



## **The Gesualdo Six**

### ***In Winter's House***

*available online from*

**Friday 17 December 10.00 am**

*to*

**Thursday 13 January 5.00 pm**

# **The Gesualdo Six**

Owain Park *director*

## ***In Winter's House***

In Natale Domini	<b>Anonymous</b>
Praeter rerum seriem	<b>Josquin des Prez</b> (1450/55–1521)
Nesciens mater	<b>Antoine de Févin</b> (c.1470–1512)
Ad te levavi	<b>Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina</b> (c.1525–1594)
Rorate Caeli	<b>William Byrd</b> (1540–1623)
In Mary's Love	<b>Judith Bingham</b> (b.1952)
In Winter's House	<b>Joanna Marsh</b> (b.1971)
In the stillness	<b>Sally Beamish</b> (b.1956)
Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen	<b>Traditional</b> arr. <b>Michael Praetorius</b> (1571–1621)
Angelus ad virginem	<b>Anonymous</b>
Gaudete	<b>Traditional</b> arr. <b>Brian Kay</b> (b.1944)
Maria durch ein dornwald ging	<b>Traditional</b> arr. <b>Philip Lawson</b> (b.1957)
Veni Emmanuel	<b>Traditional</b> arr. <b>Philip Lawson</b>

For centuries Christmas and the surrounding seasons have inspired composers to new heights of invention. This programme reaches across the ages, from the eternal beauty of the Tudor church right up to the twenty-first century, with each piece chosen to evoke a sense of mystery and joy.

In the Renaissance, Advent – the weeks preceding the celebration of Christ’s birth at Christmas – was a time of wonder and reflection. Centuries-old carols tell this story, with some works presented here in their inherited form, others reimagined by skilled arrangers. The hushed rapture of a small parish church in a snowbound landscape is beautifully captured by Sally Beamish in her simple carol, *In the Stillness*, which sets words by Katrina Shepherd. By contrast, *In Winter’s House* sets a poem by Jane Draycott which explores shades of darkness and light, set by Joanna Marsh for lower voices.

As the Mother of Jesus, Mary’s status as conduit and embodiment of the divine has provided rich inspiration for composers over the centuries; such devotional music was especially prevalent in sacred polyphony of the early sixteenth century. While some respond with reverential works in multiple parts to glorify her, including these settings by Byrd and Josquin, others offer intricately woven pieces that venerate her purity, such as *Nesciens mater* by Antoine de Févin – a piece rediscovered as part of our ‘Josquin’s Legacy’ project.

I hope that we have managed to capture something of the festive spirit, with moments of stillness set against joyful exuberance. It is music that we thoroughly enjoy singing – we all feel a certain magic when we revisit this repertoire towards the end of each year.

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### **In Natale Domini**

In natali domini  
Gaudent omnes angeli  
Et cantant cum iubilo  
Gloriam uni deo.  
Virgo Deum genuit, Virgo Deum  
peperit, Virgo semper intacta.

Natus est Emmanuel  
Quem predixit Gabriel  
Testis est Ezechiel  
A patre processit El.

Christus natus hodie  
Ex Maria virgine  
Non conceptus semine  
Apparuit hodie.

Gaudeat Ecclesia  
Iugiter cum gloria  
Laudem det Altissimo:  
Gloria uni Deo.

### **de Prez: Praeter rerum seriem**

Praeter rerum seriem  
parit deum hominem  
virgo mater.  
Nec vir tangit virginem  
nec prolis originem  
novit pater.

Virtus sancti spiritus  
opus illud coelitus  
operatur.  
Initus et exitus  
partus tui penitus  
quis scrutatur?

Dei providentia  
quae disponit omnia  
tam suave.  
Tua puerperia  
transfer in mysteria.  
Mater ave.

On the birthday of the Lord  
Angels joy in glad accord,  
And they sing in sweetest tone  
Glory be to God alone.  
God is born of maiden fair, Mary doth the  
Saviour bear; Mary ever pure.

Born is now Emmanuel,  
He, announced by Gabriel,  
He, whom Prophets old attest,  
Cometh from His Father's Breast.

Born today is Christ the child,  
Born of Mary undefiled,  
Born the King and Lord we own;  
Glory by to God alone.

Let the Church rejoice  
Regularly with glory:  
Let it give praise to the Most High:  
Glory to God alone

This is no normal scheme of things:  
Oh dear little Jesus God and man is born  
Of a virgin mother. She has known no man;  
the child's origin is unknown to the father.

By the Holy Spirit's power this heavenly  
work has been brought about.  
The beginning and end of your giving birth  
who can really know?

