THE TALLIS SCHOLARS PERFORM PROGRAM OF SACRED RENAISSANCE VOCAL MUSIC IN SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS SPECIAL CONCERT AT FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Tuesday, April 5, at 7:30 p.m.

CHICAGO—Acclaimed British vocal ensemble The Tallis Scholars, led by the group’s director Peter Phillips, performs a program of sacred Renaissance music in a Symphony Center Presents Special Concert on Tuesday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m., at Fourth Presbyterian Church (126 E. Chestnut Street). The ensemble’s program includes a cappella selections from composers William Byrd, John Taverner, Richard Davy, Thomas Tallis, and Alfonso Ferrabosco.

The program includes two motets—Laetentur coeli and Vigilate—by English composer William Byrd, a pupil of Thomas Tallis. Also on the program is John Taverner’s Missa Western Wynde, a setting of sacred text to the tune of a popular Renaissance love song and the free composed choral work Salve Regina by Richard Davy, as well as another setting of the same Marian hymn by William Byrd. The ensemble also performs Thomas Tallis’ Lamentations I, a multilayered musical work that laments not only the biblical fall of Jerusalem, but reflects the sorrow of a Catholic composer living in Queen Elizabeth’s Protestant England. Completing the program is Lamentations, a setting of the same biblical text as the Tallis work by Italian composer Alfonso Ferrabosco. This Renaissance-focused concert program features music composed during Shakespeare’s lifetime and is part of the citywide SHAKESPEARE 400 CHICAGO celebration.

The Tallis Scholars, a 12-voice ensemble of distinguished artists, have performed more than two thousand concerts, with director and founder Peter Phillips leading nearly all of them. Charged with bringing Renaissance works and composers into wider recognition, The Tallis Scholars have performed across six continents in such venues as the Royal Albert Hall, the Sistine Chapel, Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall. The ensemble has an impressive discography of more than 60 records to date, breaking ground when their 1987 recording of works by Josquin Desprez was the first Renaissance album to receive Gramophone Magazine’s Record of the Year recognition. With the 2015 release of John Taverner’s Missa Corona spinea,
The Tallis Scholars have had three straight albums rank number one on the UK Specialist Classical Chart, with the 2015 release remaining on top for six weeks.

Since receiving a scholarship from Oxford in 1972, Peter Phillips has devoted his life’s work to the study and performance of Renaissance music. Phillips founded The Tallis Scholars in 1973, currently serves as its director, and has also appeared frequently with other accomplished vocal ensembles including the BBC Singers, the Collegium Vocale of Ghent, and the Netherlands Chamber Choir. Phillips created the London International A Cappella Choir Competition in 2014 and is active in both choral master-classes and workshops year-round. Phillips was recently appointed Reed Rubin Director of Music and Bodley Fellow at Merton College, Oxford, where he has started an active choral foundation.

Tickets for all CSOA-presented concerts can be purchased by phone at 800-223-7114 or 312-294-3000; online at cso.org, or at the Symphony Center box office: 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604.

Discounted student tickets for select concerts can be purchased, subject to availability, online in advance or at the box office on the day of the concert. For group rates, please call 312-294-3040.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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Symphony Center Presents
Special Concert
Tuesday, April 5, 2016, 7:30 p.m.
The Tallis Scholars
Peter Phillips, director

BYRD
Laetentur coeli

TAVERNER
Missa Western Wynde

DAVY
Salve regina

BYRD
Salve regina

TALLIS
Lamentation I

FERRABOSCO
Lamentations

BYRD
Vigilate

Tickets: $35-$55

The Tallis Scholars
Director, Peter Phillips, founded The Tallis Scholars in 1973. Through recordings and concert performances, the ensemble has established itself as the leading exponent of Renaissance sacred music throughout the world. Peter Phillips has worked with the group to create, through good tuning and blend, the purity and clarity of sound that he feels best serves 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 has become so widely renowned.

The Tallis Scholars perform in both sacred and secular venues, usually giving around 70 concerts each year across the globe. In 2013 the group celebrated their 40th anniversary with a world tour performing 99 events in 80 venues in 16 countries and travelling sufficient air-miles to circumnavigate the globe four times. The group kicked off the year with a spectacular concert in St Paul’s Cathedral, London, including a performance of Thomas Tallis’ 40-part motet *Spem in alium* and the world premieres of works written specially for them by Gabriel Jackson and Eric Whitacre. Their new recording of the *Missa Gloria tibi Trinitas* by the 16th Century Tudor composer, John Taverner, was released on the exact anniversary of their first concert in 1973 and enjoyed six weeks at number one in the UK Specialist Classical Album Chart.

