

Spiritus
chamber choir

LONDON'S BURNING

*A concert based on
the diary of*

Samuel Pepys

Spiritus Chamber Choir *directed by* Aidan Oliver

**Saturday 21 October, 7.30pm
St Nicholas Church, Great Munden**

*Christmas 1659 until the Restoration and
Coronation of King Charles II, 23rd April 1661*

While shepherds watched Christopher Tye (c.1500-73)
arranged by Richard Alison (fl. 1592-1606)

A Catch:
'On the King's coming home' John Blow (1649-1708)

Hosanna to the Son of David Thomas Weelkes (1575-1623)

Coronation anthem:
Let thy hand be strengthened John Blow

*Wine, women and song:
Samuel Pepys at work, rest and play*

Did you not once, Lucinda? Charles Coleman (c.1605-1664)

Time stands still John Dowland (1563-1626)

Music Divine Thomas Tomkins (1572-1676)

Rest, sweet nymphs Francis Pilkington (1565-1638)

Interval

Food and wine will be served

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank **Sheila Bamforth, Mark Stephens** and **Ellen Clements** for all their help in making tonight's concert possible, and the following wonderful team of cooks for all their help in preparing the refreshments:

Di Whitefield, Daniela Uzel, Fish Warden, Agneta Kirkby, and Beverley Wyldes

This is the first concert that **Josette Kenyon** has been unable to help us with, and we would also like to thank her for all her unstinting help in the past.

Howard and Sheila Guard

Friends of St Nicholas Church

We are very grateful to our Friends and like to keep them informed of what is happening at St Nicholas's. If you would like to become a Friend, please contact Mrs Frances Charlesworth, 28 Seymour Road, St Albans, AL3 5HW or francharlesworth@aol.com for more information.

We very much regret that we have had to cancel the Candlelit Evensong at St Nicholas's on Sunday, 5 November 2006. Please spread the word as we wouldn't want people to arrive and be disappointed.

Date for your own diary...

A carol service will be held at St Nicholas Church in the evening of **Saturday 16 December**. The service will be sung by the Brocket Consort, and mulled wine and mince pies will be served.

A year in the life of Samuel Pepys: 1665-1666

Flow my tears (lute solo) John Dowland

Man that is born of a woman Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

In the midst of life Henry Purcell

I gave her cakes and I gave her ale Henry Purcell

Beauty, retire Samuel Pepys (1633-1703)

Salvator mundi John Blow

Civitas sancti tui William Byrd (c.1539-1623)

*Translation: Your holy cities have become a wilderness,
Zion has become a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation.*

The final year of the diary: 1668-9

Can she excuse my wrongs? John Dowland

A Hymne to God the Father Pelham Humfrey (1647-1674)

Thou knowest, Lord Henry Purcell

Spiritus Chamber Choir

Zak Ozmo (lute)



Mal Whiteley as *Samuel Pepys*

directed by Aidan Oliver

Spiritus Chamber Choir

Juliet Fraser, Jenny Bacon (*soprano*);
Richard Wyn Roberts (*counter-tenor*); William Unwin (*tenor*);
Samuel Evans (*bass*)

Directed by Aidan Oliver

Aidan Oliver is Director of Music at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey. As a choral conductor he is much in demand: his engagements have included work with the BBC Singers (as one of their inaugural Conducting Fellows), Apollo Voices, the Bach Choir and the Chorus of English National Opera. Since 2004 he has been the founding chorus master of Philharmonia Voices, a professional chorus which has given several high-profile oratorio performances with the Philharmonia Orchestra. He is the conductor of Wokingham Choral Society and of Dulwich Choral Society.

Aidan is also heavily involved in the field of opera as a conductor and répétiteur. Having studied at the National Opera Studio, he now works regularly as a répétiteur for the Young Artists programme at Covent Garden. He has assisted Richard Hickox on several opera recording projects for Chandos, and since 2004 has been an associate conductor at the prestigious St Endellion Festival in Cornwall. Aidan began his musical career as a chorister at Westminster Cathedral, later studying at Eton College and King's College Cambridge as a Choral Scholar. Having graduated from Cambridge with a double first in Classics, he studied musicology at Harvard University as a Kennedy Scholar, and at King's College London.

Spiritus Chamber Choir was founded by Aidan Oliver in 2000. The group specialises in performing in venues of particular historical or architectural interest, presenting wide-ranging programmes of music from all periods. Often working with outstanding instrumentalists and actors, the group has performed in venues including the Temple Church, Jesus College Chapel, Cambridge, the National Portrait Gallery and the Victoria & Albert Museum. They are regular visitors to St Nicholas Church: this is the eighth performance they have given here since their first visit in 2001.

Biographies

Mal Whiteley (Samuel Pepys) is a distinctive character actor. He trained at Ecole Philippe Gaulier. He is currently appearing across cinemas in the USA as the King in the 'Medieval' commercial for Pepsi Aquafina. Later this year he will appear as George Darwin in a production on the National Geographic Channel, while next year he makes his feature film debut in 'Mr Lonely', a film by the highly respected indie director Harmony Korine. His theatre work includes *The Secret Garden* in a production at the King's Head.

ak Ozmo (lute) first started his musical training at the age of seven on the classical guitar and had his first broadcasted solo performance at the age of fourteen. After years of musical training and performances he turned his attention fully to the study of early plucked instruments, performance practice, and related history and philosophy. His pursuit of historically-informed performance practice and musical direction included studies with James Tyler, Pat O'Brien, and Terry McKenna. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California.

He has performed as a continuo player, chamber musician, and as a soloist in England, Sweden, Denmark, Canada, and the U.S.A. on the archlute, theorbo, Renaissance lute, and Baroque guitar. He is a recent recipient of The John Kerr Award for the Promotion of English Song Repertoire: The Dowland Lute Prize. Dr. Ozmo is currently based in London, England where he is working as a freelance musician, teacher, regular music critic and feature article contributor at the Goldberg Early Music Magazine, and an accompanist at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Further reading

The full transcription of Samuel Pepys's diaries runs to eleven large volumes, but there are a number of excellent editions which condense his text to a greater or lesser extent. Probably the best edition for the interested reader is *The Shorter Pepys*, published by Penguin Classics and edited by Robert Latham.

Claire Tomalin's recent biography, *The Unequalled Self*, is a fascinating and highly enjoyable account of the man and his life. Awarded the Whitbread Book of the Year Prize in 2002, it is also published by Penguin.