By God's grace, which orders all things so  
smoothly, your childbearing confronts us  
with a mystery.  
Hail, Mother.

**de Févin: Nesciens mater**

Nesciens mater virgo virum  
 peperit sine dolore  
 salvatorem saeculorum.  
 Ipsum regem angelorum  
 sola virgo lactabat,  
 ubere de caelo pleno.

Knowing no man, the Virgin mother  
 bore, without pain,  
 the Saviour of the world.  
 Him, the king of angels,  
 only the Virgin suckled,  
 breasts filled by heaven.

Virgo hodie fidelis etsi verbum  
 genuit incarnatum virgo mansit  
 et post partum quam laudantes omnes  
 dicimus benedicta tu in mulieribus.  
 Amen

The faithful virgin brings forth the incarnate  
 Word today,  
 she remains a virgin during and after birth  
 and we all praise her  
 saying blessed are you among women.  
 Amen

**Palestrina: Ad te levavi**

Ad te levavi animam meam, Deus  
 meus, in te confido: non erubescam  
 neque irrideant me inimici mei.  
 Etenim universi qui te expectant non  
 confundentur.

Unto thee, O Lord, will I lift up my soul; my  
 God, I have put my trust in thee: O let me  
 not be confounded, neither let mine enemies  
 triumph over me. For all they that hope in  
 thee shall not be ashamed.

**Byrd: Rorate Caeli**

Rorate caeli desuper, et nubes pluant  
 justum: aperiatur terra, et germinet  
 salvatorem.  
 Benedixisti, Domine, terram tuam:  
 avertisti captivitatem Jacob.  
 Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.  
 Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et  
 semper, et in saecula saeculorum.  
 Amen.

Drop down ye heavens, from above, and let  
 the skies pour down righteousness:  
 Let the earth open and bring forth a Saviour.  
 Lord, thou hast blessed thy land:  
 Thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.  
 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.

**Judith Bingham: In Mary's Love**

In Mary's love, you were the light,  
 Earth and heaven with one voice  
 show the waiting world the way,  
 Wondrous newborn life rejoice,  
 Crown the sky with gleaming star,  
 angels filled the void with joy,  
 Voices gathered, swelling, soared,  
 joined in praise for Mary's love.

Humble shepherds, noble Magi,  
knelt in honour of your birth,  
Holding high their golden treasure,  
Frankincense and scented myrrh.

Behold unveiled the jewel of heaven,  
Stars, as clouds are swept away,  
sing as souls proclaim their presence,  
Cast aside the shroud of night.

Such an overwhelming joy  
could no stumbling tongue express  
How then beat the heart of Mary?  
Afire with starlit happiness.

Ben Kaye

### **Joanna Marsh: In Winter's House**

In winter's house there's a room  
that's pale and still as mist in a field  
while outside in the street every gate's shut firm,  
every face as cold as steel.

In winter's house there's a bed  
that is spread with frost and feathers, that gleams  
in the half-light like rain in a disused yard  
or a pearl in a choked-up stream.

In winter's house there's a child  
asleep in a dream of light that grows out  
of the dark, a flame you can hold in your hand  
like a flower or a torch on the street.

In winter's house there's a tale  
that's told of a great chandelier in a garden,  
of fire that catches and travels for miles,  
of all gates and windows wide open.

In winter's house there's a flame  
being dreamt by a child in the night,  
in the small quiet house at the turn in the lane  
where the darkness gives way to light.

### **Sally Beamish: In the stillness**

In the stillness of a church where candles glow,  
In the softness of a fall of fresh white snow,  
In the brightness of the stars that shine this night,  
In the calmness of a pool of healing light,  
In the clearness of a choir that softly sings,  
In the one-ness of a hush of angels' wings,  
In the mildness of a night by stable bare,  
In the quietness of a lull near cradle fair,  
There's a patience as we wait for a new morn,  
And the presence of a child still to be born.

Katrina Shepherd

### **Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen**

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen aus einer  
Wurzel zart,  
wie uns die Alten sungen, von Jesse kam  
die Art  
und hat ein Blümlein bracht  
mitten im kalten Winter, wohl zu der  
halben Nacht.

Das Röslein, das ich meine, davon Jesaia  
sagt,  
hat uns gebracht alleine Marie, die reine  
Magd.  
Aus Gottes ew-gem Rat  
hat sie ein Kind geboren wohl zu der  
halben Nacht.

Das Blümelein so kleine, das duftet uns  
so süß,  
mit seinem hellen Scheine vertreibt's die  
Finsternis:  
Wahr' Mensch und wahrer Gott,  
hilft uns aus allem Leide, rettet von Sünd  
und Tod.

