



**18 MARCH**

**music  
that shouldn't exist**

**JACOBEAN**

**SECRETS**

The Ripieno Choir  
*conducted by David Hansell*

7.30 pm Saturday 18 March 2017  
All Saints' Church  
Weston Green, Esher KT10 8JL

*Tickets £16 in advance, £18 on the day,  
£5 for under 18s.*

*Group discounts available.*

*Call 020 8399 2714 or  
email [vox@ripienochoir.org.uk](mailto:vox@ripienochoir.org.uk),*

*or book online at*

*[www.ripienochoir.org.uk](http://www.ripienochoir.org.uk)*

In Jacobean England there were few more hazardous lifestyle choices than openly professing sympathy towards Roman Catholicism.. Members of Catholic congregations were forced to attend Anglican services or were punished for failing to do so, while their own services were held in secret in domestic surroundings. But they did not worship without music.

The Latin motets in this programme have survived in books from their domestic libraries, not from cathedrals or other major churches, and with one exception have failed to find a place in the repertoire of liturgical choirs or, in some cases, even be published until this century. The reasons for this are certainly not comments on the intrinsic interest or quality of the music, but mundanely practical. Some of the pieces have survived incomplete (with one or more voice part missing) and so require careful analysis of the surviving music and then some composition in the appropriate style; some require either very high (or very low) notes; some require individual voice parts to sing very wide ranges; and some employ quite challenging harmony of the kind we might more readily associate with bolder madrigals.

But **The Ripieno Choir** enjoys a challenge and, not for the first time, is excited to be presenting an audience with fine music that few will have heard since the earliest

performances. As he often does, conductor **David Hansell** has checked, evaluated and sometimes corrected the work of previous editors and publishers and has enjoyed entering the minds of the composers to fill the gaps that history has created in their music. The English anthems that complete the programme have a more straightforward history and have enjoyed a virtually unbroken performance history since they were written. All are absolute masterpieces, regularly to be heard in our cathedrals and major churches. Orlando Gibbons's *O clap your hands* even earned him a Doctorate in Music from Oxford University.

Finally, all our 2017 programmes will contain at least one piece by Claudio Monteverdi, baptised on 15th May 1567. We are assuming that he was born the previous day (baptism followed swiftly upon birth at the time) and will be presenting a free concert of his music on Sunday 14th May. In the meantime, the lively *Gloria* from one of his three surviving mass settings will serve as an appetiser.

*The concert will start at 7.30pm and will end at approximately 9.30pm.*