

SUMMARY: MUSICA SPEI PRESENTS "MUSIC OF HOPE: A CELEBRATION OF SACRED CHORAL MUSIC OF THE BRITISH RENAISSANCE." Musica Spei celebrates its 15th anniversary with a program showcasing two monumental works by Robert Fayrfax, Gentleman of the Chapel Royal: a movement of his *Missa "O quam glorifica"*, which earned him a Doctorate in Music at Cambridge University in 1504, and the virtuoso motet *Maria plena virtute* which praises Mary while simultaneously retelling the Passion of Christ. Also included are works by Robert Parsons, William Byrd, and Thomas Tomkins, who shared with Fayrfax the honor of appointment to the Chapel Royal; the program is completed with works by John Taverner and David Peebles.

Musica Spei (Music of Hope) celebrates its 15 year tradition of introducing Rochester audiences to little known and rarely performed masterworks of the Renaissance with **"MUSIC OF HOPE: A CELEBRATION OF SACRED CHORAL MUSIC OF THE BRITISH RENAISSANCE"** on **Friday, May 14th at 8:00p.m. at Saint Anne Church** (1600 Mount Hope Avenue) **in Rochester**, on **Friday, May 7th at 7:30p.m. at Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church** (15 Clark Street) **in Auburn**, and on **Saturday, May 8th at 7:30p.m. at Saint Peter's Memorial Church** (Clara Barton Street) **in Dansville**. Admission is by Free Will Offering (Suggested Donation, \$10); for further information, please call 585-442-4681 or visit www.musicaspei.org.

In the year 1504 a doctoral student submitted a composed mass to his professors at Cambridge University as partial completion of his degree requirements. A doctoral thesis does not normally have a place in a concert program - nor are there many doctoral theses which are of interest more than 500 years after completion - but a highlight of Musica Spei's 15th anniversary celebration will be the performance of the Sanctus movement from Robert Fayrfax's monumental *Missa "O quam glorifica"* (Oh how glorious thou art!), a rarely performed work of surpassing difficulty, complexity, beauty and power.

Musica Spei will perform two other major works by Fayrfax, the extraordinary English composer who has been called "the most admired composer of his generation." His works will be surrounded by music of England's Golden Age, composed by some of the greatest Renaissance composers of the generations that followed him, including John Taverner, William Byrd and Thomas Tomkins, among others.

This concert is titled "Music of Hope", the English translation of *Musica Spei*, in celebration of our 15 years of performance in Western New York. We have been inspired in ways we could not have imagined by the music that we sing, and believe that in some small way, our performance brings our audience a sense of that inspiration, and of hope.

Celebrating 15 years of music-making in 2010, **Musica Spei** (Music of Hope) explores the vast repertoire of rarely-performed, sacred choral masterworks of the medieval and renaissance periods; sharing the riches with audiences throughout central and western New York. Rehearsing and performing unaccompanied and without a conductor, the group develops its interpretations in a collaborative fashion, communicating and interacting in a manner not unlike the members of a jazz or chamber music ensemble. Musica Spei's recent accomplishments include a live performance on WXXI's Backstage Pass radio show, and a reinvigoration of the Rochester Early Music Festival, which the group first organized in 2001.

Concert Listing – Rochester

Date: Friday, May 14, 2010

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Location: Saint Anne Church
1600 Mount Hope Avenue
Rochester

Title of Concert: Music of Hope: A Celebration of Sacred Choral Music
of the British Renaissance

Performing Groups: Musica Spei (Music of Hope)

Contents of Concert: Sacred choral music of the British Renaissance,
featuring works of Fayrfax, Byrd, Taverner and
Tomkins

Admission: Free Will Offering (Suggested Donation, \$10)

For concert information: 585-442-4681 or www.musicaspei.org

Editors: Please call Eric Lobenstine, 585-241-9761

THANK YOU!

Concert Listing – Auburn

Date: Friday, May 7, 2010

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church
15 Clark Street
Auburn

Title of Concert: Music of Hope: A Celebration of Sacred Choral Music
of the British Renaissance

Performing Groups: Musica Spei (Music of Hope)

Contents of Concert: Sacred choral music of the British Renaissance,
featuring works of Fayrfax, Byrd, Taverner and
Tomkins

Admission: Free Will Offering (Suggested Donation, \$10)

For concert information: 585-442-4681 or www.musicaspei.org

Editors: Please call Eric Lobenstine, 585-241-9761

THANKS!

Concert Listing – Dansville

Date: Saturday, May 8, 2010

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Saint Peter's Memorial Church
Clara Barton Street
Dansville

Title of Concert: Music of Hope: A Celebration of Sacred Choral Music
of the British Renaissance

Performing Groups: Musica Spei (Music of Hope)

Contents of Concert: Sacred choral music of the British Renaissance,
featuring works of Fayrfax, Byrd, Taverner and
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