romani del passato, come i cappellari, i chiavari, i baullari, i leutari, sopravvissuti oggi solo nella toponomastica della capitale.

Il compositore romano si muove con disinvolta sulle strade dell’antico sistema modale, arrivando a destinazioni nuove, grazie a un idioma musicale che concilia attualità e comprensibilità. Nella sua produzione sacra traspare la certezza che questo è ciò di cui la liturgia ha bisogno per far incontrare nel credente la sensibilità nei riguardi dell’arte con la sua dimensione spirituale.

Tutto questo avviene senza rinnegare il Novecento, ricostituendo tout court una

sorta di “antiqua dissonantia” che guarda al passato con la consapevolezza del presente.

**Psallite Domino.** Impiantato nel modo *tetrardus* (misolidio), è stato composto per la festa dell’Ascensione. Il mottetto inizia con un giubilo alleluia in metro ternario, a cui fa seguito l’invito a lodare il Signore con il canto in un frenetico rincorrersi delle sei voci, in agili disegni ascendenti, polifonicamente intrecciati. Successivamente, il tenore primo enuncia «qui ascendit», e le altre voci rispondono omoritmicamente in un crescendo che va poi placandosi, per arrivare a un’oasi ristoratrice «super caelos caelorum», “sopra i cieli dei cieli”, con una linea melodica caratterizzata da un salto di settima maggiore iniziale. La ripresa del rutilante *alleluia* conclude il mottetto.

**In medio ecclésiae.** Introito a cinque voci per la ricorrenza di S. Ambrogio, è costruito sulla scala del *deuterus* (frigio) in Sol. L’esordio avviene con un forte del *plenum* in omoritmia, al quale si contrappone subito un episodio polifonico più dolce e meditativo. Il ternario successivo, dovizioso di dissonanze che conferiscono mordente alla serrata trama polivoca, è poi riproposto un tono più in alto, dopo un passaggio quasi declamato sul testo «et intellectus». Nell’ultima parte («induit eum») le voci si connettono in imitazioni severe, sino al finale alleluia esultante,

che riprende l'esordio.

**Párvulus filius.** Il testo natalizio, come spesso accade, ispira alla musica la dolcezza e l'intimismo familiare racchiusi nel mistero della Natività. «Oggi un figlioletto è nato per noi», ma il sacro bambino «sarà chiamato con forza Dio!» La musica, composta in modo *tritus* (lidio/ionico) commenta la narrazione liturgica con semplicità, assecondando i nessi semanticci suggeriti dal testo.

**Magnificat VIII toni.** Il lavoro utilizza la scrittura *alternatim*, affidando al canto polifonico della schola cantorum i versetti pari, mentre l'assembla del clero risponde cantando in gregoriano i versetti dispari. Questa che viene qui proposta è la versione per coro misto moderno, più acuta di quella originale, a causa dei contralti che sostituiscono i tenori acuti della tradizione romana. Non sarà difficile, nell'ascolto, individuare il *cantus firmus*, spesso circolante tra le voci, o parafrasato canonice, oppure gustare la dolcezza dell'«Esurientes». Il *Magnificat VIII toni*, recentemente pubblicato, è stato dedicato dal compositore proprio a The Choir of Sidney Sussex College, dell'Università di Cambridge, e al suo direttore David Skinner.

**Missa 'De Angelis'.** è possibile fare a meno di

il lascito delle forme liturgiche alternativamente come ciò che vi è di più importante nell'ambito della storia della musica sacra. di Claudio Dall'Albero costituise un eccellente esempio di coerenza liturgica ed estetica. In primo luogo perché la circolazione dei temi della Messa "gregoriana" rende familiare l'ascolto di un tessuto musicale polifonico assai raffinato e complesso, come quello ordito dal compositore; in secondo luogo perché – a motivo della raffinatezza e delle proprietà di cui deve nutrirsi la musica sacra – vi ritroviamo senz'altro tutte quelle caratteristiche che fanno della lode cantata ciò che viene riassunto nel termine gerominiano *psallite sapienter* [Sal 47,8]: cantate a Dio con una «musica-che-accoglie-il-logos». Scritta con tratto convinto ed essenziale, sull'articolata e consumata esperienza di compositore, di profondo conoscitore della polifonia dei secc. XVIe XVIIe – non si sottovaluti – di esperto cantore, la *Missa 'De Angelis'* di Dall'Albero va accolta nel repertorio di tutte quelle compagnie vocali che mirano a coltivare costantemente ciò che la migliore tradizione ci ha lasciato in eredità.

