

stile antico

early music vocal ensemble

"It's never a good idea to miss a concert from this British vocal ensemble: There are no finer singers of early music." *NEW YORK TIMES*

Offering new programmes for 2021, Stile Antico enjoys a prestigious touring career and a multi-award winning discography.

JOSQUIN: FATHER OF THE RENAISSANCE **New for 2021**

500 years since the death of Josquin des Prez – 12 singers

2021 marks 500 years since the death of the trailblazing Franco-Flemish composer Josquin des Prez, and the launch of a landmark series of anniversary recordings by Stile Antico, celebrating three giants of the Renaissance: Josquin, Byrd and Palestrina. The first composer to have his works widely published, Josquin enjoyed great international renown, and his stunningly beautiful music was hugely influential in the development of the High Renaissance style. In this programme Stile Antico presents some of Josquin's most important works, alongside music by his contemporaries and by those who picked up his mantle.

TOWARD THE DAWN **New for 2021**

Ancient music for night – 12 singers

This programme can be presented in as an hour-long late-night concert, or a full concert of two halves featuring Allegri's masterpiece 'Miserere'.

This programme charts a course from twilight to sunrise, echoing both the rhythms of church liturgy and the mediaeval experience of night, seductive and unsettling in equal measure. Taverner's mighty *Ave Dei Patris Filia*, based on a chant for Matins, stands at the end of a delicious sequence of sacred music, chansons and madrigals by both English and Continental composers.

BREAKING THE HABIT

Music written by and for women in Renaissance Europe – 12 singers

The sixteenth century saw an unprecedented number of female rulers. From the powerful Medici women in Italy to the great Tudor queens of England, women across Europe held more power than ever before. Many of these monarchs used their patronage to facilitate the production of music of exquisite beauty by the finest composers of the day, extravagant showcases of their power contrasting with intimate and personal compositions. The century also saw the first publications of music by female composers, often Italian nuns, whose convents supported musical groups of astonishing ability.

SONGS OF LONGING AND EXILE

With Rihab Azar – 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, Syrian oud player Rihab Azar intersperses partly-improvised music for oud. The performance ends with a new work for oud and voices by Giles Swayne, providing a fitting climax to a unique and powerful concert experience.

Also available: New seasonal programmes for Easter & Christmas

