An immersive staged Mass on the 400th ANNIVERSARY OF WILLIAM BYRD

# Secret Byrd

CREATED AND DIRECTED BY BILL BARCLAY

CO-COMMISSIONED BY ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS AND WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL





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An immersive staged Mass on the 400th ANNIVERSARY OF WILLIAM BYRD

# **PRELUDE**

Three Fantasias in Three Parts

Fantasy in Five Parts: Browning, or The Leaves be Green

# MAIN PERFORMANCE

Memento, homo

*In Nomine* in Five Parts

Mass for Five Voices

I. KYRIE

II. GLORIA

Fantasia in Six Parts, No. 2

Mass for Five Voices

III. CREDO

Fantasia in Six Parts, No. 3

Mass for Five Voices

IV. SANCTUS

V. BENEDICTUS
VI. AGNUS DEI

# INTERRUPTION

Elegy on the death of Thomas Tallis (Ye Sacred Muses)

Mass for Four Voices

VI. AGNUS DEI

# COMMUNION

Pavan and Galliard in Six Parts

Infelix ego

Haec die

CREATED AND DIRECTED BY BILL BARCLAY

COSTUME DESIGN BY ARTHUR OLIVER

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE STAFF MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS WHO MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

Isaiah 9:2

# MEMENTO HOMO QUIA PULVIS ES ET IN PULVERE REVERTERIS:

# Recusant Worship in Reformation-Era England

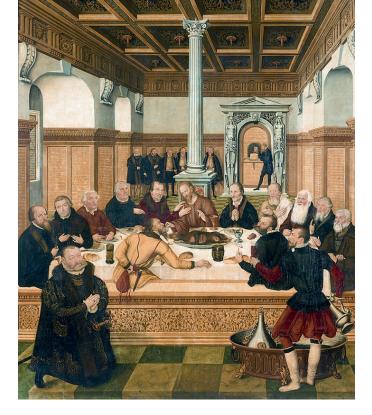
By Beatrice Dalov



IMAGE DANIELLE E. THOMAS / WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL In hushed tones set to flickering candlelight, recusant Catholics recite the illicit liturgy of the Mass, assemble impromptu consorts of singers and instrumentalists, and consecrate bread and wine in an intimate performance of the Last Supper. Their chapels—some even equipped with organs—nestle behind false walls, above hidden attics, and in inconspicuous country homes away from the purview of royal spies; yet, notwithstanding its elaborate ritual and array of relics, their worship is ephemeral, easily transfigured into an innocuous, even unmemorable, gathering if discovered or expropriated. Crucifixes, chalices, patens, and hymnals adorn immaculate altar cloths yet lay within short reach of ingenuously concealed "priest holes," inside which both preacher and paraphernalia could cower in the event of a search. Catholic worship in sixteenth-century Reformation England was precarious in its willful admission to political treason—indeed, it embodied the visceral pursuit of a capriciously persecuted peoples for a pious, and indeed zealously messianic, communion with the divine.

Catholic worship in sixteenth-century Reformation England was precarious in its willful admission to political treason—indeed, it embodied the visceral pursuit of a capriciously persecuted peoples for a pious, and indeed zealously messianic, communion with the divine.

Laying the ideological groundwork for the Protestant Reformation were Renaissance humanists who called for a return ad fontes of Christian faith—the Scriptures as understood through textual and linguistic scholarship—and maintained that Catholic pillars of justification, such as the Mass, the sacraments, charitable acts, prayers to saints, pilgrimages, and the veneration of relics, represented mere superstition at best and idolatry at worst. Yet the Reformation as it unfolded in England radically differed in ambition from its parallels on the Continent—rather than a populist



insurgency led by a small sect of fervent clerics, the Isles embraced Protestantism primarily in response to Henry VIII's (1491–1547) personal inconveniences with Pope Clement VII's denial of a marriage annulment in 1527, and secondarily from a centuries-long contest for power between British monarchs and the Catholic Church. Although Protestants and Catholics devoutly embroiled themselves in fundamental questions of doctrinal legitimacy, the English Crown concerned itself less with theological cavils than with an ongoing consolidation of secular and ecclesiastical hegemony against the Roman papacy, fiercely conflating religious allegiance with political loyalty. England's Reformation, more than a quibble over religious difference, was a profoundly political revolution—in federating the increasingly authoritarian Crown's power over the kingdom, Henry vied to channel public loyalty toward himself, rather than the Holy See.