**Oratio in festo S. Caroli.** Composta per la solennità di S. Carlo Borromeo, impiega il modo *tritus* (lidio) più arcaico, con il quarto grado della scala alterato, dando luogo a linee melodiche a volte un po' "scabrose".

Gli episodi polifonici si concatenano in successione, interrotti dal passo omoritmico sul testo «gloriosum redditit». Dopo alcuni pedali armonici, il finale evoca la dolcezza di un amore di origini divine, in grado di rendere ferventi gli oranti.

**Non corruptibilis.** *Non corruptibilis auro vel argento redempti estis* «non a prezzo di cose corruttibili, come l'argento e l'oro vi siete redenti». Si tratta di un responsorio della Settimana Santa, nella tradizionale struttura A *corpus* – B *repetitio* – C *versus* – B *repetitio*. Tratti polifonici si alternano ad altri omoritmici, giocando sui contrasti timbrici generati dai diversi trattamenti delle voci. Impiantato in *protus* (dorico) in Sol, dopo un sostanzioso *corpus*, viene cantata sommessa la *repetitio*, conducendo al riposo. Il versetto a tre voci solistiche riporta alla *repetitio* sul pianissimo, che questa volta funge anche da finale.

**Fuga francescana.** Forse il viaggio che fece San Francesco in Palestina nel 1219, per tentare di porre termine alla quinta crociata, ha condizionato il compositore nella scelta operata riguardo all'impianto modale arabeggiante in questa composizione che, come spiega lui stesso nelle *composer's notes* all'inizio dello spartito, utilizza il modo *HiSaar*, con due tetracordi tra loro congiunti, all'interno dei quali ha un ruolo fondamentale

il peculiare intervallo di seconda aumentata.

La *Fuga* parte di una cantata inizialmente commissionata per un documentario celebrativo del primo anniversario del drammatico terremoto in Umbria del 1997. In seguito, Dall'Albero ha ampliato il materiale utilizzato per quell'occasione, che aveva elaborato in fretta sotto l'urgenza della commissione.

Musicando versi: «Laudato si' mi' Signore per sora nostra morte corporale, | da la quale nullu homo vivente pò skappare: | guai a quelli ke morrano ne le peccata mortali», la parola 'skappare' ha indotto il musicista romano a scegliere la forma della fuga. Anche gli "stretti" che si trovano nella parte finale della fuga, si prestano a descrivere l'effetto causato della paura della morte che prova ogni «homo vivente»...

**Trittico di Cantabrigia** è stato composto per il nuovo organo costruito da Flentrop e collocato nel 2016 nella Cappella del Sidney Sussex College di Cambridge. Il primo movimento del *Trittico* – impiantato nel modo *tritus* (lidio) – è un *andante cantabile*, intitolato "Sulle rive del fiume Cam", ispirato proprio dai luoghi suggestivi cari a Lord Byron. L'*Allegro* seguente, in *deuterus* (frigio), è stato concepito durante un allenamento sportivo, quando il passo cadenzato della corsa ha suggerito all'autore il titolo "Jogging

nel parco Jesus Green". Durante la visita degli austeri e vetusti saloni dell'Università, poi, osservando il ritratto di Lady Frances Sidney (1531-1589), contessa del Sussex e fondatrice del college, il compositore ha pensato di dedicarle la parte conclusiva, in *protus* (dorico), dando vita alla "Passacaglia per Lady Sidney".

Nel *Trittico* il compositore romano utilizza note alterate e non alterate in simultanea, cadenze dalla doppia sensibile, dotti procedimenti contrappuntistici, tra cui il canone della *passacaglia*, diminuzioni in passaggi virtuosistici, aspri pedali armonici... il risultato è spontaneo e attuale, e rende la composizione godibile, sfruttando a pieno le possibilità dinamiche e la ricca tavolozza di colori di cui dispone lo strumento.

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## Texts & translations

### 1. In medio ecclesiae

In medio Ecclesiae aperuit os eius,  
et implevit eum Dominus spiritu,  
spiritu sapientiae et intellectus:  
stolam gloriae induit eum.

*In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth,  
and the Lord filled him with his spirit,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding:  
He clothed him with a robe of glory.*

*Introit for the Common of Doctors of the Church*

### 2. Parvulus filius

Parvulus filius hodie natus est nobis,  
et vocabitur Deus fortis. Alleluja.

