

You are invited to join others interested in sacred Renaissance polyphony **February 20-22, 2009** for a weekend singing the music of the Franco-Flemish Renaissance composer Orlando di Lasso (1532-1594).

The occasion is the 18th **Renaissance Polyphony Weekend** at the University of Dallas. The singers' retreat will again be led by Dr. William Mahrt of Stanford University. It will conclude with a celebrated Latin Mass at Holy Trinity Seminary, adjacent to the University of Dallas campus, at which retreat participants will sing Lasso's *Missa Il me suffit*, some motets, and Gregorian chant for the day.

About the Mass

"Lasso's *Missa Il me suffit* is a classic parody Mass, based on a popular chanson of the day (*Il me Suffit* by Claudin de Sermisy)," Dr. Mahrt comments. "As such, the Mass provides the occasion for reflecting upon the interaction between sacred and secular elements in the liturgy. Being based on a popular tune, it raises the question of the appropriateness of such an incorporation. Yet, the process of incorporation includes the transformation of secular elements by sacred styles and conventions and amounts to a 'sacralization' of the secular elements, which still remain familiar and recognizable."

Logistics

Retreat sessions begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday, February 20 (check-in and coffee) in Gorman Hall on the University of Dallas campus; the first rehearsal starts at 7:30 p.m. Rehearsals continue Saturday morn-



ing and afternoon (February 21), concluding with wine and cheese at about 4 p.m.

It is possible to attend some, but not all, of the retreat sessions and still sing the Mass on Sunday afternoon, February 22. There will be a Sunday morning rehearsal, but participants with church music commitments need not attend.

After an early Sunday afternoon rehearsal, participants will move to nearby Holy Trinity Seminary to sing the Mass at 3 p.m. (note change of time from previous years).

Polyphony Weekend rehearsals will be combined with informal lecture and discussion. All music will be rehearsed and performed *a capella*. Participants need not be professional singers, but should be proficient readers with a good sense of pitch.

The weekend retreat is sponsored by the University of Dallas Music Department and the Renaissance Polyphony Project.

Enrollment, housing, meals

Housing is not available at the University, but Dallas/Fort Worth area participants will open their homes to singers from other cities. Please note if you need accommodations.

Fee for the retreat is **\$95**; scholarships are available for students. Meals are on your own.

Please return your reservation along with

the \$95 participation fee as soon as possible. Refunds for cancellations will be made until February 15.

Dr. William Mahrt

William Mahrt teaches musicology at Stanford University, where he directs the Stanford Early Music Singers. He also directs the St. Ann Choir in Palo Alto, Calif., which regularly sings Gregorian chant and Renaissance polyphony in liturgical performance.

His scholarship centers upon the performance of Medieval and Renaissance music and its relation to liturgy and to music theory. He has written on the relation of music and liturgy; music and poetry in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance; and on the music of Guillaume de Machaut, Orlando di Lasso, and Johannes Brahms.

He is president of the Church Music Association of America and editor of its journal, *Sacred Music*, the oldest continuously-published music journal in the United States. He gives workshops on Gregorian chant and on Renaissance music around the country.

Dr. Mahrt points out that today is a particularly opportune time for the cultivation of Latin church music, since the present Pope, Benedict XVI, is particularly concerned with fostering what the Second Vatican Council designated the "Treasury of Sacred Music," and has written eloquently (as Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger) about the relation of music and liturgy.

Renaissance Polyphony Weekend Registration Form

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
E-Mail _____

My vocal classification:

__soprano __alto
__tenor __bass

Registration limited to ten singers per classification.

I need housing _____

My roommate(s): _____

I would like to stay in a home _____

I would like information on area hotels
and motels _____

I can provide housing for _____ people in my
home.

Please send me _____ additional brochures for
the Renaissance Polyphony Weekend.

Please send a brochure to _____



Please return this form along with a check
for \$95.00 to:

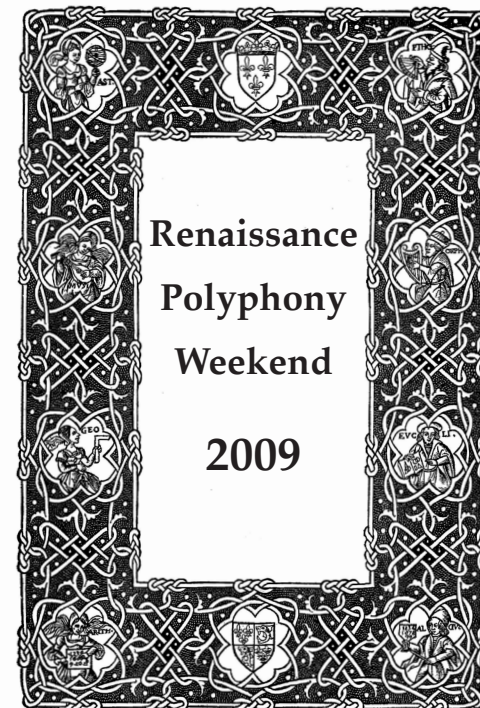
Renaissance Polyphony Weekend

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Missa il me suffit
Orlando di Lasso

February 20-22, 2009
University of Dallas, Irving

*Mass to be sung at
Holy Trinity Seminary,
adjacent to the university*

Leader: Dr. William P. Mahrt,
Stanford University, Stanford, California