

SOUNDS

Of

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Exaltabo te, Deus

- 10 *All your works praise you, O LORD, *
and your faithful servants bless you.*
- 11 *They make known the glory of your kingdom *
and speak of your power;*
- 12 *That the peoples may know of your power *
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.*
- 13 *Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; *
your dominion endures throughout all ages.*
- 14 *The LORD is faithful in all his words *
and merciful in all his deeds.*
- 15 *The LORD upholds all those who fall; *
he lifts up those who are bowed down.*
- 16 *The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, *
and you give them their food in due season.*
- 17 *You open wide your hand *
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.*
- 18 *The LORD is righteous in all his ways *
and loving in all his works.*
- 19 *The LORD is near to those who call upon him, *
to all who call upon him faithfully.*

Psalm 145:10-19

LISTEN UP!

AN ANGLICAN MUSIC MINISERIES:

II. THOMAS TALLIS

“As he did live, so also did he die, / In mild and quiet sort, O happy man!” Such is the epitaph of the man who, in his will, bequeathed his soul unto “Jesus Christ, the only Redeemer of the world.”

Thomas Tallis (c.1508-1585), it seems, was a man of humility and deep faith. Whether that faith found final context in the Roman Catholic Church into which he was born or in the new church of the English Reformation that ensued is impossible to say. Either way, his faith in God remained central to his work and his humility seems to have served him well in the realization of a long life.

Almost nothing is known of the early life of young Thomas or even the exact year of his birth. He did marry but only in middle age (1552), after he was financially stable. There is no evidence he had children. His first appointment was as organist of Dover Priory in 1530-31. Mind you, it was only a year later that Henry VIII broke with Rome after failing to get papal approval for the annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon in order to marry Anne Boleyn. The king went so far as to dissolve the monasteries, declaring himself Supreme Head of the Church of England. This, in turn, had a direct impact on Tallis who was in the service of the Augustinian Abbey of Holy Cross in Waltham, Essex, which was dissolved by the end of that decade. By 1541, we find our wandering minstrel singing at Canterbury Cathedral and only two years later he is appointed a “Gentleman” (or singer) of the Chapel Royal and remains in its employ for the rest of his life. That puts Tallis in the rare position of serving four reigning monarchs of the Tudor dynasty, composing and performing for each in turn: Henry VIII, his son Edward VI, and his daughters Mary I (“Bloody Mary”) and Elizabeth I.

In my last article I made a very long leap from plainsong to polyphony. Due to the lack of time and space, that jump is necessary in getting to our subject of Anglican church music, that is to say,

music of the Church of England as it developed from the time of Henry’s break with Rome. This leap in no way reflects a lack of riches to be found in the five hundred years between the first preserved manuscripts and the appearance of our dear Mr Tallis. Indeed, without that fertile soil of musical development through the Middle Ages, we would not have the abundant harvest of the English Renaissance as we know it.

For our purposes here, suffice it to say that the embellishment of plainchant led the way to the flowering of elaborate polyphony, an art that arguably reached its zenith in the 16th century. Part of the legacy of the English Reformation is the simplification of that musical style into an expression more comprehensible to the lay ear, especially where the delivery of text is concerned. That is the primary demand that has informed Anglican choral music ever since. In short, every word or syllable was to be paired with one or only a few notes. This simple, accessible style usurped the long and elegant melismatic layerings where text had become subservient to the music. This is where Tallis really shows himself the supreme master of his craft. While never completely abandoning the polyphony of his inheritance nor the use of familiar Latin, he ably adapts to the new parameters set forth and creates a body of work set to English poetry and the vernacular scripture translations available that set the gold standard for England’s new church.

If I had to boil all of this down to one piece and give the quintessential example of what I mean by Anglican church music it would be the deftly crafted anthem in four voices, *If ye love me*, probably written in the 1540’s by Tallis. It is only 26 measures long with the last 13 measures repeated to extend the structure to an ABB form, a commonly used template by Tallis and his contemporaries. Recordings are numerous and easily available, but I recommend the 2-CD set, *The Tallis Scholars sing Thomas Tallis* (Gimell UK #B00026W65E) which contains a wealth of music in both polyphonic and homophonic styles. As members of the Anglican Communion, these are your musical roots. So, listen up!

