

6 October 2017

## Music in Peterhouse's Chapel during the mastership of John Cosin

### John Amner (1579-1641) Gloria

Amner came from an Ely family of musicians and was *informator choristarum* and eventually minor canon at Ely Cathedral from 1610-41. He received his Mus.B. from Oxford in 1613 and a second Mus.B. degree from Cambridge in 1640. Amner's Gloria, which seems to have been used either as service music or as an anthem, is found only in sources at Peterhouse and Ely. It is the first item in the Peterhouse organ book and is also included in the music interleaved into the Peterhouse Book of Common Prayer.

### Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-1585) Heare the voyce and prayer

Composed c. 1547, this is one of the very earliest English anthems to be composed and is probably the oldest music in the Caroline partbooks, which contains parts for it in a 16th-century hand. A 17th-century organ part survives at Durham Cathedral.

### Henry Loosemore (c. 1605-1670) Behold, now praise the Lord

Loosemore was organist of King's College, Cambridge, from 1627-1670. This setting of Psalm 134, found only in the Peterhouse partbooks, was probably composed in 1640 for his Mus.B. degree at Cambridge. Loosemore wrote several other works especially for Peterhouse, including settings of the Litany in English and Latin.

### *Music for Matins*

#### Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656) Preces

Another Peterhouse *unicum*, Tomkins's Preces, included in the Peterhouse Prayer Book, offer a sample of ordinary service music composed by a master.

#### Thomas Wilson (?1618-after 1648) Christ rising again

Wilson was a choirboy at Durham and became Peterhouse's first organist (1635-43), returning to Durham after music was silenced at the college. The anthem *Christ rising again*, to be sung in place of Venite at Easter Matins, is found in the organ book as well as the vocal partbooks at Peterhouse.

#### William Child (1607-87) Te deum and Jubilate

Child was organist at St. George's Chapel, Windsor. Nothing is known of his connection to Peterhouse, except for these items, described in the Caroline partbooks as "A morning service in lattin made for the Right worshipfull Dr Cosin by mr Child". Perhaps Matthew Wren, who preceded Cosin as Master of Peterhouse, was responsible for building Peterhouse's chapel, and was Dean of Windsor between 1627 and 1635, commissioned the "morning service in Lattin" on the occasion of Cosin being named vice-chancellor of Cambridge University in 1639, when it would have become appropriate to style him "the Right worshipfull Dr Cosin".

#### William Byrd (c. 1540-1623) Sing joyfully unto God

Like Tallis's *Heare the voyce and prayer*, this is a famous piece that survives in many manuscripts from across England, including Peterhouse's Caroline partbooks, but nowadays it is seldom if ever performed in 17th-century style with an organ part such as that found in the Peterhouse organ book.

Amner edited by Holly Druckman & Scott Metcalfe. Loosemore, Wilson, and Child edited & reconstructed by Ian Payne. The Loosemore and Wilson are published by Antico Edition in its volumes AB16 and AB19, respectively. Many thanks to Nick Sandon for supplying us with special versions of the published editions, and to Ian Payne for permission to use his as yet unpublished edition of the Child, to appear in Antico Edition in due course. Tallis, Tomkins, and Byrd edited by Scott Metcalfe.

Our thanks to Silas Wollston for the use of his 17th-century English-style chamber organ.

BLUE HERON

Jennifer Ashe, Pamela Dellal, Margot Rood, Teresa Wakim, *medius*

Michael Barrett, Owen McIntosh, Jason McStoots & Martin Near, *tenor & contratenor*

Paul Guttry, Steven Hrycelak & David McFerrin, *bassus*

Silas Wollston, *organ*

Scott Metcalfe, *director*