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender  
stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have  
sung.  
It came, a floweret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter, when half spent was  
the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in  
mind;  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother  
kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
she bore to men a Saviour, when half spent  
was the night.

This Flower whose fragrance tender with  
sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendour the darkness  
everywhere.  
True Man, yet very God;  
From sin and death He saves us and lightens  
every load.

### **Angelus ad virginem**

Angelus ad Virginem  
subintrans in conclave  
Virginis formidinem  
demulcens inquit: 'Ave!'  
Ave, Regina virginum,  
caeli terraeque Dominum  
conciplies et paries intacta  
salutem hominum,  
tu porta caeli facta  
medela criminum.

Quomodo conciperem  
quae virum non cognovi?  
Qualiter infringerem  
quod firma mente vovi?  
Spiritus Sancti gratia  
perficiet haec omnia;  
ne timeas, sed gaudeas, segura  
quod castimonia  
manebit in te pura  
Dei potentia.

Ad haec virgo nobilis  
respondens inquit ei:  
'Ancilla sum humilis  
omnipotentis Dei.  
Tibi caelesti nuntio,  
tanti secreti conscio  
consentiens et cupiens videre  
factum quod audio;  
parata sum parere  
Dei consilio.'

Eia Mater Domini,  
quae pacem reddidisti  
Angelis et homini,  
cum Christum genuisti:  
tuum exora Filium  
ut se nobis propitium  
exhibeat et delet peccata:  
praestans auxilium  
vita frui beata  
post hoc exsilium.

The angel appeared to the Virgin,  
While entering into her chamber.  
He calmed her fear,  
When he said to her: 'Hail,  
Hail, Queen of Virgins.  
The Lord of Heaven and Earth,  
You will conceive and give birth unharmed,  
Bringing the salvation of mankind.  
You will be the Door of Heaven,  
The remedy for all crimes.'

'How can I conceive,  
Since I do not know man?  
How can I break,  
What I have firmly vowed?'  
'The grace of the Holy Spirit  
Will accomplish all this.  
Do not fear but rejoice securely,  
Because chastity,  
Will remain undefiled in you,  
Through the power of God.'

To this the noble Virgin,  
Responding said to him:  
'I am the humble slave,  
Of Almighty God.  
By your heavenly announcement,  
I became aware of so many secrets,  
I give my consent and want to see,  
Accomplished what I heard.  
I am ready to obey,  
God's will.'

Rejoice, Mother of the Lord,  
Who has restored peace,  
To angels and men,  
When you bore Christ.  
Exhort your Son,  
That He be propitious to us,  
Let Him wash away our sins,  
Giving us help,  
To enjoy the blissful life,  
After this exile.

## **Gaudete**

Gaudete, gaudete! Christus est natus  
Ex Maria virgine, gaudete!

Tempus adest gratiæ  
Hoc quod optabamus,  
Carmina lætitiæ  
Devote reddamus.

Deus homo factus est  
Natura mirante,  
Mundus renovatus est  
A Christo regnante.

Ezechielis porta  
Clause pertransitur,  
Unde lux est orta  
Salus invenitur.

Ergo nostra concio  
Psallat iam in lustro;  
Benedicat Domino:  
Salus Regi nostro

## **Maria durch ein dornwald ging**

Maria durch ein' Dornwald ging.  
Kyrieleison!  
Maria durch ein' Dornwald ging,  
Der hat in sieben Jahr'n kein Laub  
getragen!  
Jesus und Maria.

Was trug Maria unter ihrem Herzen?  
Kyrieleison!  
Ein kleines Kindlein ohne Schmerzen,  
Das trug Maria unter ihrem Herzen!  
Jesus und Maria.

Da haben die Dornen Rosen getragen.  
Kyrieleison!  
Als das Kindlein durch den Wald  
getragen,  
Da haben die Dornen Rosen getragen!  
Jesus und Maria.

Rejoice, rejoice! Christ has born  
Of the Virgin Mary – rejoice!

The time of grace has come  
what we have wished for,  
songs of joy  
Let us give back faithfully.

God has become man,  
With nature marvelling,  
The world has been renewed  
By Christ reigning.

The closed gate of Ezekiel  
Is passed through,  
Whence the light is raised,  
Salvation is found.

Therefore, let our preaching  
Now sing in brightness  
Let it give praise to the Lord:  
Greeting to our King.

Maria walks amid the thorn,  
Kyrieleison!  
Which for seven years no leaf hath  
born  
She walks amid the wood of thorn  
Jesus and Maria.

What 'neath her heart does Mary  
bear?  
Kyrieleison!  
A little child doth Mary bear  
Beneath her heart he nestles there.  
Jesus and Maria.

