



Tallis Choir of Toronto

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 8, 2005

Tallis Choir Presents Vespers of the Virgin Mary

WHO: The Tallis Choir
WHAT: Vespers of the Virgin Mary
WHERE: St. Patrick's Church
141 McCaul Street (at Dundas)
Toronto, ON M5T 1W3
WHEN: Saturday, December 3, 2005 at 7:30 P.M.
TICKETS: \$25, \$20 for seniors, \$10 for students (at door only)
INFORMATION OR TICKETS: info@tallischoir.com or 416-533-6179

The Tallis Choir celebrates the 500th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Tallis with a recreation of the first Vespers of the Purification in the Chapel Royal of Queen Mary Tudor. The concert takes us back to the time of Tallis to offer a Catholic Vespers service as he might have experienced it, and includes music by Tallis as well as some of his contemporaries. The highlight of the evening is a performance of *Spem in Alium* – perhaps Tallis' greatest legacy. This remarkable motet is written for eight five-part choirs – 40 distinct parts. Each voice enters separately, and the intricate counterpoint continues for most of the piece, making the performance a thrilling experience for both singers and audience.

Now in its 28th season, Tallis Choir is a chamber ensemble that has earned a reputation for innovative programming and polished performances. Its repertoire ranges from Gregorian chant to contemporary choral music, and the choir 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.

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