

# Boston Early Music Festival

INTERNATIONAL BAROQUE OPERA • CELEBRATED CONCERTS • WORLD-FAMOUS EXHIBITION

**Boston Early Music Festival**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** November 14, 2016

**BEMF presents The Tallis Scholars, directed by Peter Phillips, in a program of classic Christmas texts—December 9 in Harvard Square.**

**ARTISTS:**     **The Tallis Scholars** (*United Kingdom*)  
                  **Peter Phillips**, *director*

**WHEN:**       **Friday, December 9, 2016 at 8pm**  
                  St. Paul Church, Bow & Arrow Streets, Cambridge

**PROGRAM:**   **O splendor gloriae: Festive Music of Josquin, Victoria, Taverner, and more**

Josquin des Prez: *Praeter rerum seriem*  
Cipriano de Rore: *Missa Praeter rerum*  
De Rore: *Hodie Christus natus est*  
Tomás Luis de Victoria : *Magnificat Primi Toni*  
Claudin de Sermisy: *Salve regina*  
Hernando Franco: *Salve regina*  
John Taverner: *O splendor gloriae*

**TICKETS:**    Tickets are priced at **\$25, \$45, \$55, and \$75** each, and can be purchased at **[www.BEMF.org](http://www.BEMF.org)** and **617-661-1812**; a \$5 discount for students, seniors, and groups is available by calling 617-661-1812. Subscription discounts are available with the purchase of three or more programs on the 2016–2017 Season.

## **ABOUT THE PROGRAM:**

With more than 2,000 concert performances around the globe, director Peter Phillips and The Tallis Scholars continue to be among Early Music's most essential ensembles, with breathtakingly virtuosic performances of pristine clarity. A fixture of the BEMF concert stage for 28 consecutive years, they return with a holiday program of classic texts associated with the Christmas season. The program opens with the Christmas motet *Praeter rerum seriem*, by one of the most influential masters of the high renaissance, Josquin des Prez. His impact can be seen in Cipriano de Rore's intricately constructed *Missa Praeter rerum*, based on Josquin's motet. The second half continues the festive theme with masterpieces by Victoria, de Sermisy, Renaissance Mexican master Hernando Franco, and finally Taverner's *O splendor gloriae*, an elaborate and sublimely beautiful antiphon celebrating the Holy Trinity.

## **ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE:**

**The Tallis Scholars** were founded in 1973 by their director, Peter Phillips. Through numerous recordings and concert performances, they have established themselves as the leading exponents of Renaissance sacred music throughout the world. Peter Phillips has worked with the ensemble to create, through excellent tuning and blend, the purity and clarity of sound which he feels best serve the Renaissance

repertoire, allowing every detail of the musical lines to be heard. It is the resulting beauty of sound for which The Tallis Scholars have become so widely renowned. The Tallis Scholars perform in both sacred and secular venues, giving around 70 concerts each year across the globe. In 2013 the group celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a World Tour performing 99 events in 80 venues in 16 countries. Recordings by The Tallis Scholars have attracted many awards throughout the world, with recent honors including their recording of Josquin's *Missa De beata virgine* and *Missa Ave maris stella* which received a Diapason d'Or de l'Année in November, 2012, and in their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year being welcomed into the *Gramophone* Hall of Fame by public vote.

**ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:**

**Peter Phillips** has made an impressive if unusual reputation for himself in dedicating his life's work to the research and performance of Renaissance polyphony. He founded The Tallis Scholars in 1973, with whom he has now appeared in over 2000 concerts and made over 60 discs, encouraging interest in polyphony all over the world. Apart from The Tallis Scholars, Peter Phillips continues to work with other specialist ensembles including the BBC Singers, Collegium Vocale of Ghent, and the Netherlands Chamber Choir. He has made numerous television and radio appearances, on *BBC Radio 4* and the World Service as well as on German, French, Canadian and North American radio.

**ASSOCIATED EVENTS:**

There will be a Pre-Concert Talk at 7pm with Tallis Scholars director **Peter Phillips**.

**RESOURCES:**

Download artist photos: <http://www.bemf.org/pages/press/images.htm>

BEMF's 2016–2017 Season Press Release: [http://www.bemf.org/pages/press/052416\\_1617season.htm](http://www.bemf.org/pages/press/052416_1617season.htm)

**ABOUT THE BOSTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL:**

Recognized as the preeminent early music presenter and Baroque opera producer in North America, the **Boston Early Music Festival (BEMF)** has been credited with securing Boston's reputation as "America's early music capital" (*The Boston Globe*). Founded in 1981, BEMF offers diverse programs and activities, including one GRAMMY Award-winning and four GRAMMY Award-nominated opera recordings, an annual concert series that brings early music's brightest stars to the Boston and New York concert stages, and a biennial week-long Festival and Exhibition recognized as the "world's leading festival of early music" (*The Times*, London). The 19<sup>th</sup> Boston Early Music Festival will take place from June 11–18, 2017, and will feature fully staged performances of André Campra's *Le Carnaval de Venise* as the Centerpiece Opera. BEMF's Artistic Leadership includes Artistic Directors **Paul O'Dette** and **Stephen Stubbs**, Opera Director **Gilbert Blin**, Orchestra Director **Robert Mealy**, and Dance Director **Melinda Sullivan**.

The 2016–2017 Boston Early Music Festival Concert Series is presented with support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, National Endowment for the Arts, ConstellationCenter, WGBH Radio Boston, Harpsichord Clearing House, Zuckermann Harpsichords International, and The Gregory E. Bulger Foundation.

**For more information, images, press tickets, or to schedule an interview, please contact Kathleen Fay at 617-661-1812 or email [kathy@bemf.org](mailto:kathy@bemf.org).**

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