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## The Adam Mickiewicz Institute announces 'Joy & Devotion' a new annual Festival of Polish Sacred Music in the UK

Works spanning eight hundred years of religious composition from Poland to be sung by The Gesualdo Six, Tenebrae and Echo



**2 – 5 November 2021 | St Martin-in-the-Fields, London**

**4 November 2021 | Downing Place URC, Cambridge**

The **Adam Mickiewicz Institute** has announced the launch of 'Joy & Devotion', a new annual festival of Polish Sacred Music, continuing its dynamic endeavour to bring the abundance of Polish culture to international audiences.

Taking place at St Martin-in-the-Fields from 2 to 5 November 2021 under the artistic direction of composer and conductor **Paweł Łukaszewski**, 'Joy & Devotion' features renowned choral groups **The Gesualdo Six**, **Tenebrae** and **Echo** with organist **Rupert Jeffcoat** performing programmes of religious works by composers both renowned and lesser-known ranging from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

The Festival opens with acclaimed vocal consort **The Gesualdo Six** conducted and directed by **Owain Park** interspersing a programme of works by prominent contemporary Polish composers, including two world premieres, paired with Krzysztof Borek's 16<sup>th</sup> century *Missa Mater Matris* [2 Nov]. Borek's Mass was the inspiration for the programme, based itself on the *Missa Mater Matris* by Josquin des

Pres whose anniversary celebration continues five hundred years after his death. Works being given their world premieres include Aleksander Jan Szopa's *Ave, Regina caelorum* and Łukasz Farcinkiewicz's *O salutaris Hostia*, alongside the late Krzysztof Penderecki's *Benedicamus Domino* (from his 1992 *Missa brevis*) and Andrzej Panufnik & Roxanna Panufnik's *Modlitwa/Prayer*. The music of post-WWII organist and improviser Marian Sawa is also spotlighted, with his *Bogurodzica, Dziewica* and *Regina Poloniae* for organ being performed.

The oldest works to be performed at the Festival, 15<sup>th</sup> century Jerzy Liban's *Ortus de Polonia* and 13<sup>th</sup> century Wincenty of Kielcza's *Gaude Mater Polonia*, bookend **Nigel Short's** programme with the award-winning choir **Tenebrae** [4 Nov]. The concert also includes a composition by Festival Artistic Director Paweł Łukaszewski, his *Prayer for those who shall return*, as well as Henryk Mikołaj Górecki's *Totus tuus*, written at the end of communism in 1987 following John Paul II's 3<sup>rd</sup> Pilgrimage to Poland, and Wojciech Kilar's *Dona nobis pacem*, from his *Missa pro pace* written for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Warsaw Philharmonic in 2000. 16<sup>th</sup> century composer Marcin Leopolita's *Missa Paschalis*, the earliest known example of Polish six-part choral polyphony, will also be sung and Mieczysław Surzyński's *Improvisations on the Polish Sacred Song "Holy God" op. 38 for organ* will be played by Rupert Jeffcoat.

Bringing the Festival to a close is the young but highly regarded vocal ensemble **Echo** conducted by **Sarah Latto**, performing a programme of music featuring the 17<sup>th</sup> century composer Grzegorz Gerwazy Gorczycki's *Missa Paschalis* as its centrepiece [5 Nov]. His minimal 'Stile Antico' writing provides the structure and inspiration for the rest of the programme which includes 16<sup>th</sup> century motets by Mikołaj Zieleński and Wacław of Szamotuły set against works by three vibrant modern composers: British-Polish composer Roxanna Panufnik and emerging Polish composers Aleksandra Chmielewska and Anna Ročławska-Musiałczyk.

'Joy & Devotion' will also be presented outside of the Capital, with Echo giving a concert at Downing Place URC in Cambridge as part of the Cambridge Festival of the Voice [4 Nov]. Titled 'The Polish Court', this programme explores the work of composers living in Warsaw and Krakow in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, again featuring Gorczycki's *Missa Paschalis* and Zieleński's *Laetentur caeli* alongside works by Italian composers Luca Marenzio, Asprillo Pacelli and Vincenzo Bertolusi.

