



DISCANTVS
In the Artists' Hall

CONVIVIVM
RECORDS



In the Artists' Hall

The pieces on this recording are a sample of DISCANTVS' repertoire, which is largely sacred and from the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries.

As a group, we enjoy performing music which has a certain gravitas, that rather elusive factor where the music seems to enable the singer and listener to hear something beyond the notes so that the beauty of the music acts as a sort of portal.

If this depth is indeed there in the music, then the composer is the one who has in fact opened the door and so one of the endeavours of the choir is to allow the music to speak and not overlay it with "our" performance. Who are these composers?

Two Englishmen feature strongly in our work, Peter Philips (1560 - 1628) and Richard Dering (c1580 - 1630), both practising Catholics in an era of Protestant revolution and religious upheaval across England. Both show an awareness of the developing Italianate style of the early C16.

Alongside, we place Robert Ramsey (fl. 1616 - 44) William Byrd (1543 -1623), Tallis (c1505 - 1585) and Robert Parsons (? - 1570) and two continental composers, Hans Leo Hassler (1564 - 1612) and Thomás Luis de Victoria (1548 - 1611).

This selection is interspersed with vocal and instrumental interludes (Nos 1, 4, 6, 9, 16, 17). Vocal interludes are rounds or extracts from larger works which we have enjoyed singing in an odd moment, such as at a mealtime, in a square in Madrid or on a coach journey. Two of the recorder pieces are in fact madrigals.

The final piece is a setting of a collect from Evensong by one of our singers, David Goymour. We have delighted in singing this in a number of English cathedrals.



DISCANTVS

DISCANTVS (a choir of about 22 voices) was set up in 1988 under its present director, Bruce Ramell. It was originally formed to serve needs within the School of Economic Science in London, under whose auspices it continues to operate.

Many of its performances continue to be related to needs and projects of the school and over the years this has led to performances in many places in England and abroad. For example, during its twentieth year in 2008 the choir sang in St James Piccadilly London, Art in Action (a festival near Oxford), Merton College Oxford, Birmingham, Guildford and Winchester cathedrals, Valetta cathedral (Malta) and Deventer (Holland).

Bruce Ramell

Bruce Ramell is a retired headmaster and a long-time member of the School of Economic Science. He worked first as an analytical chemist and then, having gained a master's degree in musicology, taught music and mathematics.



DISCANTVS

In the Artists' Hall

Directed by *Bruce Ramell*

Recorded, Edited and Produced by *Adrian Green*

Mastering, Engineering by *Adaq Khan & Kevin Hodgson*

Recorded in *The Artists' Hall, Waterperry House, Oxfordshire*

Soprano

Jill Crehan
Katherine Cselko
Ann Garry
Monica Gilbert
Kate Meltzer*
Gill Thompson
Kate Wilson

Alto

Anthea Douglas
Danniella Downs
Deirdre Francis
Alejandra Diaz
Garcia
Heather Graves
Heather Ramell*
Elizabeth Ward*

Tenors

John-Paul Bowman
Nick de Mattos
Paul Summers
Daniel Wright

*recorder players

Bass

David Fletcher*
David Goymour*
Michael May
Andrew Sisson
Stephen Thompson
David Ward
Peter Weigall



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