Shrouded by the commotion of his romantic and political floundering between Catherine of Aragon and Anne

### ABOVE

LAST SUPPER (1565), OIL ON PANEL, LUCAS CRANACH THE YOUNGER (1515—1586). IN CONTRAST TO CATHOLIC CHURCHES, PROTESTANTS OFTEN SELECTED DEPICTIONS OF THE LAST SUPPER AS ALTARPIECES, REFLECTING THEIR AFFIRMATION OF CHRIST'S PNEUMATIC PRESENCE DURING COMMUNION. IN THIS UNTRADITIONAL RENDERING OF THE LAST SUPPER, CRANACH PORTRAYS LEADING PROTESTANT REFORMERS AS THE APOSTLES—LUTHER IS IN THE LEFT-HAND CORNER, THE GERMAN THEOLOGIAN PHILIP MELANCHTHON SITS ON THE RIGHT OF CHRIST, AND THE ELECTOR OF SAXONY KNEELS AT THE FRONT OF THE COMPOSITION.

# PROGRAM NOTES

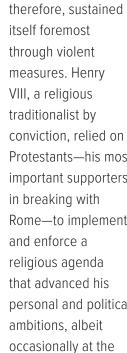
Boleyn, the insouciant monarch led the country to papal excommunication and—by means of the Reformation Parliament of 1532–1534—declared himself the "one Supreme Head and King" of England. Thus the notion of treason morphed into a profoundly dangerous ideology, signifying not merely an act against Henry VIII, in whom both governmental and divine authority were intimately wedded, but also against God; by natural extension did the sacraments through which the faithful received celestial grace—Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick, Penance, and the Eucharist—likewise transform into declarations of sedition against the Crown when performed in communion with Rome, rather than under

> the sanctions of the Church of England.

Yet such abrupt, and

deposition of the Catholic Church hierarchy polarized England and, therefore, sustained itself foremost through violent measures. Henry VIII, a religious conviction, relied on Protestants—his most important supporters in breaking with Rome—to implement and enforce a religious agenda that advanced his personal and political ambitions, albeit occasionally at the expense of his own persuasions. Thus the

indeed opportunistic,



sounds of the English

Reformation enveloped the sharp knocks of spies on unsuspecting doors; the toppling of statues in town centers that, contextually, morphed into displays of heresy; the forcible dissolution of monasteries loyal to Rome, in which the wealth of the Catholic Church was concentrated; and the echoes of stinging words of conflict over prayers, rubrics, and musical sensibilities within the country's once-grandiose cathedrals—what they instigated, however, was a period of doctrinal confusion as both conservatives and reformers battled to dictate the Church of England's identity.

With the 1553 ascension of Mary I (1516–1558), or "Bloody Mary," to the throne, however, the pendulum once again swung in Catholicism's favor—undoing many of Edward's Anglican reforms, she burnt Cranmer at the stake, promulgated Protestantism as an illegal heresy, and—by the time of her death in 1558—brought the country to the brink of a religious civil war.