**Barbara Schabowska, Director of the Adam Mickiewicz Institute**, said: "*The Adam Mickiewicz Institute is delighted to launch 'Joy & Devotion' which gives UK audiences the opportunity to experience the many glories of Polish sacred music, both traditional and contemporary. The UK is the perfect home for 'Joy & Devotion' as it is celebrated worldwide for its numerous choirs and choral tradition. Everyone at the Adam Mickiewicz Institute wishes every success to the performers taking part and looks forward to seeing the reactions of the British public to these great pieces of choral music.*"

**Paweł Łukaszewski, Artistic Director**, said: "*It has been an honour and a delight to work on the inaugural 'Joy & Devotion'. The programme this year is a stirring introduction to the abundance and emotion of Polish sacred music. I am as excited to bring the works of well-known and much-loved composers such as Penderecki, Górecki and Roxanna Panufnik to audiences as I am presenting more obscure works not yet widely known in the UK from centuries-old Polish masters and the world premieres of two composers just starting their careers.*"

Poland has a rich history of sacred composition to be revealed to British audiences, dating as far back as the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Compositions from this time include those dedicated to the venerated Polish icon the Black Madonna of Częstochowa, such as Wincenty of Kielcza's *Gaude Mater Polonia*

and the Bogurodzica melody believed to be the oldest religious hymn in the Polish language. Rapid innovation ensued during the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when composers including Wacław of Szamotuly, Mikołaj Zielenki and Marcin Leopolita wrote for ensembles belonging to the King and Archbishop of Wawel in Kraków.

More recently, the Polish Pope John Paul II's election was a particular inspiration for popular contemporary composers such as Penderecki, Górecki and Wojciech Kilar, while British-Polish composer Roxanna Panufnik's music is infused with references to her Polish heritage. The younger generation of composers in Poland today and featured in the Festival is no less compelling: Aleksandra Chmielewska and Anna Ročławska-Musiałczyk from Warsaw and Gdańsk respectively have varied repertoire to show for, while Aleksander Jan Szopa and Łukasz Farcinkiewicz are recent graduates of the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw and demonstrate the great potential of Polish sacred music to come.

[www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org](http://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org)

[www.cambridgeearlymusic.org](http://www.cambridgeearlymusic.org)

[www.iam.pl](http://www.iam.pl)

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For more information or to arrange interviews/press tickets please contact Premier  
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## Notes to Editors

### Listings

**Paweł Łukaszewski** Artistic Director

### **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, St Martin-in-the-Fields**

#### **Nova et vetera I**

Krzysztof Penderecki *Benedicamus Domino*

Marian Sawa *Bogurodzica, Dziewica for organ*

Krzysztof Borek / Josquin des Pres *Missa Mater Matris*

*Kyrie*

*Gloria*

Aleksander Jan Szopa *Ave, Regina caelorum* [world premiere]

Aleksander Jan Szopa *Ubi caritas*

Krzysztof Borek / Josquin des Pres *Missa Mater Matris*

*Sanctus*

*Benedictus*

Marian Sawa *Regina Poloniae for organ*

Łukasz Farcinkiewicz *O salutaris Hostia* [world premiere]

Łukasz Farcinkiewicz *O sacrum convivium*

Krzysztof Borek / Josquin des Pres *Missa Mater Matris*

*Agnus Dei*

Andrzej Panufnik & Roxanna Panufnik *Modlitwa / Prayer*

**The Gesualdo Six**

**Owain Park** conductor

**Rupert Jeffcoat** organ

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November, St Martin-in-the-Fields**

**Nova et vetera II**

Jerzy Liban *Ortus de Polonia*

Marcin Leopolita *Missa Paschalis*

*Kyrie*

*Gloria*

*Credo*

*Sanctus – Benedictus*

*Agnus Dei*

Mieżyław Surzyński *Improvisations on the Polish Sacred Song “Holy God” op. 38 for organ*