*Today a tiny child is born unto us,  
And he shall be called mighty God. Alleluia.*

*Antiphon for Christmas Day*

### 3. Magnificat VIII Toni

Magnificat anima mea Dominum,  
et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutare meo,  
quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suea.  
Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes  
generaciones,  
quia fecit mihi magna,

qui potens est, et sanctum nomen eius,  
et misericordia eius a progenies in progenies  
timentibus eum.

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo,  
dispergit superbos mente cordis sui;  
depositus potentes de sede  
et exaltavit humiles;  
esurientes implevit bonis  
et divites dimisit inanes.

Suscepit Israel puerum suum,  
recordatus misericordiae suea,  
sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,  
Abraham et semiui eius in saecula  
Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto,  
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,  
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*My soul doth magnify the Lord:  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded:*

*the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold, from henceforth:  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him:  
throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm:  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination  
of their hearts.*

*He hath put down the mighty from their seat:  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things:  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his  
servant Israel: as he promised to our*

*forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
And to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:  
World without end. Amen.*

*Luke 1:46-55*

### 4. Non corruptibilis

Non corruptibilis auro vel argento  
repempti estis,  
sed pretioso sanguine quasi agni  
immaculati Christi.

Per ipsum habemus accessum omnes:  
in uno spirito ad patrem.  
Sanguis Iesu Christi filii Dei emundat  
nos ab omni peccato.

*Not with perishables, silver or gold are  
you redeemed,  
but with the precious blood of Christ,  
a lamb without blemish or defect.  
Through him we have access to all:  
in one Spirit to the Father.  
The blood of Jesus Christ  
cleanses us from all sin.*

*Responsory, Feria VI in Parasceve*

**Massa 'De Angelis'**

**5. Kyrie**

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison.

*Lord have mercy on us. Christ have mercy on us.*

**6. Gloria**

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 taketh away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.*

*Thou that taketh away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.*

*Thou that taketh 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.*

**7. Credo**

Credo in unum Deum, Patrem omnipotentem,  
factorem coeli et terrae,  
visibilium omnium et invisibilium.

Et in unum Dominum Iesum Christum,  
Filium Dei unigenitum.

Et ex Patre natum ante omnia saecula.  
Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine,

Deum verum de Deo vero.

Genitus, non factum,



consubstantiale Patri:  
per quem omnia facta sunt.  
Qui propter nos homines,  
et propter nostram salutem  
descendit de celis.  
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 coelum:  
sedet ad dexteram Patris.  
Et iterum venturus est cum gloria  
judicare vivos et mortuos  
cujus 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 baptismum  
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.*

*Born of the Father before all ages.  
God of God, Light of Light,  
true God of True God.  
Begotten, not made,  
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 became incarnate by the  
Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary:  
and was made man.  
He was also crucified for us,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was buried.  
And on the third day He rose again  
according to the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and  
sits at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead and  
His kingdom will have no end.  
And in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and Giver of life,  
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
Who together with the Father  
and the Son is adored and glorified,  
and who spoke through the prophets.  
And one holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.  
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I await the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

#### 11. Sanctus & Benedictus

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.*

Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.  
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory:  
Hosanna, in the highest.  
Blessed is he that commeth in the name of the Lord:  
Glory to thee, O lord in the highest.*

#### 12. Agnus Dei

*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.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.*

#### 13. Psallite Domino

*Psallite Domino, qui ascendit super coelos  
coelorum ad orientem. Alleluia.*

*Sing unto the Lord, who ascended above the  
heaven of heavens, to the east. Alleluia.*

#### 14. Fuga Francescana

*Laudato si' mi' Signore,  
per sora nostra Morte corporale,  
da la quale nullo homo uiuente pò skappare:  
guai a quelli ke morrano ne le peccata mortali.*

*Be praised, my Lord,  
through our sister Bodily Death,  
from whose embrace no living person can escape.  
Woe to this who die in mortal sense.*

*Francis of Assisi (1181/2-1226)  
From Canticle of the Creatures*

#### 15. Oratio in Festo S. Caroli

*Ecclesiam tuam, Domine, sancti Caroli  
Confessoris tui et etiam Pontificis continua  
protectione custodi:  
ut sicut illum pastoralis sollicitudo  
gloriosum reddidit;  
ita nos ejus intercessio in tuo semper  
faciat amore ferventes.*

*O Lord, give unto your Church the protection  
of your holy Confessor Bishop Charles;  
upon earth his concern for others  
made him glorious as a shepherd, may his  
prayerfulness make him an able servant,  
and help us to love you more fervently.*