Stay tuned.... Gary Davison, O-C

VESTRY CORNER—BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

I am pleased to serve on the **Buildings Committee** with Steve Wilson, Jim Baker, George Maroulis and Guy Semmes. We are charged with keeping up the extensive physical plant at St. Francis as well as the Rectory. Just like a homeowner, we attempt to maximize the life of our current physical plant while planning for future replacements and upgrades, all with a sharp eye on available funds.

The largest current project includes placing architectural trim around much of the exposed woodwork on the church and the bell tower. This product is attractive looking, it fits the current molding, and it is more cost effective than replacing decayed wood and painting periodically. Much of the work has been completed on the church, and the bell tower will be finished this summer. The Vestry has also approved the painting of the church front doors and railings and the chapel window.

Additionally, the Vestry has approved drainage and landscaping work at the Rectory so that a recently-worsening drainage problem caused by runoff from a neighboring property will be solved.

Our most important job this year is to complete a survey of all the mechanical systems and buildings so the Vestry will have a sense of what funds will be needed to address specific projects in the months and years ahead. We have scheduled meetings with competent contractors, and our goal is to report to the Vestry this fall.

If you have any observations or requests about specific improvements regarding the church property, please forward them to the Buildings Committee or me at wcd Burr@aol.com.

—Corey Burr

JOY AND CONCERN

Congratulations to grandparents, Bill & Anne Charrier, and parents, Craig & Arwin Charrier Tibaldi, on the birth of Christopher Paul Tibaldi, born July 1, 2009.

Congratulations also to grandparents, Joel & Cindy Basset, and parents, Jodi Basset & Brian Cohen, on the birth of Eliana River Cohen, born July 3, 2009

GUEST CHOIR ON JULY 26TH

During the 10:00 a.m. liturgy on July 26th, choristers from Saint George's Episcopal Church in Nashville, TN will join us in worship. They are in town during the week serving as choir-in-residence at our Cathedral Church of St Peter and St Paul, and are led by Gerry Senechal, Associate Director of Music Ministries & Organist. St George's is one of the local parishes in Nashville that participates regularly in the Christ Church Cathedral Choral Festival, in which many of our choristers sang earlier this year and the year prior. We welcome these friends and give thanks for their ministry among us.



POTOMAC COUNTRY HOUSE TOUR

LAST CHANCE TO BE A HOUSE TOUR PATRON OR FRIEND

The final deadline to become a Patron or Friend to this year's House Tour is July 20th!

Patrons receive two complimentary tickets to the House Tour as well as an invitation to our wonderful party to recognize and thank the homeowners.

Thank you to all this year's Patrons & Friends and if you would like to join their ranks, please contact Barbara Moore no later than July 20th.

COMING UP AT ST FRANCIS

For more information, please visit our website at www.stfrancispotomac.org

SUNDAY, JULY 19

8:00am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Adult Education
10:00am Holy Eucharist

MONDAY, JULY 20

Youth to Bethany Conference

TUESDAY, JULY 21

Youth to Bethany Conference
7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

THURSDAY, JULY 23

5:00 pm Sounds Deadline for 8/02
Youth return from Bethany Conference

FRIDAY, JULY 24

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

SUNDAY, JULY 26

8:00am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Adult Education
10:00am Holy Eucharist

MONDAY, JULY 27

Youth leave for Great Escape, PA.

TUESDAY, JULY 28

7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

FRIDAY, JULY 31

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

SATURDAY, AUGUST 01

Youth Return from Great Escape, PA.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 02

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
10:00 am Holy Eucharist

The Scripture appointed for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost:
2 Samuel 7:1-14a, Psalm 89:20-37 or Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22,
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

The Scripture appointed for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost:
2 Samuel 11:1-15, Psalm 14 or 2 Kings 4:42-44, Psalm 145: 10-19; Ephesians 3:14-21, John 6:1-21

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