Henryk Mikołaj Górecki *Totus tuus*

Paweł Łukaszewski *Prayer for those who shall return* (w. Katherine Tynan)

- *Salve Regina*

- *Ubi caritas*

- *Veni creator*

Wojciech Kilar *Dona nobis pacem* (from *Missa pro pace*)

Wincenty of Kielcza *Gaude Mater Polonia*

**Tenebrae**

**Nigel Short** conductor

**Rupert Jeffcoat** organ

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November, Downing Place URC, Cambridge**

**The Polish Court, Cambridge Festival of the Voice**

Grzegorz Gerwazy Gorczycki *Missa Paschalis – Kyrie*

Luca Marenzio *Iniquos odio habui*

Grzegorz Gerwazy Gorczycki *Missa Paschalis – Gloria*

Asprillo Pacelli *Gaudet in caelis*

Grzegorz Gerwazy Gorczycki *Missa Paschalis – Sanctus*

Vincezno Bertolusi *Ego flos campi*

Grzegorz Gerwazy Gorczycki *Missa Paschalis – Benedictus*

Mikołaj Zieleński *Laetuntur Caeli*

Grzegorz Gerwazy Gorczycki *Missa Paschalis – Agnus Dei*

**Echo**

**Sarah Latto** conductor

## Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November, St Martin-in-the-Fields

### Nova et vetera III

Feliks Nowowiejski *Passacaglia from the Organ Symphony in E Minor, Op. 45 No.5*

Wacław of Szamotuły *Nunc scio vere*

Wacław of Szamotuły *Ego sum pastor bonus*

Aleksandra Chmielewska *Nunc scio vere*

Aleksandra Chmielewska *Hail o Mother*

Grzegorz Gerwazy Gorczycki *Missa Paschalis*

*Kyrie*

*Gloria*

Roxanna Panufnik *Love Endureth*

Roxanna Panufnik *O Hearken*

Grzegorz Gerwazy Gorczycki *Missa Paschalis*

*Sanctus*

*Benedictus*

Anna Ročławska-Musiałczyk *Psalm 27. Jahwe widã zbawieniem*

Anna Ročławska-Musiałczyk *Bibi, Synku, Bi*

Grzegorz Gerwazy Gorczycki *Missa Paschalis*

*Agnus Dei*

Mikołaj Zieleński *In monte Oliveti*

Mikołaj Zieleński *Viderunt omnes fines terrae*

Mikołaj Zieleński *Laetuntar caeli*

### ECHO

**Sarah Latto** conductor

**Rupert Jeffcoat** organ

### Biographies

#### **Adam Mickiewicz Institute**

The Adam Mickiewicz Institute is a national cultural institute whose mission is to build and communicate the cultural dimension of the Poland brand through active participation in international cultural exchange. The Institute has carried out cultural projects in 70 countries on six continents, including in the United Kingdom, France, Russia, Israel, Germany, Turkey, the United States, Canada, Australia, Morocco, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, China, Japan, and Korea. Within the framework of its activities to date, the Institute has developed 38 strategic programmes seen by 60 million viewers. The Adam Mickiewicz Institute is governed by the Ministry of Culture, National Heritage and Sport.

More information about Polish culture worldwide at [culture.pl](http://culture.pl)

#### **The Gesualdo Six**

The Gesualdo Six is an award-winning British vocal ensemble comprising some of the UK's finest consort singers, directed by Owain Park. Praised for their imaginative programming and impeccable

blend, the ensemble formed in 2014 for a performance of Gesualdo's *Tenebrae Responsories* in Cambridge and has gone on to perform at numerous major festivals across the UK, Europe, North America and Australia. Notable highlights include a concert as part of the distinguished Deutschlandradio Debut Series, debut at Wigmore Hall in 2021, and collaborations with the Brodsky Quartet, London Mozart Players, Luxmuralis, William Barton and Matilda Lloyd.