If Henry VIII did little to reform the country in theological terms, then the six-year reign of his son, Edward VI (1537–1553), dramatically repositioned Anglicanism as in concert with Protestantism, a shift in large measure stewarded by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer (1489–1556), who professed strong objections to the Catholic liturgy—indeed, it was through him that sweeping search-and-destroy missions came into common practice, effacing much of early English polyphony and advocating for a "plain and distinct" musical style to proclaim the Dei verbum. With the 1553 ascension of Mary I (1516–1558), or "Bloody Mary," to the throne, however, the pendulum once again swung in Catholicism's favor—undoing many of Edward's Anglican



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Perhaps the last relevant monarch in the context of the English Reformation in general and William Byrd's (ca. 1540-1623) musical career in particular, Elizabeth I (1533–1603) inherited from her half-sister a theologically divided kingdom whose primary ally was Catholic Spain—a holdover from Mary's marriage to King Phillip—yet in which most subjects, especially the political elite, were religiously conservative. Thus her Elizabethan Settlement, implemented between 1559 and 1563 and broadly marking the conclusion of the English Reformation, reestablished the Church of England's independence from Rome yet gave greater latitude to its liturgical structure in an attempt

to reconcile—or at least assuage—the latent political tensions between Catholic and Protestants. Her preponderance for elaborate rituals within the Church of England allowed for Latin polyphony to experience a rebirth, and she did not seek to subject recusants to legal reprisal; yet resentments continued to fester, and following Pope Pius V's 1570 papal bull Regnans in Excelsis, which effectively absolved Elizabeth's Catholic subjects from their allegiance to her, compounded with the enduring threat of invasion from France or Spain—Catholicism increasingly became synonymous with treason in the perception of Tudor authorities. Likewise, rising suspicions that Elizabeth allowed too many concessions to Catholics galvanized Protestants to ravage her private chapel

# ABOVE

ETCHING OF WILLIAM BYRD (CA. 1730-1770) ETCHING ON PAPER, GERARD VAN DER GUCHT (1696-1776) AFTER NICOLA FRANCESCO HAYM (1679-1729). THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

THE GLORIFICATION OF THE EUCHARIST (CA. 1630-1632), OIL ON WOOD, PETER PAUL RUBENS (1577-1640), THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART EMPHASIZING MOVEMENT, COLOR, AND SENSUALITY IN A STYLE DISTINCT TO THE CATHOLIC COUNTER-REFORMATION, RUBENS DEPICTED THE RISEN CHRIST TRIUMPHING OVER SIN AND DEATH (REPRESENTED BY THE SNAKE AND SKELETON, RESPECTIVELY) AND FLANKED BY MELCHIZEDEK, ELIJAH, SAINT PAUL, AND SAINT CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA WHO WERE ALL ASSOCIATED WITH THE EUCHARIST.

# PROGRAM NOTES

BELOW

PORTRAIT OF MARTIN LUTHER (1483–1546),

LUCAS CRANACH THE

ELDER (1472-1553)

THE METROPOLITAN

WELL-ACQUAINTED

INVOLVED WITH

THE PRODUCTION

THE PROTESTANT

OF IMAGES FOR

REFORMATION

CRANACH MADE

ILLUSTRATIONS FOR

THE BIBLE AND FOR

LUTHER'S SERMONS,

BROADSHEETS

LECTURES, POLEMICAL

LUTHER AND HEAVILY

WITH MARTIN

OIL ON WOOD WORKSHOP OF on several occasions over the 1560s, in which her collection of crucifixes, candlesticks, and religious artifacts with Latin inscriptions foisted assumptions of religious dissent unto the monarch herself. Thus, in a corrective political move, Elizabeth flooded her government with Protestants and began a generally impassioned persecution of Catholics as religious heretics and treasonous subjects, freely leveraging royally dispatched spies, trials, and executions to build a climate of fear in the absence of a standing militia or police force.

Byrd came to maturity in this politically tenuous and doctrinally schismatic environment and indeed represented "the end of the line" in English Catholic music, bringing to a climax a tradition on the losing side of the Isles' theological war. By the time Byrd entered into his first known professional employment in 1563 as organist and master of the choristers at Lincoln Cathedral, three Protestant variations about the nature of music in church pervaded English society, unified primarily



by their agreement that the "obscurantist" traditions of the late medieval church needed replacement: moderates shared Martin Luther's opinion that music was a vital tool of persuasion; stronger-minded reformists developed, in the vein of Calvinists, a suspicious acceptance of it; and the most radical denied the validity of virtually all music in public worship, fearful that it made congregants vulnerable to carnal pleasures. Byrd, who exhibited no strong qualms about composing for Anglicans, nonetheless succumbed early to the attractions of luxuriant Catholic music and readily encountered resistance from clerical authorities—on

