# Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth

presents

# The Tallis Scholars From Darkness to Light

Peter Phillips, director
Amy Haworth, soprano
Daisy Walford, soprano
Victoria Meteyard, soprano
Rachel Haworth, soprano
Caroline Trevor, alto
David Gould, alto
Steven Harrold, tenor
Simon Wall, tenor
Tim Scott Whiteley, bass
Rob Macdonald, bass

## Saturday, April 6, 8 pm

Rollins Chapel • Dartmouth College • 2024

sun-centered by David Lang was commissioned for the Tallis Scholars by Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth College, Cal Performances, Carnegie Hall Corporation, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Stanford Live, Moss Arts Center, Virginia Tech and Concertgebouw Bruges (Belgium).

# Program

Approximate duration: 90 minutes, including intermission

Lamentations II Robert White (c.1538-1574)

sun-centered David Lang (b.1957)

I. the truths we know

II. we find it hard

III. hymn to the sun

IV. the republic

V. and yet it moves

#### Intermission

Recordare Nico Muhly (b.1981) Sainte-Chapelle Eric Whitacre (b.1970)

Ave Maria Robert Parsons (c.1535-1571/2)

#### **All Saints Propers**

I. Gaudeamus Omnes

II. Timete Dominum

III. Justorum animae

IV. Beati mundo corde

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

## **Text and Translations**

## Lamentations II Robert White Caph

Omnis populus eius gemens, et quaerens panem: dederunt preciosa quaeque pro cibo ad refocillandam animam, Vide, Domine, et considera, quoniam facta sum vilis

Lamed. O vos omnes, qui transitis per viam, attendite et videte si est dolor sicut dolor meus: quoniam vindemiavit me, ut locutus est Dominus in die irae furoris sui

Mem. De excelso misit ignem in ossibus meis et etudivit me: expandit rete pedibus meis, convertit me retrorsum, posuit me desolacionem tota die maerore confectam. Ierusalem.

Ierusalem, convertere ad Dominum Deum tuum.

Caph. All her people sigh and search for bread. They have bartered all their precious belongings for food to revive their soul. Look, Lord, and consider; for I have become a thing despised.

Lamed. All you who pass this way, look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow. For the Lord has cruelly punished me, as he said he would on the day of his fierce wrath.

Mem. From on high he has cast fire onto my bones and chastised me. He has spread a net at my feet and forced me backwards. He has made me desolate, tormented with grief all day long.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, turn to the Lord, your God.

# sun-centered "the truths we know" (words by David Lang, after Galileo) David Lang

some years ago, as your serene highness well knows I saw many things in the heavens that had never been seen before the novelty of these things stirred up against me a large number of opponents as if I had placed these things in the sky with my own hands more devoted to their own opinions than to the truth they sought to deny and disprove these new things which their own senses would have demonstrated to them if they had only cared to see for themselves the passage of time has revealed to everyone the truths that I uncovered those who were open to science were persuaded as soon as they received my message but some possess some strange interest in remaining hostile not just toward the things in question but also toward their discoverer they know I hold the sun to be placed motionless in the center of the universe while the earth revolves around the sun the reason they condemn the truth

that the earth moves and the sun stands still is that in many places in the bible one may read that the sun moves and the earth stands still but nature cannot be stopped nature cannot be changed nature cannot transgress the laws imposed upon it nature cannot care whether its hidden reasons are understandable to us god is not any less revealed in nature's actions than in any sacred writing I do not believe that the same god who has endowed us with senses, with reason and with intellect has intended us to forego their use the truths we know are very few compared with those we do not know we cannot be satisfied with those opinions that have become common we cannot be satisfied with those opinions that please other people best it is not in our power to make things true or false this belongs to their own nature and to the facts to their own nature and to the truth over which no one has power

# sun-centered "we find it hard" (words by David Lang, after Francis Bacon) David Lang

we find it hard to believe anything that doesn't put us in the center of the universe it is our nature to measure everything against ourselves even if that makes us into mirrors that distort and disfigure what they see

we find it hard to believe anything that goes against anything that we already know that goes against the authority acquired by those we reverence and admire even if that makes us variable and confused as if actuated by chance we find it hard to believe anything that needs to be told to us in words words need to be defined they force and overrule our understanding they lead us into numberless empty controversies

and idle fancies
we find it hard to believe anything
that goes against the dogmas we have learned
we play our parts in their fictitious and theatrical worlds
which by tradition, credulity and negligence
have come to be received

we believe the things that make us feel that there is order in the world we believe the things that make us feel support for all the things that we already believe we believe the things that we perceive with our own senses we believe the things that make us feel that we will live forever we believe the things we wish were true

