



Saturday 1 October, 7.30pm

St Martin's Church

## MUSIC FOR ST MICHAEL

### BREMFB Consort of Voices

Deborah Roberts *director*

#### The music

Anonymous

Josquin des Prez c. 1450–1521

Chant

John Taverner c. 1490–1545

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina c. 1525–1594

Palestrina

Hieronymus Praetorius 1560–1629

Interval

Chant

Josquin des Prez

Melchior Franck c. 1579–1639

Richard Dering c. 1580–1630

Tomás Luis de Victoria c. 1548–c. 1611

Sebastián de Vivanco c. 1551–1622

Josquin des Prez

L'homme armé

Kyrie: Missa L'homme arme super voces  
musicales

Archangeli Michaelis

Gloria: Missa O Michael

Stetit angelus

Venit Michael archangelus

Dum praeliaretur

Sancte Michael Archangele

Credo: Missa L'homme arme super voces  
musicales

Factum est silentium

Factum est silentium

Tibi Christe splendor patris

Inconspetu angelorum

Agnus Dei: Missa L'homme arme sexti toni

We are in the season of Michaelmas, which falls on 29 September. This ancient celebration was observed not only in the church, as the feast day for St Michael – later expanded to include also the other archangels, St Gabriel and St Raphael – but also an important time in the agricultural calendar. The harvest was completed and accounts were drawn up; it was also a time when itinerant farm workers might seek new seasonal work via hiring fairs shortly following the autumn equinox. And of course there are the Michaelmas daisies!

Although St Michael appears in both Judaism and Islam, his role in the Christian church largely centres around his famous part in the battle between good and evil as described in Revelation, where he slays Satan in the form of a dragon. That story provided a great opportunity for composers to stage some splendid musical battles, and we certainly hear that in some of tonight's music. The anonymous song *L'homme armé* was used as a cantus firmus in no fewer than 40 surviving masses. Many theories of its origin and meaning exist, but one is that the armed man represents St Michael. That provided us with the perfect excuse to include some movements from two of Josquin's glorious *L'homme arme* masses.

We should mention Sebastián Vivanco, as the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death this year seems largely to have been ignored. He was a near contemporary of Victoria and was even born in the same Spanish town, Ávila, but unlike Victoria, who spent most of his working life in Rome, he remained in Spain. *In conspectu angelorum* is dedicated to St Raphael but is also for the dedication of the church of St Michael.

**Deborah Roberts**

## The performers

Since its founding in 2010 as a student/top amateur ensemble open to some of the most challenging music from the whole of the Renaissance, **BREMF Consort of Voices (BCV)** has certainly risen to the challenge! The group can vary in size as it takes on music in up to 40 parts but it can also supply its own soloists, as it did in 2015 for its Festival concert featuring the Vespers of nun composer Chiara Margarita Cozzolani, broadcast on BBC Radio 3. As well as annual appearances at BREMF and performing in other local festivals and venues, the choir promotes a regular series of concerts in St Paul's Church, West Street.

**Deborah Roberts** was born in Europe and graduated from Nottingham University with an MA in editing and interpreting renaissance and baroque music. She has remained fascinated by the discovery of new repertoire and performance styles ever since. As a long-term former member of The Tallis Scholars, Deborah performed with them in over 1,200 concerts in many weird and wonderful places around the world and in countless recordings of rare and beautiful renaissance music. She also sang with many other early music ensembles as a soloist and consort singer. She took up choral direction 20 years ago, and enjoys running courses in sacred polyphony and early opera. In 2002 she co-founded Brighton Early Music Festival with Clare Norburn and remains its artistic director.

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## The translations

### **L'homme armé**

The armed man should be feared.  
Everywhere it has been proclaimed  
that each man shall arm himself  
with a coat of iron mail.  
The armed man should be feared.

### **Archangeli Michaelis**

Supported by the intervention of Archangel  
Michael, we pray to you Lord  
that we may touch those whom  
we pursue with honour and in mind.

### **Stetit angelus**

An angel stood near the sanctuary of the Temple  
holding a golden thurible in his hand,  
and he was given much incense,  
and aromatic smoke rose in the sight of God.

### **Venit Michael archangelus**

The archangel Michael came  
with a multitude of angels,  
he to whom God entrusted  
the souls of the saints,  
that he might guide them  
to the kingdom of Heaven.

### **Dum praeliaretur Michael Archangelus**

While Michael the Archangel was fighting  
with the dragon,  
a voice was heard saying: Salvation to our God.  
Alleluia.

While Michael the Archangel was at war  
against the dragon,  
the voice of thousands of thousands  
was heard saying: Salvation to our God.  
Alleluia.

### **Sancte Michael Archangele**

Saint Michael Archangel, defend us in battle,  
be our protection against the wickedness and  
snares of the devil;  
may God rebuke him, we humbly pray;  
and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host,  
by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all  
the evil spirits who prowl through the world  
seeking the ruin of souls.  
Amen.

### **Factum est silentium**

There was silence in heaven while the dragon  
fought with the Archangel Michael.  
A sound was heard,  
thousands of thousands saying:  
salvation, honour and power to almighty God.  
Alleluia.

### **Tibi, Christe, splendor Patris**

Thee, O Christ, the Father's splendour,  
life and virtue of the heart,  
in the presence of the angels  
sing we now with tuneful art,  
meetly in alternate chorus,  
bearing our responsive part.

Thus we praise with veneration  
all the armies of the sky;  
chiefly him, the warrior primate,  
of celestial chivalry,  
Michael, who in princely virtue  
cast Abaddon from on high.

By whose watchful care repelling –  
King of everlasting grace –  
every ghostly adversary,  
all things evil, all things base,  
grant us of Thine only goodness,  
in Thy paradise a place.

We sound with sweet voices  
the glory of the Father,  
we sing about the glory of Christ,  
of the glory of the Paraclete;  
the Triune God who existed  
before the world began.

### **Inconspectu angelorum**

In the presence of the angels  
I will sing to you, my God.  
I will worship at your holy temple  
and confess in your name, O Lord.  
Angels of the Lord,  
bless the Lord for eternity.