

St Matthews Choir is very grateful for the following help and assistance:

Vision Director: Gareth Bevan
Vision Mixer: Alistair Slaughter
Cameras: Peter Cocup, Paul Murphy,
Tim Allan, Marcella Neri
Lights and Wire Control: Bernd Gauweiler

The Choir, as ever, is very grateful to the Rev. Peter Watkins and the congregation of St Matthews Church for all their support.

What's next for St Matthews?

Music

for Good Friday

Friday 6th April
10.30am

St Matthews Church

**Choruses from
Bach's Mass in B Minor**

Carl Orff

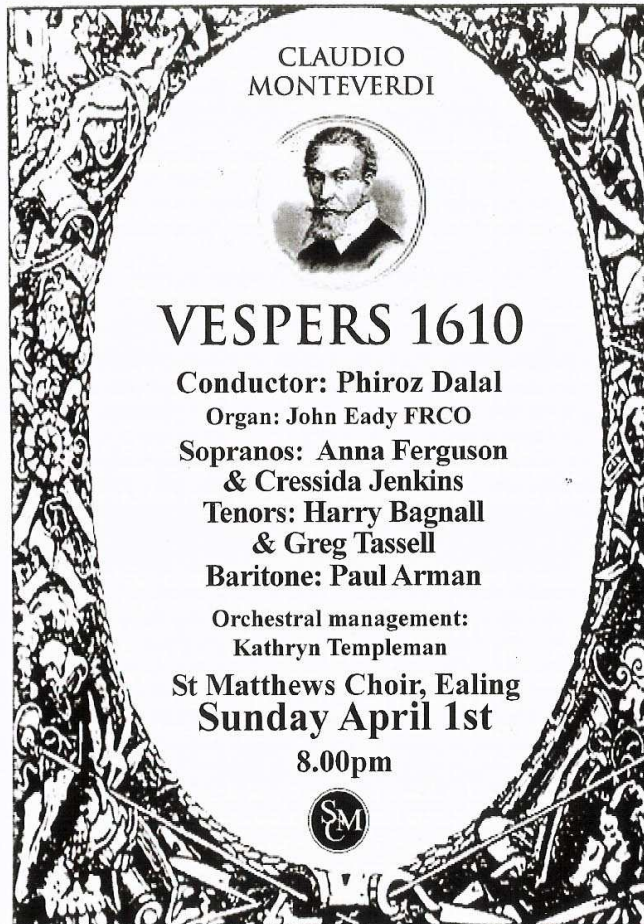
Carmina Burana

Leonard Bernstein
Chichester Psalms


St Matthews Church
17th June 7.30pm

St Matthews Choir performs classical, sacred and secular concerts throughout the year. We are a friendly, fully committed choir and welcome singers of all abilities. We rehearse at St Matthews Church (North Common Rd) every Thursday from 7.30 to 9.30 pm. There is no audition and no membership fee.

**Contact the Choir Manager: 020 8998 2879
www.smce.org.uk**



CLAUDIO
MONTEVERDI




VESPERS 1610

Conductor: Phiroz Dalal
Organ: John Eady FRCO
Sopranos: Anna Ferguson
& Cressida Jenkins
Tenors: Harry Bagnall
& Greg Tassell
Baritone: Paul Arman

Orchestral management:
Kathryn Templeman

St Matthews Choir, Ealing
Sunday April 1st
8.00pm



MONTEVERDI VESPERS



Claudio Monteverdi, whose contemporaries were Allegri and Schütz, was born in Italy in 1567. He is conventionally viewed as the first Baroque composer although his musical roots were in the Renaissance with composers such as Palestrina, Victoria and Byrd. He is credited with creating the recitative style and was part of the rise of a form of musical drama called opera. He wrote both secular and religious works which included operas, ballets, madrigals, motets and masses as well as the Marian Vespers.

The structure and texts of the Vespers service were laid down some time between 530-43, over a thousand years before Monteverdi's time, in The Rule of St. Benedict. The Vespers are built around several Biblical texts that are traditionally used as part of the liturgy for several Marian feasts in the Roman Catholic church. Vesper time varied according to the season between the tenth hour (4 pm) and the twelfth (6 pm).



Monteverdi used the set texts but set them to music using the new compositional styles which he had helped to develop for his secular music. In the Vespers he blends old and new styles and this approach earned the work a place in history. The old was polyphonic composition with flowing strict counterpoint, prepared dissonance, and equality of voices whilst the new had a much freer counterpoint with an increasing hierarchy of voices, emphasising soprano and bass.

Each movement is based on a traditional Gregorian plainchant. Monteverdi developed these simple melodies and wove into them a rich variety of new and old musical forms: chants, plainsong, arias, divided choirs, sonata, hymn and motet.



CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI VESPERS

1610

Deus in Adjuutorum

Dixit Dominus

Nigra Sum

Laudate Pueri

Pulchra Es

Laetatus Sum

Nisi Dominus

Audi Coelum

Lauda Jerusalem

Ave Maris Stella

Sonata Sopra Sancta Maria



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