Indeed, Byrd firmly positioned himself against the excessively simplified chant, espoused in Cranmer's 1552 Book of Common Prayer, that was functional, comprehensible to, and accessible for the average worshipper, preferring instead the overtly expressive and sophisticated polyphony that epitomized the Catholic tradition;

November 19, 1569, the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral cited him for "certain matters alleged against him," among which his proclivity for elaborate choral polyphony and florid, virtuosic organ playing almost certainly numbered. Indeed, Byrd firmly positioned himself against the excessively simplified chant, espoused in Cranmer's 1552 Book of Common Prayer, that was functional, comprehensible to, and accessible for the average worshipper, preferring instead the overtly expressive and sophisticated polyphony that epitomized the Catholic tradition; yet in adopting such a style, he precariously blasphemed the Protestant leanings of both church and state.



In the early 1570s, however, Byrd assumed a coveted post as Gentleman in Her Majesty's Chapel Royal, forging the first of several critical links to the royal court and finding protection from anything but cursory reprimands of his thinly veiled predispositions. Elizabeth, a moderate Protestant with musical inclinations, valued Byrd both as an organ virtuoso and highly adept composer who brought a weight of distinction in the eyes of visiting dignitaries, and as a relatively tempered Catholic who acted as a bargaining chip in Elizabeth's negotiation of her religious reputation abroad. Insofar as Byrd offered gestures of conformity—such as his 1575 Cantiones guae ab argumento sacrae vocantur, rife with patriotic rhetoric dedicated to "Her Most Serene Majesty the Queen" and printed under a joint Letter Patent with Thomas Tallis (1505–1585), his Chapel Royal colleague—Elizabeth ceded that he could style himself as both a privately stiff papist and a publicly loyal subject. Indeed, court and composer maintained a resilient relationship—despotisms have both arbitrary victims and beneficiaries.

Yet Elizabeth's reign was profoundly turbulent, racked by a papal bull that released English Catholics from their presumption of loyalty, the unsuccessful Revolt of the Northern Earls, an attempted invasion from Spain, a series of underground plots to assassinate and replace her with Mary, Queen of Scots, and the fomentations of the Counter-Reformation Society of Jesus, which ordained priests on the Continent and missioned them to proselytize England back to Catholicism. Executions of Catholic priests, in turn, became more common: the first in 1577, four in 1581, eleven in 1582, two in 1583, six in 1584, fifty-three by 1590, and seventy more between 1601 and 1608 stoked fear of a larger insurrection against the Crown. Necessarily resulting was a monarchy steeped in paranoia,

### LEFT

NOLI ME TANGERE (1526–1528), OIL ON PANEL, HANS HOLBEIN THE YOUNGER (1497/8–1543). ROYAL COLLECTION TRUST. WHILE PROTESTANT OIL PAINTINGS OF CHRIST FROM THE REFORMATION ERA ARE RELATIVELY RARE—PROTESTANTS GENERALLY DISTRUSTED TOO IMPOSING OF A PRESENCE OF RELIGIOUS ART IN CHURCHES—THIS DEPICTION OF MARY MAGDALENE'S DISCOVERY OF CHRIST RISEN FROM THE TOMB EMBODIES THE DIRECT MEDIATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL WITH THE DIVINE CENTRAL TO REFORMATION IDEOLOGY.

where allegiances and loyalties were subject to constant checks and suspicions—thus Byrd, whose private life increasingly gave itself over to the prying eyes of the overwhelmingly Protestant court, withdrew into the closet world of recusancy.

By the early 1580s, following a move to the Middlesex countryside, Byrd had found company in dangerous quarters.

