



Tallis Choir of Toronto

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 12, 2005

Tallis Choir Presents A Celebration of Healey Willan

WHO: The Tallis Choir, joined by the choirs of the Church of St. Mary Magdalene

WHAT: A Celebration of Healey Willan

WHERE: Church of St. Mary Magdalene
477 Manning Avenue
Toronto, ON M6G 2V8

WHEN: February 19, 2005 at 7:30 P.M.

TICKETS: \$20, \$16 students and seniors

INFORMATION OR TICKETS: info@tallischoir.com or 416-533-6179

The Tallis Choir presents a gala concert to mark the 125th anniversary of the birth of Healey Willan. Featured are *Behold the Tabernacle of God*, which showcases Willan's chromatic writing; the *Missa Brevis No. 11*, the most festive of his masses; and *An Apostrophe to the Heavenly Hosts*, often considered Willan's masterpiece, which was commissioned by the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and draws its text from eastern liturgies.

Born in 1880 in England, Healey Willan came to Canada in 1913, where he became one of his adopted country's most prolific and well-known composers. The last 47 of his 87 years were spent as organist and choirmaster at the high Anglican church of St. Mary Magdalene – the setting for this concert. Much of Willan's liturgical music was composed for use at St. Mary Magdalene's, where the worship, use of chant, and acoustics influenced his style. For this concert, the Tallis Choir will be joined by St. Mary Magdalene's Gallery Choir and Ritual Choir, which Willan and the Reverend H.G. Hiscocks founded in the 1920s.

Now in its 27th season, Tallis Choir is a chamber ensemble that has earned a reputation for innovative programming and polished performances. The choir has a repertoire ranging from Gregorian chant to contemporary choral music, and frequently collaborates with distinguished artists and ensembles.

Since the spring of 2003, Peter Mahon has served as Tallis Choir's artistic director. Known as both a singer and conductor, he is a member of several outstanding Canadian choirs, including Tafelmusik and Les Violons du Roy and, as a soloist, has specialized in Baroque oratorio. In addition to the Tallis Choir, he also conducts the William Byrd Singers, a 16-voice professional chamber choir he founded in 2000.