

Stile Antico tour to Newcastle and Leeds with their programme **The Golden Renaissance**



Acclaimed early music ensemble Stile Antico take their **Golden Renaissance programme on tour** to Newcastle Cathedral on **Friday 8 March** and Howard Assembly Rooms, Leeds on **Tuesday 2 April**.

Showcasing the music of Byrd in his 400th anniversary year, the ensemble perform music of his **English and European contemporaries**, closing the programme with *The Phoenix and the Turtle* by contemporary composer Huw Watkins. Byrd's *Exsurge Domine* is taken from his 1591 *Cantiones Sacrae* and stands as a fine example of 16th-century counterpoint.

The concerts will be preceded by Stile Antico's ***Reasons to Sing*** workshops, which were initiated in tandem with their *England's Nightingale* tour celebrating the **400th anniversary of William Byrd in 2023**. It is inspired by Byrd's 1588 manifesto '*Reasons to Sing*', and is tailored to Year 8 pupils in schools where music education and performance opportunities are limited. The project features **a Byrd-inspired work by Kerry Andrew, *Oh Sing***, which is performed by school children in each of the ensemble's *Reasons to Sing* workshops.

"The anniversary celebrations offered no finer tribute than this typically imaginative, immaculate record from Stile Antico."

New York Times

Byrd wrote music in both Latin and English, which was unusual for the time: he was Catholic but working for a Protestant monarch, and more unusually, was granted sole rights to print and publish music alongside his teacher Thomas Tallis, who was also Roman Catholic. Stile Antico's The Golden Renaissance programme mostly features music of the Renaissance in western Europe with composers including Morales and Victoria, with Francisco Guerrero's *A Un Niño Llorando* as a secular contribution to a mostly sacred collection. Josquin des Prez, Giaches de Wert and Praetorius represent the Franco-Flemish polyphonic tradition alongside Tudor composers Gibbons, Sheppard and Tallis.

The Phoenix and the Turtle by composer Huw Watkins closes the programme; the work was written for Stile Antico and received its first recording in 2018 on the Harmonia Mundi label. Watkins's striking setting uses Shakespeare's poem of the same title, and uses the idea of a bird's funeral to describe the death of an idealistic love.

"Watkins's versatility knows no bounds"
The Guardian

Upcoming Events

Friday 8 March, 19:30

Newcastle Cathedral

Tuesday 2 April, 19:30

Howard Assembly Rooms, Leeds

The Golden Renaissance

Byrd *Exsurge Domine*

Taverner *Audivi vocem de caelo*

Guerrero *A un niño llorando*

Praetorius *Ein Kind geboren*

Tallis *In manus tuas*

Tomkins *O Praise the Lord*

Gibbons *Hosanna to the Son of David*

Sheppard *I give you a new commandment*

Victoria *Recessit pastor noster*

Allegri *Miserere* (abbreviated concert version)

De Morales *Jubilate Deo*

Gibbons *O clap your hands*

Byrd *Retire my soul*

De Wert *Gaudete in Domino*

Papa *Ego flos campi*

des Prez *Salve Regina* a5

Huw Watkins *The Phoenix and the Turtle*

Stile Antico

Stile Antico

Stile Antico is firmly established as one of the world's most accomplished and innovative vocal ensembles. Working without a conductor, its twelve members have thrilled audiences on four continents with their fresh, vibrant and moving performances of Renaissance polyphony. Its bestselling recordings have earned accolades including the Gramophone Award for Early Music, Diapason d'or de l'année, Edison Klassiek Award, and Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik. The group has received three Grammy® nominations, and performed live at the 60th



Grammy® Awards at Madison Square Garden. Based in London, Stile Antico has appeared at many of the world's most prestigious venues and festivals. The group enjoys a particularly close association with Wigmore Hall, and has performed at the BBC Proms, Buckingham Palace, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, the Palais des Beaux-Arts, Cité de la Musique, Luxembourg Philharmonie, Leipzig Gewandhaus and Madrid's Auditorio Nacional. Stile Antico is frequently invited to appear at Europe's leading festivals: highlights include the Antwerp, Bruges, Utrecht and York Early Music Festivals, the Lucerne Easter Festival and the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival.

Since its 2009 North American debut at the Boston Early Music Festival, Stile Antico has enjoyed frequent tours to the US and Canada. The group performs regularly in Boston and New York, and has appeared at the Ravinia Festival, Washington's National Cathedral and Library of Congress, Vancouver's Chan Centre, and in concert series spanning twenty-five US states. Stile Antico has also appeared in Mexico and Colombia, and in 2018 visited East Asia for the first time, performing in South Korea, Macau and Hong Kong.

Stile Antico's performances are often praised for their immediacy, expressive commitment, and their sensitive and imaginative response to text. These qualities arise from the group's collaborative working style: members rehearse and perform as chamber musicians, each contributing artistically to the musical results. The group is also noted for its compelling programming, which often draws out thematic connections between works to shine new light on Renaissance music. In addition to its core repertoire, Stile Antico has premiered works by Joanna Marsh, John McCabe, Nico Muhly, Giles Swayne, and Huw Watkins. The group's diverse range of collaborators includes Fretwork, the Folger Consort, Marino Formenti, Lemn Sissay, B'Rock, Rihab Azar, and Sting.

Alongside its concert and recording work, Stile Antico is passionate about sharing its repertoire and working style with the widest possible audience. As well as leading regular courses at the Dartington International Summer School, the group has been resident at Zenobia Música, and is often invited to work alongside ensembles at universities, festivals, and early music forums. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Stile Antico threw its energies into digital projects, producing a 'virtual choir' recording of Tallis' Spem in Alium, as well as filmed concerts and lecture-recitals. The support of the charitable Stile Antico Foundation has enabled Stile Antico to offer bursaries to talented young professional singers and ensembles, and to run an annual Youth Consort course.

2023 sees Stile Antico mark 400 years since the death of William Byrd with the release of an acclaimed second album on Decca Classics, a BBC Proms appearance in Derry, three visits to the US, and concerts and workshops throughout the UK, supported by Arts Council England and the Society for Ren Studies. Further engagements include concerts in Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Switzerland.

stileantico.co.uk

For more information on any of the above, please contact

Nicky Thomas Media

Unit 12 The Stableyard, Broomgrove Rd, London SW9 9TL

+44 (0)20 3714 7594 | +44 (0)7768 566 530

info@nickythomasmedia.com

www.nickythomasmedia.com