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<sup>1</sup> quartet in *Missa Brevis-Gloria*  
<sup>2</sup> octet in *Missa Brevis-Credo*  
<sup>3</sup> trio in *Missa Brevis-Benedictus*  
<sup>4</sup> high school apprentice

Kimberly Brody, *Executive Director*



## Made Perfect

Music of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

### PROGRAM

*Missa Brevis*

Palestrina

Kyrie / Gloria / Credo / Sanctus / Benedictus / Agnus Dei I & II

Surge amica mea, à 5

Diffusa est gratia, à 5

Acceptit Jesus calicem, à 6

Agnus Dei (from *Missa Benedicta Es*), à 6

Exhortation (2005)

John Tavener

Thomas Edward Morgan, *Artistic Director and Conductor*

Brian Dukeshier, *Assistant Conductor*

*Tonight's program will be presented without an intermission.*

Friday, October 15, 2021 – St. Paul Community of Faith, Denver  
Saturday, October 16, 2021 – First United Methodist Church, Boulder



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Avenir Foundation



“Palestrina, the celebrated light of music...to whom I owe everything that I know of this art, and whose memory I shall never cease to cherish with a feeling of deepest reverence.”

– Johann Joseph Fux, writing in the preface  
of the most influential book on musical counterpoint, in 1725.

**Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina** (c. 1525–1594) was an Italian Renaissance composer of sacred music and the best-known 16<sup>th</sup>-century representative of the Roman School of musical composition. His work is often regarded as the culmination of Renaissance polyphony. Born in the small town of Palestrina, where his ancestors are thought to have lived for generations, as a child he was taken to nearby Rome. Between 1537 and 1539 he studied music at the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, where he was also a choirboy. After seven years as *maestro di cappella* at the cathedral of his native town, he went to Rome in 1551 at the summons of Pope Julius III to become chapel master of the Cappella Giulia at St Peter's. He later became a singer at the Sistine Chapel, but was dismissed by Paul IV on account of his unacceptable married status. Palestrina enjoyed a long and illustrious career as an organist, singer, teacher, and composer, serving in many prestigious posts and mentoring numerous other composers. Extraordinarily prolific, his output includes hundreds of compositions, among them many masses, 68 offertories, 250 motets, 45 hymns, 33 *Magnificats*, several litanies, 5 sets of *Lamentations*, and at least 140 madrigals. Interestingly, there is no surviving documentation of him composing any purely instrumental pieces.



Palestrina died in Rome of pleurisy in 1594. A five-part psalm for three choirs was sung at his funeral at St. Peter's; he was buried beneath the floor of the basilica. His tomb was later covered by new construction, and attempts to locate the site have been unsuccessful. He was quite well-known in his day, and his reputation and influence increased after his death. J.S. Bach studied and hand-copied Palestrina's first book of masses, and in 1742 wrote his own adaption of the *Kyrie* and *Gloria* of the *Missa sine nomine*. Felix Mendelssohn placed him in the pantheon of the greatest musicians, writing, "I always get upset when some praise only Beethoven, others only Palestrina and still others only Mozart or Bach. All four of them, I say, or none at all." Other composers such as Wagner, Verdi and Debussy all acclaimed Palestrina as a prime inspiration.

The *Missa Brevis* that we'll perform this evening is one of the composer's 105 mass settings. It was first published in 1570 and was deemed one of his more successful works as it was reprinted several times before 1620. Its title is perhaps misleading, as a *missa brevis* commonly refers to a short mass (frequently omitting the *Credo*), which this is not. It is among the most performed of Palestrina's polyphonic repertoire. The work is transitional in style, looking both backwards and forwards. The imitative counterpoint—and the striking passages of descending sequences which end each of the first three movements—strongly suggest the continuing influence of Josquin des Prez, the pinnacle of Renaissance musical style. However, this piece also exhibits the increased use of chordal writing and the use of syllabic setting of the text (most notably in the *Gloria* and *Credo*), showing the effect of the edicts of the Council of Trent (1545-65), which had sought to make the words of church music more intelligible to congregations. Peter Phillips, conductor of the Tallis Scholars, wrote of this piece:

“The music has a strong character, confidently written, with the motif of the falling minor third, usually followed by upward movement by step, appearing very regularly. This happens not only at the beginning of most movements, but frequently during them, for instance in the remarkable sequence in all the parts to the word 'Amen' in the *Credo*. This interval alone goes some way to explain the unusually subtle cohesion which the *Missa Brevis* displays on close acquaintance, where a casual glance might judge it to be disparate. The music is for SATB, increasing to SSATB for the beautiful second *Agnus Dei*. The phrase at the beginning of the first *Agnus* – an ascending scale – is inverted at the beginning of the second, which rounds off the music in the most satisfying way.”

We'll also present a selection of Palestrina's motets (two for five voices and one for six voices), as well as another six-voice work, an *Agnus Dei* from Palestrina's 1562 parody mass *Missa Benedicta Es*. This early work is based on a motet by Josquin; Josquin in turn based his motet on the plainchant sequence of the same title. This elegant chain of musical recycling found its way to me in the mid-1980s, as a recording of this mass by the Tallis Scholars became one of the first choral recordings available on compact disc. We hope you'll find it as glorious and sublime to listen to as we find it to sing.