# sun-centered "hymn to the sun" (words by David Lang, after Psalm 19.6) David Lang

the sun's rising is from one end of the heavens the sun rises at one end of the heavens there is nothing hidden from its heat nothing is hidden from its heat nothing is deprived of its warmth nothing hides from its heat nothing can hide from its heat nothing can escape its heat it travels all the way across the sky it starts at one end of the sky its rising is from the end of the heavens its rising is from one end of the heavens its rising is from one end of heaven its circuit is from one end of the sky to the other it rises from one end of the heavens. it rises at one end of the heavens it emerges from the distant horizon it circles around to the other his going out is from the end of heaven, his going forth is from the extremity of heaven his going forth is from the end of the heavens his going forth is from the end of the heaven his circuit to its ends

from the end of the heavens is his going out

and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof and there is nothing hidden from its heat and there is no one that can hide himself from his heat and runs its circuit to the other and nothing is hid from his heat and nothing is hidden from its heat and no one shall be hidden from his heat and makes its circuit to the other and makes him recline upon the ends of the heavens and its circuit to the other end of them. and its circuit to the other end and its circuit to the end of them. and his revolution is to their ends and his revolution is unto their ends. and his circuit unto the ends of it and his circuit to the other end of heaven and his circuit even to the end thereof and goes from one end of the sky to the other and goes across to the other and from the ends of the heavens he brings him out and follows its course to the other end and circles to their other end

# sun-centered "the republic" (words by David Lang, after Plato) David Lang

we are here, in the darkness we are here, in the dark we have lived here, in the dark, forever we are in chains we have always been in chains we cannot move we have never moved we cannot see what is behind us we have never seen what is behind us we cannot see what is beside us we have never seen what is beside us we can only see what is in front of us we see the shadows of things, as they pass by they flicker on the wall before us they are all that we can see they are all that we have ever seen we watch these things as they pass by

we hear these things as they pass by we name these things as they pass by this is our world, our only world, our whole world this is our truth, our only truth, our whole truth this is everything we know this is everything that we have ever known and we have always known it

if one of us were forced to leave if one of us were forced to see what we cannot to go where we cannot and then return to tell us things that we don't know to tell us stories about the things we've never seen a star, a moon, a sun

would we believe it?
we tell ourselves we would

## **sun-centered "and yet it moves"** (words by David Lang, after Galileo) **David Lang**

and yet it moves

#### Recordare, Domine Nico Muhly

Incipit lamentatio Ieremiae prophetae Recordare, Domine, quid acciderit nobis; intuere et respice opprobrium nostrum.

Haereditas nostra versa est ad alienos, domus nostrae ad extraneos.

Pupilli facti sumus absque patre, matres nostrae quasi viduae.

Aquam nostram pecunia bibimus; ligna nostra pretio comparavimus.

Cervicibus nostris minabamur, lassis non dabatur requies.

The Lamentation of Jeremiah the Prophet begins. Remember, O Lord, what has befallen us; behold, and see our disgrace!

Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers, our homes to aliens.

We have become orphans, fatherless; our mothers are like widows.

We must pay for the water we drink, the wood we get must be bought.

With a yoke on our necks we are hard driven; we are weary, we are given no rest.

#### Sainte-Chapelle Eric Whitacre

Castissima virgo Advenit in capellam; Et angeli in vitro Molliter cantaverunt, "Hosanna in excelsis!"

Illa castissima Susurravit, "Sanctus! Sanctus! Sanctus!"

Lux implevit spatium, Multiformis colore; Et audivit vocem suam Resonare, "Sanctus! Sanctus! Sanctus!"

Molliter angeli cantaverunt, "Dominus Deus sabaoth, Pleni sunt caeli et terra Gloria tua!" Hosanna in excelsis! Hosanna in excelsis!"

Vox in lumen se transformat, Et lumen canit, "Sanctus! Sanctus! Sanctus!"

Lumen canit molliter, "Dominus Deus sabaoth, Pleni sunt caeli et terra Gloria tua!"

Castissima virgo Advenit in capellam; Et angeli in vitro Molliter cantaverunt. An innocent girl Entered the chapel And the angels in the glass Softly sang, "Hosanna in the highest!"

The innocent girl Whispered, "Holy! Holy! Holy!"

Light filled the chamber, Many-coloured light; She heard her voice Echo, "Holy! Holy! Holy!"

Softly the angels sang "Lord God of Hosts, Heaven and earth are full Of your glory! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!"

Her voice becomes light, And the light sings, "Holy! Holy! Holy!"