By the early 1580s, following a move to the Middlesex countryside, Byrd had found company in dangerous quarters. Cramped in his ability to entertain the role of official church composer in the ars perfect style—the range of suitable texts for motets, stringently circumscribed by the narrow limits of the Catholic-Anglican overlap, mostly consisted of psalms—he instead pivoted to a musically recusant embrace of Catholicism, appropriating the final words of his embattled coreligionists (so-called "gallows texts," such as *Infelix ego* and *Haec* dies) into affective personal, rather than institutional, professions of a martyred faith. His frequent attendance at worship services ministered by Jesuit priests led, in 1582, to his association with Sir Thomas Paget,

# PROGRAM NOTES

a known Catholic who was embroiled in the Babington and Throckmorton Plots, and resulted in his suspension from the Chapel Royal, a formal restriction on his movements, and a citation of his house on a local search list. Blithely unconcerned, he published two volumes of *Cantiones sacrae* in 1589 and 1591, eschewing sanctioned liturgical texts in favor of biblical pastiches that groan with the anguish of Catholicism's persecution, exile, and alienation in a country gripped by the throes of political theology—indeed, he wove elaborate analogies that, although typically Biblical and therefore blameless in some sense, encoded the captivity of the English Catholic



## LEFT

THE DESCENT FROM THE CROSS (1612–1614), OIL ON PANEL, PETER PAUL RUBENS (1577–1640). CATHOLIC CHURCHES OFTEN COMMISSIONED CRUCIFIXION SCENES FOR THEIR ALTARPIECES TO IMPRESS UPON THEIR CONGREGANTS THAT THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST AND THE SACRIFICE OF THE MASS WERE SYNONYMOUS, REALIZED THROUGH THE LITERAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE EUCHARIST.

Yet simultaneously, Byrd set to music Elizabeth's anthem "Look and bow down thine ear, O Lord," written in celebration of England's victory against the 1588 Spanish Armada—thus, in the moral conflict of musical conviction juxtaposed against political protection, he painted a portrait of an apparently self-contradicting figure who was both highly sympathetic to Catholic missionaries and a supporter of the Jesuits, yet also a thoroughly loyal Englishman who performed the gestures and public statements that reinforced loyalty and obedience to the Queen.

community into metaphors of Jewish, Babylonian, and Egyptian historical plights for religious freedom. Yet simultaneously, Byrd set to music Elizabeth's anthem "Look and bow down thine ear, O Lord," written in celebration of England's victory against the 1588 Spanish Armada—thus, in the moral conflict of musical conviction juxtaposed against political protection, he painted a portrait of an apparently self-contradicting figure who was both highly sympathetic to Catholic missionaries and a supporter of the Jesuits, yet also a thoroughly loyal Englishman who performed the gestures and public statements that reinforced loyalty and obedience to the Queen.

Moving once more to Stondon Massey, a recusant community in the countryside, Byrd effectively retired from the Chapel Royal (though he remained on their formal register of members) and closely wedded himself to his patron and acquaintance since at least 1581, John Petre, for whom he began to write music to accompany clandestine Mass celebrations. While Petre's Catholic services attracted on occasion the unwelcome attention of spies and paid informers

working for the Crown, his family was wellconnected to the monarchy—Elizabeth had knighted him in 1576, and she not infrequently noted "Sir John" in her domestic papers—and he likewise held a number of government posts in Essex that favorably positioned him to brandish authority in the conscious obfuscating of his religious attitudes, enveloping his composer into his protective sphere. Thus between 1593 and 1595, Byrd composed three settings of the Mass Ordinary for four, three, and five voices, imbuing them with strained and often poignantly dissonant—explorations of faith, divine grace, and personal ideology against a disillusioned backdrop of political fragility, theological polemics, and an excessively simplified musical tradition. Starkly contrasting their parallels on the continent, where composers offered Masses by the dozens, Byrd's settings of England's seditious liturgical texts evidence a sublime awareness of, and reverence for, their semantic content; indeed, they offer a quintessentially Catholic consideration of religiosity and worship, culminating with their unified choral declamations on the confession "Et unam, sanctam, catholicam et apostolicam Ecclesiam" ("Yes, I believe in one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church"). Yet he flaunts, once more, both his political caution and his brazenness: published with no title page or obvious incriminating marker on their cover, the three Masses betray Byrd's name scrawled on every sheet of the manuscript—an audacious declaration of his faith and of the power structures that so often shielded him from its repercussions.

