

Passiontide *at* Merton

Saturday 31 March
and Sunday 1 April 2012

The Choir of Merton College
Charivari Agréable
Sospiri
Robin Griffith-Jones
William Whitehead
Christopher Watson
Benjamin Nicholas



Merton College, Oxford

Saturday 31 March



Event 1 14.00 Merton College Chapel

Bach: Jesu, meine Freude & The Orgelbüchlein Project

William Whitehead *Organ*

The Choir of Merton College
Benjamin Nicholas *Conductor*

Prelude and Fugue in B minor BWV 544
Prelude and Fugue in E minor BWV 548
Jesu, meine Freude BWV 227
Preludes from *The Orgelbüchlein Project*

The Orgelbüchlein Project, conceived by William Whitehead, will 'complete' Bach's unfinished collection of Chorale Preludes. The 118 blank pages in Bach's manuscript, on which he carefully inscribed a Chorale title but left no music, are being filled in one by one with new compositions, each one based on the given Chorale. The finished 'Gesamtorgelbüchlein' will be a snap-shot of international compositional styles at the start of the 21st century, a kaleidoscopic collection of miniatures in homage to Bach. John Caldwell's new prelude receives its first performance and Whitehead finishes his contribution with two of Bach's finest Preludes and Fugues. The College Choir completes the programme with the funeral motet *Jesu, meine Freude*.

Tickets: £15

Event 2 16.30 TS Eliot Theatre

"It is completed": From the Old Creation to the New.

A talk by the Revd Robin Griffith-Jones
The Master of The Temple

Tickets: £3 (available on the door)

Event 3 18.00 Merton College Chapel

Choral Evensong

The Choir of Merton College

Salvator mundi *Tallis*
Second Service *Gibbons*
Take him, earth, for cherishing *Howells*

Box Office: 01865 305305 • www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford

Event 4 21.30 Merton College Chapel

'Desolata Est' – Settings of the Lamentations

Sospiri

Christopher Watson *Conductor*

The Lord is good *Cecilia McDowall*
O vos omnes *Pablo Casals*
Lamentations *Dominique Phinot*
Ye that passeth by *Benjamin Britten*
Lamentations *John Duggan*
O vos omnes *Pablo Ortiz*
Lamentations *John Mundy*
O vos omnes *Ralph Vaughan Williams*
Wie liegt die Stadt so wüest *Rudolph Mauersberger*

A sublime programme contrasting settings of *The Lamentations of Jeremiah* with *O vos omnes*, words from the Reproaches of Good Friday. Sospiri, well known for their singing of Gregorian chant and renaissance music, are fast establishing a place amongst Oxford's finest mixed-voice choirs.

Photos left to right:

Sospiri Directors John Duggan and Christopher Watson; Christopher Borrett; Paul Smy; Jeremy Kenyon; William Whitehead; Carys Lane; Giles Underwood; Christopher Watson; Robin Griffith-Jones; Benjamin Nicholas.

Tickets: £10

Sunday 1 April

Event 5 10.30 Under the Fitzjames Arch with procession into Merton College Chapel

Procession and Sung Eucharist of the Lord's Passion

The Choir of Merton College

The Reverend Dr Simon Jones *Celebrant and Preacher*

Hosanna to the Son of David *Gibbons*
Missa Triueriensis *Jackson*
O sacrum convivium *Jackson*

Box Office: 01865 305305 • www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford



Photos: Merton College Choir and Chapel



Passiontide *at* Merton

Sunday 1 April

Event 6 17.00 *Merton College Chapel*

Bach: St John Passion

The Choir of Merton College

Charivari Agréable
Christopher Watson *Evangelist*
Giles Underwood *Christus*
Carys Lane *Soprano*
Jeremy Kenyon *Alto*
Paul Smy *Tenor*
Christopher Borrett *Bass*
Benjamin Nicholas *Conductor*



Charivari Agréable

Perhaps the most expressive and immediate of Bach's Passion settings, the St John Passion's lacerating account of the suffering and death of Jesus Christ finds Bach at his most operatic. A distinguished group of soloists join the College Choir and the period Oxford-based ensemble Charivari Agréable.

Tickets: £20, £12 (Ante-Chapel)

Box Office: Tickets for events 1, 4 and 6 are available from:

The Oxford Playhouse Box Office

Tel: 01865 305305

www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford

'FESTIVAL TICKET'

Why not be resident at Merton for the festival?

Tickets are available at £200 per person. This includes

Ensuite accommodation at Merton College for the Saturday night

A ticket to each event

Tea and dinner on Saturday

Breakfast, lunch and tea on Sunday

For a 'Festival Ticket', please contact **Rachel Fright** at Merton College

Tel: 01865 616724 Email: rachel.fright@merton.ox.ac.uk