The light sings softly, "Lord God of Hosts, Heaven and earth are full Of your glory!"

An innocent girl Entered the chapel And the angels in the glass Softly sang.

#### O bone Jesu

#### **Robert Parsons**

O bone Jesu illumina oculos meos ut umquam obdormiam in morte:

nequando dicat inimicus: Praevalui adversus eum, O Adonai

In manus tuas, Domine, commendo spiritum meum, redemisti me Domine Deus veritatis.

O Messias, locutus sum in lingua mea: notum fac mihi finem meum, O Agios.

Et numerum dierum meorum quis est: ut sciam quid desit mihi, O Heloi.

Dirupisti Domine vincula mea: tibi sacrificabo hostiam laudis, et nomen Domini invocabo.

O Emmanuel. Periit fuga a me et non est qui requirat animam meam,

O Christe, clamavi ad te Domine, dixi: tu es spes mea, portio mea in terra viventium.

O rex noster. Fac mecum signum in bonum, ut videant qui oderunt me et confundantur:

quoniam tu Domine adiuvisti me et consolatus es me, O Rabbi,

signatum est super nos lumen vultus tui Domine: dedisti laetitiam in corde meo. Amen

Kind Jesus, light up my eyes as ever I fall asleep in death.

so that when my enemy calls upon me I have been forewarned against him, O Adonai.

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit. You have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

O Messiah, I have spoken in my language: make certain for me the end, O Agios,

and make certain the number of my days so that I may know what is lacking in me, O Heloi.

Lord, you have broken apart my chains: I will make a sacrifice of praise to you and I shall call upon the name of the Lord. O Emmanuel, I have no chance of flight; there is no-one who calls upon my soul.

O Christ, I have called aloud to you, Lord. I have said that you are my hope and you take my part in the land of the living. Our King, make me a sign for good so that those who hate me may see it and be confounded, for you, Lord, have helped me, and you, O Rabbi, have been my comforter.

The light of your countenance, Lord, is blazoned out above us,

and you have given joy to my heart. Amen.

#### Ave Maria Robert Parsons

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum: Benedicta tu in mulieribus, Et benedictus fructus ventris tui. Amen. Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among all women And blessed is the fruit of your womb. Amen.

## All Saints Propers William Byrd

(Gaudeamus omnes, Timete Dominum, Justorum animae, Beati mundo corde)

**Gaudeamus omnes** in Domino diem festum celebrantes, sub honore Sanctorum omnium: de quorum solemnitate gaudent angeli, et colaudant Filium Dei.

Exultate justi in Domino: rectos decet collaudatio. Gloria Patri, et filio, et Spiritui Sancto,

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in secula seculorum. Amen.

**Timete Dominum** omnes sancti ejus: quoniam nihil deest timentibus eum.

Inquirentes autem Dominum, non deficient omni bono. Alleluia.

Venite ad me omnes qui laboratis, et onerati estis: et ego reficiam vos. Alleluia.

**Justorum animae** in manu Dei sunt, et non tanget illos tormentum mortis:

visi sunt oculis insipientium mori: illi autem sunt in pace.

**Beati mundo corde** quoniam ipsi Deum videbunt. Beati pacifici quoniam filii Dei vocabuntur. Beati qui persecutionem patiuntur propter justitiam quoniam ipsorum est regnum caelorum. Let us all rejoice in the Lord, celebrating a festival day in honour of all the Saints:

at whose solemnity the Angels rejoice, and give praise to the Son of God.

Rejoice ye just in our Lord: praise becometh the righteous.

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

Fear ye our Lord all ye his saints: because there is no lack to them that fear him.

They that seek after our Lord shall not be diminished of any good. Alleluia.

Come ye to me all that labour, and are burdened, and I will refresh you. Alleluia.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and the torment of death shall not touch them:

their eyes shall not see death, but they are in peace.

Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peace-makers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

# **Program Notes**

"Weeping may endure for a night," says the Psalmist, "but joy cometh in the morning." This age-old consolation sums up our program, one which considers darkness and light, and their sacred analogues of penitence and joy. Alongside the emotionally-charged and exquisitely-crafted sacred music of Tudor England, sits music commissioned by The Tallis Scholars from three of the most celebrated American composers of our age, casting new light (and shadows) on this theme

The biblical *Lamentations of Jeremiah* were written in response to a defining event in the history of the Judean people: the sacking of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple in about 586 BC, presaging the exile of the Jews into captivity in Babylon. Like other contemporary literature, including perhaps the Book of Job, *Lamentations* at once bemoans and rationalizes the suffering of the people. According to the author, the city was destroyed because its people were sinful; for things to be made right, they must "return to the Lord their God."