Yet in 1603, when Queen Elizabeth I passed away, Byrd did not neglect to pay homage to his royal patron—in the Chapel Royal's books for the Gentlemen's morning livery, his name appears, in florid lettering, under the account of her funeral service. He, likewise, would not overlook

### ABOV

THE DENIAL OF SAINT PETER (1610), OIL ON CANVAS, CARAVAGGIO (1571–1610). THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART. CARAVAGGIO, EMPLOYING A DARK AND EXPRESSIVE STYLE LARGELY WITHOUT PRECEDENT IN EUROPEAN VISUAL ART, FOCUSED ON PETER'S POIGNANT REPENTANCE FOLLOWING HIS DENIAL OF CHRIST IN KEEPING WITH COUNTER-REFORMATION THEOLOGY.



appealing to the new regime for support, writing sometime between 1605 and 1612 to the Earl of Salisbury, chief secretary to James I, to confirm the understanding he had with Elizabeth that allowed him to indulge his musical predilections for Catholicism's *ars perfecta*:

"The humble petition of William Byrd, one of the gentlemen of His Majesty's chapel, that being to crave the council's letter to Mr. Attorney General to like effect and favour for his recusancy as the late greatest Queen and her council gave him."

The vein of risk coursing through Byrd's— and every Catholic's—life in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century England certainly never abated; yet it fundamentally animated both his theological and his musical expressions of faith, concentrating the visceral experiences of persecuted worship into a monumental figurehead—while also bringing into sharp relief the systems of power and privilege underlying the Reformation's violent political ambitions.

# CONCERT THEATRE WORKS

# **Bill Barclay**

Creator and Director

**Arthur Oliver** Costume Designer

Lily Vadaneaux Musicologist

# **Justin Seward**

Properties Designer and U.S. Production Manager

# **Lucy Barrie** U.K. Stage and **Production Manager**



Hailed a "personable polymath" in The London Times, Bill Barclay is Artistic Director of both Concert Theatre Works and Music Before 1800, New York's oldest early music presenter. He was Director of Music at Shakespeare's Globe from 2012-2019, producing music for over 120 productions and 150 concerts. He

composed the original score for 12 Globe productions including Hamlet Globe-to-Globe, which toured to 197 countries, and was Music Supervisor on Broadway and the West End for Farinelli and the King, Twelfth Night, and Richard III, all starring Mark Rylance and performed on period instruments.

A passionate advocate for evolving the concert hall, Barclay has created over 20 works of concert-theatre for the world's leading ensembles, including the LA Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican, and six commissions for The Boston Symphony Orchestra including The Chevalier, Peer Gynt, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Magic Flute, and L'Histoire du Soldat. Other collaborators include Silkroad, The Cleveland Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Center, National Symphony Orchestra, City of London

Sinfonia, National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, Washington National Cathedral; Tanglewood and Spoleto Festivals; and Milwaukee, Cincinnati, Virginia, Winston-Salem and Buffalo Symphonies. He has collaborated with a number of historically informed ensembles, including The English Concert, The Sixteen, Music of the Baroque, and Barokksolistene. He returns to St Martin in the Fields this March with the London Philharmonic Orchestra for the UK Premier of The Chevalier.

Barclay seeks to collapse the space between arts and advocacy, composing the film A Mother's Love for the Wild Foundation, creating Tales in Migration to score immigrant's stories, and funding The Sphinx Organization's National Alliance for Audition Support. His single "Let Nature Sing", made entirely of birdsong with folk singer Sam Lee, debuted at #11 on the UK Pop Charts for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Secret Byrd addresses the

fresh threat today of belief intolerance around the globe.