*From the Proper of Saints, the Feast of  
St Charles, Bishop & Confessor.*



Photography: Venkatesh Muthukrishnan

### The Choir of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge

Sidney Sussex College rose from the ruins of the Cambridge Greyfriars in 1596 and has long been a nest for professional musicians. Indeed, the large chapel that stood on this site in pre-Reformation times was the regular venue for University ceremonies and was where a number of early English composers took their degrees, including Robert Fayrfax (MusB, 1501; DMus 1504) and Christopher Tye (MusB, 1536). Later, the great Elizabethan composer William Byrd would have been well-known to the foundress, Lady Frances Sidney, and two very fine elegies by Byrd survive for her nephew, the poet and courtier Sir Philip Sidney.

It is thought that a dedicated chapel choir must have existed in some form since the foundation of the College on St Valentine's Day 1596. Since the admission of women to the college in 1976, the Choir of Sidney Sussex has blossomed into one of the most esteemed choral groups in Oxbridge. In 2009, the American composer Eric Whitacre was appointed as Sidney Sussex's first Composer in Residence; in 2015, that mantle was assumed by British composer and Choir alumnus Joanna Marsh.

Aside from the abundant contribution the Choir makes to the musical life of the College,

Sidney is home to a wealth of musical ensembles and choral groups, and Fellows with both academic and practical expertise. The College boasts an active Music Society which organises weekly chamber recitals with guest appearances. Small-scale operas and musicals are often staged in the Master's Garden in Easter Term. Currently resident in the College are Dr Christopher Page (1991), founder and former director of the multi-award-winning Gothic Voices, and Dr David Skinner (2006).

### **David Skinner (director)**

David Skinner divides his time between choral directing, teaching and research, and is Osborn Director of Music at Sidney Sussex College. He cofounded The Cardinal's Musick in 1989, and has also worked with many other leading early music groups in the UK including The Tallis Scholars, The Sixteen and the King's Singers. David's multi-award-winning professional ensemble, Alamire ([www.alamire.co.uk](http://www.alamire.co.uk)), was founded in 2005 as an extension to his research and performance activities.

An engaging presenter, David has appeared in and written a variety of shows on BBC Radios 3 and 4, and acted as music advisor for the *Music and Monarchy* series on BBC 2 with historian David Starkey. He has published widely on music and musicians of early Tudor England and has produced a number of critically acclaimed performing editions. The Choir's repertoire is shaped to a degree by David's academic interests, and the weekly Latin Vespers service (unique among Oxbridge choirs) often showcases exciting recent rediscoveries of early music. David's 2015 edition of *The Tallis Psalter* was dedicated to the Choir, while he most recently curated a volume of essays on Tallis's life and music for the journal *Early Music* (OUP). Current projects include an

edition of Tallis's early Latin works for *Early English Church Music* (Stainer & Bell), and an historical introduction to a facsimile of MS 1070 (Anne Boleyn's Songbook) in the Royal College of Music, London.



Photography: Stefan Schweiger

## The Choir of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge

Directed by David Skinner

### Sopranos

Alice Chilcott  
Libby Crawley  
Amber Evans  
Rachael Haworth  
Rebecca Jordan  
Charlotte Rowan  
Emily Russell  
Kate Shaw  
Isla Stevens

### Altos

Harini Annadanam  
Sophia Crüwell  
Carine Ha  
Anna Jackson  
Sarah Lorimer  
Laura Neilson

### Tenors

Fionn Connolly  
Robert Folkes  
Oscar Golden-Lee  
Charles Gurnham  
Nicholas Keone Lee

### Basses

Thomas Ainge  
James Bartlett  
Stewart Bates  
Laurence Carden  
Nicholas Wong

### Organ scholars

Laurence Carden  
Jim Cooper

### Soloists:

#### **Magnificat**

Robert Folkes and Harini Annadanam

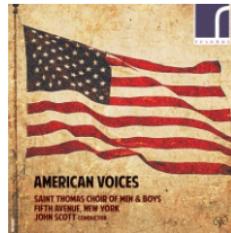
#### **Missa 'De Angelis'**

Thomas Ainge, Rachel Haworth

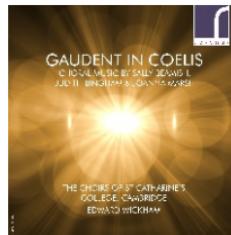
#### **Non corruptibilis**

Amber Evans, Anna Jackson, Fionn Connolly

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