

The Tudor Choir

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The Tudor Choir performs “Lily among the thorns” – choral works inspired by the symbolism of the lily

Lily Among the Thorns

WHAT: The Tudor Choir *presents*
Lily Among the Thorns
Songs of beauty, love and devotion inspired by the symbolism of the lily

**WHEN &
WHERE:** Saturday, May 6, 2006 at 8:00 pm
St. Mark’s Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave. E., Seattle 98102

**WHEN &
WHERE:** Sunday, May 7, 2006 at 3:00 pm
St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 8298 NE 12th St., Medina 98039

TICKETS: \$25 general admission; \$20 seniors; \$15 students
ORDER ONLINE at www.tudorchoir.org or call the Tudor Choir at (206) 323-9415

The Tudor Choir presents **LILY AMONG THE THORNS**, a concert exploring music inspired by the rich symbolism of the lily. From Ancient Egypt through Greek and Roman culture, the lily has long been a symbol of purity and during the Middle Ages was closely associated with the Virgin Mary. The lily also represents hope and love and majesty. Framed by Clemens non Papa’s “lily motet,” *Ego flos campi*, and Jacob Vaet’s lush *Missa Ego flos campi*, the Tudor Choir offers a springtime musical bouquet, including Renaissance masterpieces, early American tunes, and English folk songs.

LILY AMONG THE THORNS will be performed on Saturday, May 6, 2006, at 8:00 pm at St. Mark’s Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave. E., on Seattle’s Capitol Hill, and Sunday, May 7, 2006, at 3:00 pm at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 8398 NE 12th St., in Medina. Tickets are \$25 for regular admission, \$20 for seniors, and \$15 for students, and may be purchased online at www.tudorchoir.org or from the Tudor Choir office by calling (206) 323-9415. Group rates are available.

About LILY AMONG THE THORNS

LILY AMONG THE THORNS is a thematic concert featuring a variety of musical styles that make up the Tudor Choir's repertoire: Medieval and Renaissance polyphony, modern choral music, and music from the English tradition.

The centerpiece of the concert is the "lily motet" by Flemish Renaissance composer Jacob Clemens non Papa (c.1515-1555), "Ego flos campi," a setting from the biblical Songs of Songs that includes the well-known phrase, "As a lily among the thorn, so is my love among the daughters." The motet was composed for the Marian brotherhood of 's-Hertogenbosch, whose motto was "Sicut lilium inter spinas," or, "As the lily among the thorns." This 7-part motet was used by another Flemish composer, Jacob Vaet (1529-1567) as the basis of his 6-part mass setting, *Missa Ego flos campi*. The mass movements will be interspersed throughout the program between a variety of settings that refer to the lily. These settings include English medieval and Renaissance motets, early American works, English folk song settings, and modern choral works.

The English Medieval and Renaissance repertory is represented by the anonymous 14th-century motet *Salve virgo virginum parens genitoris*, whose text refers to Mary as the "lily of the valley," and the 16th-century antiphon *Eterne laudis lilium*, by Robert Fayrfax (1464-1521), whose opening line refers to Mary as a "lily of unceasing praise." The early American repertory is represented by *I am the Rose of Sharon*, a setting from Song of Songs by New England's William Billings (1746-1800), and *Jesus Christ the apple tree*, a setting of an 18th-century New Hampshire text by British composer Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987). The modern repertoire is represented by Estonian composer Arvo Pärt's (born 1935) *I am the true vine*, a 1996 setting of verses from the Gospel of St. John. The English folk song repertoire is represented by arrangements of *Bushes and briars* and *I love my love* by Donald James and Gustav Holst (1874-1934), respectively.

LILY AMONG THE THORNS is sponsored in part by the Nesholm Family Foundation. The Tudor Choir's 2005-2006 is sponsored in part by KING-FM. Additional seasonal support provided by ArtsFund.

LILY AMONG THE THORNS

Program

CLEMENS, Jacob: Ego flos campi
14th century: Salve virgo virginum parens genitoris
FAYRFAX, Robert: Eterne laudis lilium
VAET, Jacob: Missa Ego flos campi – Kyrie
PÄRT, Arvo: I am the true vine
VAET: Missa Ego flos campi – Gloria

Intermission

BILLINGS, William: I am the rose of Sharon
POSTON, Elizabeth: Jesus Christ the apple tree
VAET: Missa Ego flos campi – Sanctus
JAMES, Donald, arr.: Bushes and briars
VAET: Missa Ego flos campi – Agnus Dei
arr. HOLST, Gustav: I love my love
VAET: Salve regina a 8

The Tudor Choir

Hailed as “a superb choir” (*Gramophone*, Nov, 2005), as well as “a choir to watch” (*Fanfare*, Sept/Oct. 2001), the Tudor Choir and its director Doug Fullington are receiving increasing national and international attention as interpreters of both Renaissance polyphony and early American music. Founded in 1993, the Seattle-based professional vocal chamber ensemble comprises 12 core singers, but can expand to up to 40 members for works such as Thomas Tallis’ monumental *Spem in alium*.

Doug Fullington and the Tudor Choir have established themselves as leading interpreters of early American music. Their *Shapenote Album* (Loft) is widely regarded as the definitive professional recording of the shapenote genre and has been regularly broadcast on National Public Radio. Other recordings – *Gentle Words: Shaker Songs arranged by Kevin Siegfried* and *An American Christmas*, shapenote carols from New England and Appalachia (both Loft), have reinforced this reputation. The choir will record another album of Americana in April 2006.

The Tudor Choir is also receiving international recognition for its performances of Renaissance polyphony. Reviewing the choir's recent CD, *Jacob Clemens non Papa: Requiem and Motets* (Loft), a disc of Flemish polyphony, *Gramophone* magazine stated, “Let us hope this is the first of many recordings of this repertoire by this superb group” (Nov. 2005).

The Tudor Choir has performed extensively throughout the Pacific Northwest, including concert appearances in Vancouver, British Columbia, and Portland, Oregon. The choir presents an annual subscription series in the Seattle area, where it is both an Artist-in-Residence at St. Mark's Cathedral and a Resident Ensemble at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Medina. The Tudor Choir has collaborated numerous times with Seattle Baroque Orchestra and appeared on the Early Music Guild's International Series. The choir has also performed with Pacific Northwest Ballet and Mark Morris Dance Group and in conjunction with Seattle Opera. The choir has recorded for Seattle Symphony Orchestra's *Musically Speaking* series and performed live on National Public Radio's *A Prairie Home Companion* broadcast.