In the time of Elizabeth I, and perhaps because of the "fashionable melancholy" which pervaded late-Tudor culture, settings of the *Lamentations* were very popular. Though liturgically these lessons were appointed to be read in Holy Week, settings such as Robert White's were more likely intended for private devotional performances in the home.

Composers were drawn to the particular character of the text, which in the original Hebrew takes the form of an acrostic poem. It was customary in polyphonic musical settings to retain the Hebrew letters with which each verse begins. The setting of these letters, quite meaningless on their own, enabled composers to indulge in a sort of "pure polyphony" which has been described as "ritualized weeping in music". White's setting must have been very popular at the time; it is included in multiple contemporary partbook collections, including those of Robert Dow, who praises White in the following encomium:

Greatest glory of our muses, White,
You perish, but your muse remains for ever.

**sun-centered** was commissioned by The Tallis Scholars, and first performed by them in 2022. In this piece, the American composer David Lang explores the idea of light; both the physical light of the Sun, and the light of knowledge, always under threat by those who are resistant to ideas which challenge received wisdom. He does this through the story of Galileo, who, accused of blasphemy for showing that the Earth orbits the Sun and not the other way around, was famously said to utter the phrase "e pur si muove" ("and yet it moves").

Lang's typically thorough approach has him disassemble, atomize and recombine existing texts, then set the fragments within a musical framework that is open, minimal and often bracingly direct. His paraphrases move beyond Galileo to encompass Francis Bacon, the Psalms and Plato's Republic, all in the service of a central question: "Why is it that we are so resistant to new ideas that challenge the ones we already know?" Though the work begins and ends with Galileo, voiced by a baritone soloist, the inner movements connect his efforts to a universal theme: the struggle of truth-tellers against dogmatic authority.

Nico Muhly's **Recordare, Domine** was commissioned by The Tallis Scholars in 2013. Sixteenth-century composers have long been a source of inspiration for Muhly, who here adopts one of their favorite texts: the Lamentations. Over long, held notes, spare harmonies arise, reminiscent of *Arvo Pärt*. Insistent repetitions of recordare underpin a more mobile section in which vocal lines overlap and rub against each other. A long, held tritone provides unsettling accompaniment to the words "cervicibus nostris". Finally, the upper voices divide, singing the refrain "Jerusalem" one after another, before the piece quietly retreats, as if worn out by grief.

## Program Notes continued

The name **Sainte-Chapelle** immediately signals a concern with light—a reference to the stunning 13th-century, stained-glass-dominated chapel of the French kings. Eric Whitacre sets a Latin text by long-term collaborator Charles Anthony Silvestri, in which the protagonist is an "innocent girl"—perhaps the Virgin Mary—who encounters God with awe and wonder. Her singing mingles with that of angels singing out of the windows of the chapel, until eventually "her voice becomes light." Plainchant is an obvious inspiration for the meandering vocal lines, evoking a sense of timelessness that marries well with Whitacre's love of rich choral sonority.

**Ave Maria** is Parsons' most famous composition, not only today but probably in his own lifetime too; the collector Robert Dow, having copied it into his partbooks, was moved to write *Musica laetificat corda* at the end: "music rejoices the heart". Its gently

unfolding texture, in which the simple treble line rises with each new entry, concludes movingly with wave upon wave of imitative *Amens*.

The conclusion of our exploration of light and dark finds us among the Saints, who many Christians believe enjoy eternal bliss in the light of heaven, with Christ and his mother. The four motets given here are those assigned to be sung for the Feast of All Saints on 1 November. Their author is William Byrd, whose *Gradualia* represents a complete cycle of music for the feast days of the Catholic year. Set for five voices, they offer great stylistic variety, from the exuberance of the introit *Gaudeamus omnes* and the Gradual *Timete Dominum*, to the reflective and penitential *Justorum animae*, and the cumulative blessings, each one adding a further voice, of the Communion *Beati mundo corde*.

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## **About the Artists**

The Tallis Scholars were founded in 1973 by their director, Peter Phillips. Through their recordings and concert performances, they have established themselves as the leading exponents of Renaissance sacred music throughout the world. Peter Phillips has worked with the ensemble to create, through good tuning and blend, the purity and clarity of sound which he feels best serves the Renaissance repertoire, allowing every detail of the musical lines to be heard. It is the resulting beauty of sound for which The Tallis Scholars have become so widely renowned.