– Notes assembled by Thomas Edward Morgan

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## **Missa Brevis**

*Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.*

**Gloria** in excelsis Deo.

*Et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis.  
Laudamus te; benedicimus te; adoramus te; glorificamus te.  
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.  
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.  
Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe.  
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram.  
Qui sedes ad dextram Patris, miserere nobis.  
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus,  
Tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe.  
Cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.*

**Credo** in unum Deum; Patrem omnipotentem,  
Factorem coeli et terrae,  
Visibilem omnium et invisibilem.  
Credo in unum Dominum Jesum Christum,  
Filium Dei unigenitum,  
Et ex Patre natum ante omnia sæcula.  
Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine, Deum verum de Deo vero,  
Genitum non factum, consubstantialem Patri:  
Per quem omnia facta sunt.  
Qui propter nos homines, et propter nostram salutem  
Descendit de coelis; et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto  
Ex Maria Virgine: et homo factus est.

*Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato,  
Passus et sepultus est.  
Et resurrexit tertia die secundum Scripturas  
Et ascendit in coelum: sedet ad dexteram Patris,  
Et iterum venturus est cum gloria  
Judicare vivos et mortuos;  
Cujus regni non erit finis.*

*Credo in Spiritum Sanctum, Dominum, et vivificantem:  
Qui ex Patre Filioque procedit.  
Qui cum Patre et Filio simul adoratur et conglorificatur:  
Qui locutus est per Prophetas.  
Credo in unam  
Sanctam catholicam et apostolicam Ecclesiam.  
Confiteor unum baptisma, in remissionem peccatorum.  
Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum  
Et vitam venturi sæculi.  
Amen.*

**Sanctus**, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
*Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.  
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.  
Osanna in excelsis.*

**Agnus Dei**, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
Miserere nobis.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
Dona nobis pacem.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory be to God in the highest.  
And on earth peace to men of good will.  
We praise Thee; we bless Thee; we worship Thee; we glorify Thee.  
We give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory.  
Lord God, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.  
Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son.  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy upon us.  
For Thou only art Holy, Thou only art the Lord,  
Thou only art the Most High, Jesus Christ.  
With the Holy Ghost, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

I believe in one God; the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
And of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
The only begotten Son of God,  
Begotten of the Father before all worlds;  
God of God, light of light, true God of true God,  
Begotten, not made; of one substance with the Father,  
By whom all things were made.  
Who for us and for our salvation  
Descended from heaven; and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost  
Of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate,  
Died and was buried.  
And on the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
And ascended into heaven. He sitteth at the right hand of the Father,  
And He shall come again with glory  
To judge the living and the dead;  
And His kingdom shall have no end.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life,  
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
Who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified;  
As it was told by the prophets.  
And I believe in one  
Holy catholic and apostolic church.  
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.  
And I await the resurrection of the dead  
And the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
Have mercy upon us.  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
Grant us peace.

## Surge amica mea

*Surge amica mea, speciosa mea, et veni.  
Columba mea, in foraminibus petrae, in caverna maceriae,  
ostende mihi faciem tuam, sonet vox tua in auribus meis:  
vox enim tua dulcis, et facies tua decora.*

Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.  
O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the cliff,  
Let me see your face, let me hear your voice;  
For your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.  
– *Song of Solomon 2:13b–14*

## Diffusa est gratia

*Diffusa est gratia in labiis tuis:  
propterea benedixit te Deus in aeternum.*

Grace flows from your lips,  
Because God has blessed you for ever. – *Psalms 45:2*

## Accipit Jesus calicem

*Accipit Iesus calicem postquam coenavit, dicens:  
Hic calix novum testamentum est in meo sanguine:  
hoc facite in meam commemorationem.*

Jesus took the cup after they had eaten, saying:  
“This is my blood of the new covenant:  
Do this in memory of me.” – *1 Corinthians 11:25*

## Agnus Dei (from Missa Benedicta Es)

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
Dona nobis pacem.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
Grant us peace.

## John Tavener, Exhortation

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.  
– the fourth verse of the poem “For the Fallen” by Laurence Binyon. The full poem was published by The Times newspaper in September 1914 to address the outbreak of World War I.