The Tallis Scholars’ career highlights include a tour of China in 1999, including two concerts in Beijing; and the privilege of performing in the Sistine Chapel in April 1994 to mark the final stage of the complete restoration of the Michelangelo frescoes, broadcast on Italian and Japanese television. The ensemble has commissioned many contemporary composers during their history: in 1998 they celebrated their 25th Anniversary with a special concert in London’s National Gallery, premiering a Sir John Tavener work written for the group and narrated by Sting. A further performance was given with Sir Paul McCartney in New York in 2000. The Tallis Scholars are broadcast regularly on radio (including performances from the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall in 2007, 2008, 2011 and 2013) and have also been featured on the acclaimed ITV program *The Southbank Show*.

Much of The Tallis Scholars reputation for their pioneering work has come from their association with Gimell Records, set up by Peter Phillips and Steve Smith in 1980 solely to record the group. In February 1994 Peter Phillips and The Tallis Scholars performed on the 400th anniversary of the death of Palestrina in the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, Rome, where Palestrina had trained as a choirboy and later worked as Maestro di Cappella. The concerts were recorded by Gimell and are available on both CD and DVD.

Recordings by The Tallis Scholars have attracted many awards throughout the world. In 1987 their recording of Josquin’s *Missa La sol fa re mi* and *Missa Pange lingua* received Gramophone Magazine’s Record of the Year award, the first recording of early music ever to win this coveted award. In 1989 the French magazine *Diapason* gave two of its Diapason d’Or de l’Année awards for the recordings of a mass and motets by Lassus and for Josquin’s two masses based on the chanson *L’Homme armé*. Their recording of Palestrina’s *Missa Assumpta est Maria* and *Missa Sicut lilium* was awarded Gramophone’s Early Music Award in 1991; they received the 1994 Early Music Award for their recording of music by Cipriano de Rore; and the same distinction again in 2005 for a recording of music by John Browne. The Tallis Scholars were nominated for a Grammy Award in 2001, 2009 and 2010. In 2012 their recording of Josquin’s *Missa De beata virgine* and Missa Ave maris stellareceived a Diapason d’Or de l’Année and in their 40th anniversary year they were welcomed into the Gramophone ‘Hall of Fame’ by public vote.

These accolades and achievements are continuing evidence of the exceptionally high standard maintained by The Tallis Scholars, and of the dedication to one of the great repertoires in Western classical music.

http://www.thetallisscholars.co.uk

**The Chicago Symphony Orchestra:** [www.cso.org](http://www.cso.org) and [www.csosoundsandstories.org](http://www.csosoundsandstories.org)

Founded in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Since 2010, the preeminent conductor Riccardo Muti has served as its 10th music director. Yo-Yo Ma is the CSO’s Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant, and Samuel Adams and Elizabeth Ogonek are its Mead Composers-in-Residence.

From baroque through contemporary music, the CSO commands a vast repertoire. Its renowned musicians annually perform more than 150 concerts, most at Symphony Center in Chicago and, each
summer, at the suburban Ravinia Festival. They regularly tour nationally and internationally. Since 1892, the CSO has made 58 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

People around the globe listen to weekly radio broadcasts of CSO concerts and recordings on the WFMT radio network and online at cso.org/radio. Recordings by the CSO have earned 62 Grammy Awards, including two in 2011 for Muti’s recording with the CSO and Chorus of Verdi’s Messa da Requiem (Muti’s first of four releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at www.cso.org/resound.

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus (Duain Wolfe, Director and Conductor) and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, a training ensemble for emerging professionals. Through its prestigious Symphony Center Presents series, the CSOA presents guest artists and ensembles from a variety of genres—classical, jazz, world, and contemporary.

The Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO offers community and education programs that annually engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages and backgrounds. Through the Institute and other activities, including a free annual concert with Muti and the CSO, the CSO is committed to using the power of music to create connections and build community.

The CSO is supported by thousands of patrons, volunteers and institutional and individual donors. Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO. The CSO’s music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation. The Negaunee Foundation provides generous support in perpetuity for the work of the Negaunee Music Institute.