The ensemble integrates educational work into its activities, regularly holding workshops for young musicians and composers. The Gesualdo Six has curated two Composition Competitions, with the 2019 edition attracting entries from over three hundred composers around the world. The group have recently commissioned new works from Joanna Ward, Kerensa Briggs, Deborah Pritchard, Joanna Marsh, and Richard Barnard alongside *coronasolfège for 6* by Héloïse Werner.

Videos of the ensemble performing a diverse selection of works filmed in Ely Cathedral have been watched by millions online. The group released their debut recording *English Motets* on Hyperion Records in early 2018 to critical acclaim, followed by a festive album of seasonal favourites in late 2019, *Christmas* and an album of compile-themed music titled *Fading* which was awarded Vocal & Choral Recording of the Year 2020 by Limelight.

[www.thegesualdosix.co.uk](http://www.thegesualdosix.co.uk)

## **Tenebrae**

Described as "phenomenal" (The Times) and "devastatingly beautiful" (Gramophone Magazine), award-winning choir Tenebrae is one of the world's leading vocal ensembles, renowned for its passion and precision.

Under the direction of Nigel Short, Tenebrae has twice secured the award for Best Choral Performance in the BBC Music Magazine Awards (2012 and 2016), and its recording of Fauré's Requiem with the London Symphony Orchestra was nominated for the Gramophone Awards (2013). In 2018 *Music of the Spheres*, Tenebrae's album of part songs from the British Isles, received a Grammy nomination.

Tenebrae is renowned for its highly-acclaimed interpretations of choral music ranging from the Renaissance through to contemporary choral masterpieces, and has appeared at major festivals and venues including the BBC Proms, Edinburgh International Festival, Leipzig Gewandhaus (Germany) and Melbourne Festival (Australia).

[www.tenebrae-choir.com](http://www.tenebrae-choir.com)

## **Echo**

Echo is an acclaimed vocal ensemble that stemmed from the Genesis Sixteen Young Artist scheme. Described as "sparkling, poised and subtly powerful" (The Arts Desk) they made their St John's Smith Square debut in 2017, and have since performed at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, as Ensemble-in-Residence at Ryedale Festival and live on BBC Radio 3.

The group has quickly developed a reputation for imaginative programming and multi-disciplinary

collaborations, including with poet Roger McGough, composer James MacMillan, visual artist Polly Apfelbaum and the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Echo aims to explore the full range of what ensemble singing can achieve, including improvisation and audience-immersive concert experiences, whilst achieving musical excellence at all times.

Most recently, Echo toured the UK with 'Already Gone', a performance that saw the group take to the stage at Kings Place, London and Stoller Hall, Manchester, alongside a live BBC radio broadcast. The tour featured four world premieres from emerging composers, and was supported by RVW Trust, the Golsoncott Foundation and the Genesis Foundation.

[www.echo-choir.com](http://www.echo-choir.com)

### **Rupert Jeffcoat**

Rupert hails from Scotland, attending the same schools as Sean Connery, Steven Osborne and Robbie Coltrane. Taking up the organ age 17, he became a Scholar at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, gained his FRCO less than three years later, and he also regularly accompanied the choirs of King's and St John's Colleges. After short spells in Surrey, Yorkshire and Birmingham, he was appointed Music Director of Coventry Cathedral aged 26, leading their choirs on tours to Russia, Japan and South Africa.

Rupert studied with Glenn Gould's organ teacher, Peter Hurford, has recorded with Emma Kirkby, broadcast with the BBC Singers and regularly worked with Ex Cathedra, the Dunedin Consort and many other groups. He holds a doctorate in Musical Composition, with his Third Service being performed on every continent (except Antarctica). He spent 5 years renovating the worship life of Diocese of Brisbane (the size of the UK), and since 2011 has supported the music ministry of St Luke's Chelsea.

[www.rupertjeffcoat.co.uk](http://www.rupertjeffcoat.co.uk)