A noted curator, he piloted the Candlelit Concerts series in the Globe's Sam Wanamaker Playhouse from its construction in 2014, featuring major collaborations including the Royal Opera House, BBC Proms and London Jazz Festival, and with guest curators John Williams, Trevor Pinnock, Lauren Laverne, the Brodsky Quartet, and Anoushka Shankar.

Barclay's original music has been performed for President Obama, the British Royal Family, for the Olympic Torch, at the United Nations, in Buckingham Palace, and in refugee camps in Jordan and Calais. He is the founder of the label Globe Music, recognized by the BBC, The Royal Philharmonic Society and Songlines (Top of the World, 2016), with releases featuring Ian Bostridge and Soumik Datta. He recently created a new Four Seasons Recomposed for Max Richter on period instruments with the puppetry masters Gyre & Gimble.

# CATHEDRA

# Soprano

Crossley Hawn

Alto Aryssa Leigh Burrs

# **Tenor**

Ben Hawker Jacob Perry

# **Bass**

Michael McCarthy Gilbert Spencer

# **Viol Consort**

**Amy Domingues** Jessica Powell Eig Loren Ludwig John Moran Leslie Nero Niccolo Seligmann

**Cathedra Stage** Manager Aaron Muller

Cathedra, the resident concert ensemble at Washington National Cathedral, presents "unique and arresting" experiences that garner praise for their "beautifully blended choral sound" and "richly contrasted, infinitely varied colors" (The Washington Post). From dramatic experiences of recusant worship, hidden behind private chapel doors in sixteenth-century England; to dizzying arrays of sacred sound in

seventeenth-century Venice; to the orchestral technicolor of twentieth-century Paris, Cathedra brings sublime expression to music across the ages. Constituting a highly skilled ensemble of professional singers and instrumentalists led by Michael McCarthy, the ensemble both animates the sacred spaces of Washington National Cathedral and extends the identity of its programming beyond the building's physical

bounds. Cathedra cultivates historically informed performances that evoke experiences of worship transcending time and tradition; yet it also stewards contemporary expressions of faith that resonate with the global landscapes of the twentyfirst century. In upholding the legacies of sacred music while championing the rich diversity of contemporary composers and arrangers, Cathedra poises itself on the frontier of musical excellence.



# Secret Byrb tour dates

# *JANUARY 27*–28

# **U.K. PREMIERE**

West End Theatre, London, with The Gesualdo Six and Fretwork

# MARCH 4-5

# U.S. PREMIERE

Washington National Cathedral, Washington, D.C., with Cathedra

# APRIL 16

Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, V.A., with Cathedra

# MAY 11

St. Paul's School, Concord, N.H., with Cathedra

# **MAY 12**

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church, Providence, R.I., with Cathedra

# JUNE 9-11

Death of Classical at Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, N.Y., with Cathedra and Abendmusik

# JUNE 29

Oxford Festival of the Arts, Oxford, U.K., with The Gesualdo Six and Fretwork

# CONCERT THEATRE WORKS

# JULY 2

Martin Randall Travel, Lincoln, U.K., with The Gesualdo Six and Fretwork

# JULY 16

First Congregational Church in Nantucket, Nantucket, M.A., with Cathedra

# SEPTEMBER 7

The Mount Without, Bristol, U.K., with The Gesualdo Six and Fretwork

# SEPTEMBER 13

Lammermuir Festival at The Collegiate Church of St Mary the Virgin, Haddington, Scotland, with The Gesualdo Six and Fretwork

# OCTOBER 13

Brighton Early Music Festival at St Bartholomew's, Brighton, U.K., with The Gesualdo Six and Fretwork

# NOVEMBER 13-14

Performance Santa Fe at The Meem Center, Santa Fe, N.M., with The Gesualdo Six and Abendmusik

# DECEMBER 2

National Centre for Early Music, York, U.K., with The Gesualdo Six and Fretwork

concerttheatreworks.com