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*As of October 10, 2021*

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 Judy Sherman  
 Glenn Short  
 Beth Simmons  
 Liz Simmons-O'Neill  
 Elaine Simon  
 Laurie Sindt  
 Amy Skaife  
 Tracy Slaughter  
 Louise Sliman  
 Joel Smith  
 Bruce Smith  
 Noah Sochet

Clyda Stafford  
 Jean Stevenson  
 Sally Symanski  
 Candy Terry  
 Ann Thomas  
 Jane Thomas  
 Maria Thomas-Ruzic  
 Merilee Thompson  
 Diane Thoms  
 Elaine Everett Turpin  
 Larry Utter  
 Carla Valentino  
 Theodore Vawter  
 Susanna Villano  
 Bruce Vincent  
 Leanne Walther  
 Peter Warren  
 Christine Weeber  
 Vaughn Weiss  
 Marnie Williams  
 Lisa Wilson  
 Theresa Wolf  
 Joshua Young  
 Christine Zanoni  
 David Zorrilla

## Ars Nova Singers Board of Directors

October, 2021

Dan Armour  
 Kimberly Brody  
 Cate Colburn-Smith  
 Bruce Doenecke, *chair*  
 Brant Foote  
 Molly Hardman  
 Tom Morgan  
 Jan Osburn  
 Chris Wolfrom

*Consider putting YOUR name on this list!  
 We're seeking energetic individuals to serve  
 on the Board for this dynamic organization.  
 See our website for details.*

[www.arsnovasingers.org](http://www.arsnovasingers.org)

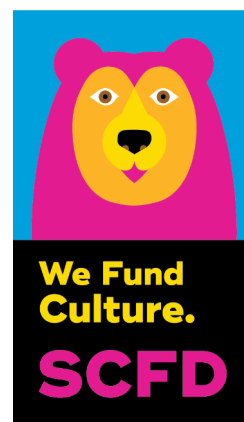
### *We are grateful for gifts in honor/memory of:*

George Aiken  
 Kathy Asta  
 Kimberly Brody  
 Matthew Dane and Christina Jennings  
 Bruce Doenecke  
 Dale Hartigan  
 Rol Hoverstock  
 Peggy Hamm Lemmon  
 Lucile Lynn  
 Ruth Morgan  
 Tom Morgan and Nicky Kroge  
 Wendy Redal  
 Delanie M. Ross  
 Ray and Jeanette Short  
 St. John's Music Program  
 Lucy Warner  
 Kathy Wellman

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Judith Carmichael  
 Allegra, Boulder  
 Mark Filbert  
 St. Paul Community of Faith  
 Keith Heinzman  
 First United Methodist Church, Boulder  
 Bruce Smith  
 Ligature Creative  
 Emma Fuentes

### Avenir Foundation



*Thank you!*



**Made Perfect** *Music of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina*

October 15-16, 2021

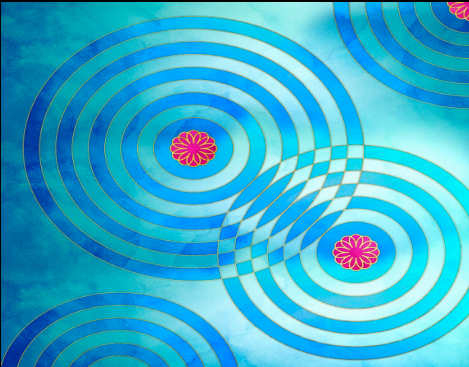


**Up Next!**

**Made Merry** *Ars Nova Singers Holiday Concerts*

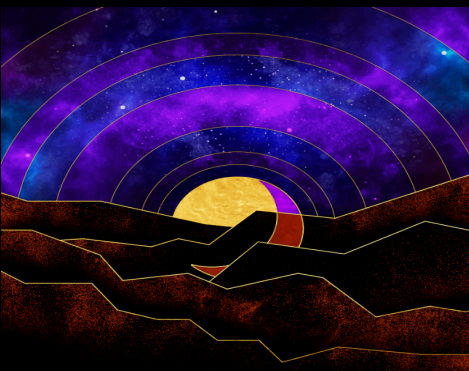
Rejoice in a festive meeting of old friends and new as you refill your creative reservoir heading into this wintery holiday season. Celebrate the season with unusual, rarely-heard music for the festivities; a program that balances novelty and tradition, mystery and jubilation, and familiar melodies with innovative new sounds. Our halls are decked and our voices are warmed! Special guest Kathryn Harms, *harp*.

Friday, December 10, 7:30pm – St. Paul's Community of Faith, Denver  
Sunday, December 12, 4:00pm – United Church of Christ, Longmont  
Thursday, December 16, 7:30pm – St. John's Episcopal Church, Boulder  
Friday, December 17, 7:30pm – First United Methodist Church, Boulder



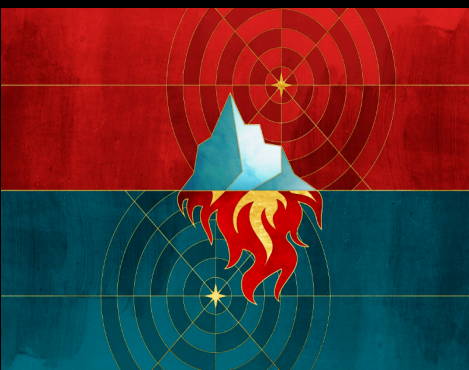
**Made Fragile** *Fauré's Requiem and Music of Reena Esmail*

October 15-16, 2021



**Made Light**

March 24 – April 2, 2022



**Made Real**

June 3-4, 2022



**Ars Nova**  
SINGERS

[arsnovasingers.org](http://arsnovasingers.org)