The Tallis Scholars perform in both sacred and secular venues, giving around 80 concerts each year. In 2013 the group celebrated their 40th anniversary with a World Tour, performing 99 events in 80 venues in 16 countries. In 2020 Gimell Records celebrated 40 years of recording the group by releasing a remastered

version of the 1980 recording of Allegri's *Miserere*. As they celebrate their 50th birthday the desire to hear this group in all corners of the globe is as strong as ever. They have now performed well over 2,500 concerts.

The 2023/24 season highlights include performances in Japan, the USA, Paris, Dresden, Ravenna and Helsinki; a number of appearances in London as well as their usual touring schedule in Europe and the UK. In a monumental project to mark Josquin des Prez' 500th anniversary, The Tallis Scholars sang all 18 of the composer's masses over the course of four days at the Boulez Saal in Berlin in July 2022, only to repeat this feat in Utrecht in summer 2023.

Recordings by The Tallis Scholars have attracted many awards throughout the world. In 1987 their

recording of Josquin's Missa La sol fa re mi and Missa Pange lingua received Gramophone magazine's Record of the Year award, the first recording of early music ever to win this coveted award. In 1989 the French magazine Diapason gave two of its Diapason d'Or de l'Année awards for the recordings of a mass and motets by Lassus and for Josquin's two masses based on the chanson L'Homme armé. Their recording of Palestrina's Missa Assumpta est Maria and Missa Sicut lilium was awarded Gramophone's Early Music Award in 1991; they received the 1994 Early Music Award for their recording of music by Cipriano de Rore; and the same distinction again in 2005 for their disc of music by John Browne. The Tallis Scholars were nominated for Grammy Awards in 2001, 2009 and 2010. In November 2012 their recording of Josquin's Missa De beata virgine and Missa Ave maris stella received a Diapason d'Or de l'Année and in their 40th anniversary year they were welcomed into the Gramophone "Hall of Fame" by public vote. In a departure for the group in Spring 2015 The Tallis Scholars released a disc of music by Arvo Pärt called Tintinnabuli which received great praise across the board.

A 2020 release including *Missa Hercules Dux Ferrarie* was the last of nine albums in The Tallis Scholars' project to record and release all Josquin's masses before the 500th anniversary of the composer's death. It was the winner of the *BBC Music Magazine*'s much coveted Recording of the Year Award in 2021 and the 2021 *Gramophone* Early Music Award. Their latest Gimell release in October 2023 is of music by John Sheppard.

**Peter Phillips** has dedicated his career to the research and performance of Renaissance polyphony, and to

the perfecting of choral sound. He founded The Tallis Scholars in 1973, with whom he has now appeared in over 2,500 concerts worldwide, and made over 60 discs in association with Gimell Records. As a result of this commitment Peter Phillips and The Tallis Scholars have done more than any other group to establish the sacred vocal music of the Renaissance as one of the great repertoires of Western classical music.

Peter Phillips also conducts other specialist ensembles. He is currently working with the BBC Singers (London), the Netherlands Chamber Choir (Utrecht), the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir (Tallinn), The Danish Radio Choir (Copenhagen) and El Leon de Oro (Oviedo). He is Patron of the Chapel Choir of Merton College Oxford.

In addition to conducting, Peter Phillips is well-known as a writer. For 33 years he contributed a regular music column to *The Spectator*. In 1995 he became the publisher of *The Musical Times*, the oldest continuously published music journal in the world. His first book, *English Sacred Music 1549–1649*, was published by Gimell in 1991, while his second, What *We Really Do*, appeared in 2013. During 2018, BBC Radio 3 broadcast his view of Renaissance polyphony, in a series of six hour-long programmes, entitled *The Glory of Polyphony*.

In 2005 Peter Phillips was made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Minister of Culture. In 2008 Peter helped to found the chapel choir of Merton College Oxford, where he is a Bodley Fellow; and in 2021 he was elected an Honorary Fellow of St John's College, Oxford.

## **Arts in the Community**

The artists take part in a pre-show talk at 7 pm at Baker-Berry Library's East Reading Room.

Spring at the

3/16, 29 & 30

Sandglass Theater puppetry, dance and spokenword

3/25 & 26

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4/2 & 7/20

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## Explore

4/6

The Tallis Scholars Renaissance choral music

4/11

Tomeka Reid resident artist & cellist

4/14

Ensemble Schumann works by Beethoven, Bruch, Foote and White

**Isidore String** 

Works by Bach, Childs and Beethoven

> Tomeka Reid 4/11



Corevah Korean folk and psychedelic rock

4/21

23 Skidoo and the **Secret Agency** 

hip hop for the whole family

5/1

Quartet



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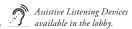
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