And as the two are passing near  
Kyrieleison!  
Lo! Roses on the thorns appear!  
Jesus and Maria.

### **Veni Emmanuel**

Venu, veni Emmanuel!  
Captivum solve Israel!  
Qui gemit in exilio,  
Privatus Dei Filio,  
*Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel  
nascetur pro te, Israel.*

Veni o Jesse virgula!  
Ex hostis tuos ungula,  
De specu tuos tartari  
Educ, et antro barathri.  
*Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel  
nascetur pro te, Israel.*

Veni, veni o oriens!  
Solare nos adveniens,  
Noctis depelle nebulas,  
Dirasque noctis tenebras.  
*Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel  
nascetur pro te, Israel.*

Veni clavis Davidica!  
Regna reclude coelica,  
Fac iter Tutum superum,  
Et claude vias Inferum.  
*Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel  
nascetur pro te, Israel.*

Veni, veni Adonai!  
Qui populo in Sinai  
Legem dedisti vertice,  
In maiestate gloriae.  
*Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel  
nascetur pro te, Israel.*

O come, O come, Emmanuel!  
Redeem the captive Israel  
That into exile drear is gone,  
Far from the face of God's dear Son.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Branch of Jesse! draw  
The quarry from the lion's claw;  
From the dread caverns of the grave,  
From nether hell, thy people save.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!  
Pour on our souls thy healing light;  
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,  
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Lord of David's Key!  
The royal door fling wide and free;  
Safeguard for us the heavenward road,  
And bar the way to death's abode.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, O come, Adonai,  
Who in thy glorious majesty  
From that high mountain clothed in awe  
Gavest thy folk the elder Law.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

## **The Gesualdo Six**

Guy James *countertenor*

Josh Cooter *tenor*

Joseph Wicks *tenor*

Michael Craddock *baritone*

Sam Mitchell *bass*

Owain Park *bass, director*

**The Gesualdo Six** is an award-winning British vocal ensemble comprising some of the UK's finest consort singers, directed by Owain Park. Praised for its imaginative programming and impeccable blend, the ensemble formed in 2014 for a performance of Gesualdo's *Tenebrae Responsories* in Cambridge and has gone on to perform at numerous major festivals across the UK, Europe, North America and Australia. Notable highlights include a concert as part of the distinguished Deutschlandradio Debut Series, debut at Wigmore Hall in 2021, a tour of the USA in Fall 2021, and collaborations with the Brodsky Quartet, London Mozart Players, Luxmuralis, William Barton and Matilda Lloyd.

The ensemble integrates educational work into its activities, regularly holding workshops for young musicians and composers. The Gesualdo Six has curated two composition competitions, with the 2019 edition attracting entries from over three hundred composers around the world. The group has recently commissioned new works from Joanna Ward, Kerensa Briggs, Deborah Pritchard, Joanna Marsh, and Richard Barnard alongside *coronasolfège for 6* by Héloïse Werner.

Videos of the ensemble performing a diverse selection of works filmed in Ely Cathedral have been watched by millions online. The group released its debut recording, *English Motets*, on Hyperion Records in early 2018 to critical acclaim, followed by a festive album of seasonal favourites in late 2019, *Christmas*, and an album of compline-themed music titled *Fading* which was awarded Vocal & Choral Recording of the Year 2020 by Limelight. The latest album, exploring pedagogy and patronage around courts in Renaissance Italy, *Josquin's Legacy*, is Editor's Choice in *Gramophone* magazine and debuted at number three in the Specialist Classical Charts.

**Owain Park** was born in Bristol in 1993. As well as directing The Gesualdo Six, he maintains a busy schedule of conducting projects with ensembles including London Mozart Players, the Academy of Ancient Music and Cappella Cracoviensis.

Owain is Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC Singers and Musical Director of Cambridge Chorale.

Owain's compositions are published by Novello and have been performed internationally by ensembles including the Tallis Scholars and the Aurora Orchestra. While at Cambridge University he studied orchestration with John Rutter, before undertaking a masters degree in composition. Recent works include *Antiphon for the Angels* for VOICES8 and Rachel Podger, and *Footsteps* for Tenebrae and Nigel Short. Under Stephen Layton, the Choir of Trinity College Cambridge recorded an album of his compositions which was nominated for the *BBC Music Magazine Awards* in 2019.

Owain is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists (FRCO), and was awarded the Dixon Prize for improvisation, having been Senior Organ Scholar at Wells Cathedral and Trinity College Cambridge. He was a Tenebrae Associate Artist for two seasons, and has worked with ensembles including The Sixteen, Gabrieli Consort, and Polyphony.

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