



## Programmes 2018-2019

**MISERERE MEI: MUSIC OF MOURNING FROM THE RENAISSANCE** *One hour twenty minutes 6 singers*

In this programme, The Marian Consort explores exquisite music of mourning from the Renaissance. Works by Portuguese composers living under Spanish Habsburg rule manifest their covert political sentiment in lachrymose texts. Similarly, Thomas Tallis' setting of the *Lamentations of Jeremiah*, written during the Protestant Elizabeth I's reign, had very specific political and personal resonances for this Catholic composer, expressing his faith through his music in the turbulent surroundings of the Tudor court.

**MISERERE: REFLECTIONS ON ALLEGRI AND PALESTRINA** *One hour fifteen minutes 10 singers, conductor*

The Marian Consort presents paired settings of two of the most emotionally-charged sacred texts of the Christian tradition: Allegri's iconic *Miserere* is contrasted with James Macmillan's very personal response to this prayer, while Palestrina's double-choir *Stabat Mater* is heard alongside a fresh interpretation of this extraordinary text from Gabriel Jackson.

**AN EMERALD IN A WORK OF GOLD: MUSIC FROM CHRIST CHURCH PARTBOOKS** *One hour, fifteen minutes 7 singers*

*'As a signet of an emerald in a work of gold: so is the melody of music with pleasant and moderate wine.'* This quotation from Ecclesiasticus is one of the many Latin inscriptions found in the partbooks compiled by the scholar Robert Dow, and it is these, along with another treasure trove of Tudor and Elizabethan polyphony found at Christ Church, Oxford, which provide the musical gems in this absorbing programme.

**A VERY ENGLISH CHRISTMAS?: A FESTIVE CELEBRATION** *One hour fifteen minutes 7 singers, conductor*

In this Festive sequence, The Marian Consort brings together music by one of the greatest composers of the Renaissance, Thomas Tallis, with works by his English compatriots Tye, Sheppard and Ludford. At the heart of the programme is the Gloria from Tallis's magnificent seven-voice *Missa Puer Natus Est*, heard alongside works by Alfonso Ferrabosco and Orlandus Lassus that survive in English manuscripts.

## CONCERT DRAMAS WITH CLARE NORBURN

Blurring the boundaries between a one-actor play and a concert, **BREAKING THE RULES** explores the strange world and extraordinary music of Renaissance Italy's most infamous princely composer and murderer, Carlo Gesualdo. In **GALILEO**, music acts as a trigger, bringing up memories of early experiments, cosmology, the philosopher's friendship with the Pope, and finally his condemnation. Galileo also features the Monteverdi String Band.