

# stile antico

In a single decade, Stile Antico has established itself as one of the world's most accomplished early music vocal ensembles. Offering new programmes for 2018, the ensemble enjoys a prestigious touring career and has an award-winning discography with Harmonia Mundi.

## SONGS OF LONGING AND EXILE

**With Joseph Tawadros – 12 singers and oud**

Inspired by Dowland's melancholic song *Flow my tears*, and the heartbreaking stories of contemporary refugees, vocal ensemble Stile Antico and Dartington Arts commissioned poet Peter Oswald to create texts for Dowland's instrumental *Lachrimae pavans*. These new poems about displacement and exile present a counterpoint to Dowland's exquisite music. Between the pavans, Joseph Tawadros intersperses partly-improvised music for oud. The performance ends with a newly-commissioned work for oud and voices, providing a fitting climax to a unique and powerful concert experience.

## QUEEN OF MUSES

**Elizabeth I as Monarch, Patron & Lover – 12 singers**

The reign of the great Tudor Queen, Elizabeth I, saw an unparalleled flowering of the arts in England. The 'Virgin Queen', herself a talented musician, presided over a court which revelled in the skill of great composers such as Thomas Tallis, William Byrd, and John Dowland. This programme explores the way music was used to gain favour with the Queen by courtiers, diplomats and even suitors. Along the way, we meet foreign spies, disgraced favourites and plotting noblemen, illuminating the life of a court which rejoiced in some of the finest music ever created in England.

## DIVINE CONSOLATIONS

**Music of reflection and hope by Bach and his predecessors – 12 singers plus continuo**

In this alluring programme, Stile Antico explores an exquisite selection of German Baroque repertoire. Delving into the rich tradition of Lutheran funeral music, the ensemble traces a journey from the polyphonic works of the late Renaissance (often performed in Bach's Leipzig), by way of Schütz's masterpiece, the *Musikalische Exequien*, to Bach's longest and most moving motet, *Jesu meine Freude*. This programme marks the first time that Stile Antico has collaborated with basso continuo.

## TENEBRAE RESPONSORIES

**Tomas Luis da Victoria's intense settings of the Tenebrae Responsories – 12 singers**

Arguably the finest work of the Spanish Renaissance, Tomas Luis da Victoria's intense settings of the Tenebrae Responsories provide a glimpse into the Catholic liturgy at the height of the church year. The emotionally charged motets follow the story of Christ's passion from his betrayal to his burial. The Responsories were traditionally performed at the end of Holy Week and this programme is particularly suitable for performance by candlelight. *Released on Harmonia Mundi in early 2018.*

## A SPANISH NATIVITY

**NEW for Advent, Christmas & Epiphany – 13 singers**

For its latest Christmas programme, Stile Antico turns to the sensuous musical world of Renaissance Spain, drawing together an irresistible mix of sumptuous polyphony and infectiously joyful folk dances. A superbly rich and luminous mass by Alonso Lobo, based on a motet by Guerrero and intended for performance at Toledo Cathedral, forms the programme's centrepiece. Interspersed between its movements are an exuberant 'ensalada' by Mateo Flecha, beautiful Christmas miniatures by Tomás Luis de Victoria, and classic *villancicos* - Spain's answer to the traditional carol.

'...the singing is staggeringly beautiful' **Sunday Times**

