



Tallis Choir of Toronto

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2006

Tallis Choir Presents Holy Week in the Renaissance

WHO: The Tallis Choir

WHAT: Holy Week in the Renaissance

WHERE: St. Basil's Church
50 St. Joseph Street (south of Bloor at Bay)
Toronto, ON M5S 1J4

WHEN: Saturday, March 18, 2006 at 7:30 P.M.

TICKETS: Students, \$10 (at door only); seniors, \$20; general admission, \$25

INFORMATION OR TICKETS: info@tallischoir.com or 416-533-6179

Tallis Choir welcomes you to a celebration of holy week in the renaissance. The choir's March program is built around one of Giovanni da Palestrina's settings of the *Lamentations of Jeremiah* - verses of the prophet Jeremiah sung as lessons in the Holy Week Tenebrae services in the Roman Catholic Church. Each of the verses begins with a Hebrew letter-name and concludes with an exhortation to Jerusalem.

Also featured is Gregorio Allegri's *Miserere*, a composition that has generated both myth and controversy. The ornaments that distinguish this setting of Psalm 51 were never written down, but were passed from performer to performer in the Papal Chapel. Legend has it that, after hearing it performed, a young Mozart was able to copy the work with the full ornamentation.

Additional works on the program include Palestrina's *Stabat Mater* and works by Antonio Lotti and Tomás Luis da Victoria.

Now in its 28th season, Tallis Choir is a chamber ensemble that has earned a reputation for innovative programming and polished performances. Its repertoire ranges from Gregorian chant to contemporary choral music, and the choir frequently collaborates with distinguished artists and ensembles.

Since the spring of 2003, Peter Mahon has served as Tallis Choir's artistic director. Known as both a singer and conductor, he is a member of several outstanding Canadian choirs, including Tafelmusik and Les Violons du Roy and, as a soloist, has specialized in Baroque oratorio. In addition to the Tallis Choir, he also conducts the William Byrd Singers, a 16-voice professional chamber choir he founded in 2000.

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