

St Albans
Chamber
choir

Saturday 4 February

7.30pm

St Peter's Church

St Albans AL1 3HG

ELIZABETHAN

JUBILEE

Byrd O Lord, make thy servant Elizabeth

Handel Zadok the Priest

Walton Te Deum

Parry I was glad

Tom Winpenny organ

John Gibbons conductor

In **Elizabethan Jubilee** St Albans Chamber Choir celebrates in music the two Elizabeths, our own Queen Elizabeth II and her predecessor Elizabeth I. Our Queen came to the throne almost exactly sixty years ago to the date of this concert, on 6 February 1952, and 2012 sees the celebrations of her Diamond Jubilee. Her coronation was held in 1953 and some of the music from that splendid occasion features in this programme, contrasted with works from the reign of the earlier Elizabeth, known as 'our Glorious Oriana'.

The concert opens and closes with two much-loved and gloriously celebratory anthems. Handel's thrilling *Zadok the Priest* was written between these two periods, for the coronation of George II in 1727, but has been sung at every coronation since; Parry's *I was Glad* was originally composed for Edward VII in 1902.

Sir William Walton (1902–1983) was commissioned to write two pieces for

the 1953 coronation, the ceremonial march *Orb and Sceptre* and the *Te Deum*; both feature in this programme, together with his famous *Crown Imperial*.

William Byrd (1543–1623) was justly called 'a father of music' during his lifetime, and his vocal music in particular stands supreme in the Tudor period. Appointed to the prestigious post of 'Gentleman of Her Maesties Chappell' in 1572, he adapted Psalm 21 for his direct homage to Elizabeth I, *O Lord make thy servant Elizabeth*.

Long live fair Oriana by Ellis Gibbons (1573–1603), older brother of the more famous Orlando, featured in *The Triumphs of Oriana*, a book of English madrigals compiled in 1601 in honour of Elizabeth I, along with John Bennet's *All creatures now*. The programme also includes Orlando Gibbons' famous anthem *O clap your hands* and his *Fantasie* for organ, performed by Tom Winpenny of St Albans Cathedral.

Tickets £13 (£1 child/student)

Tel **07570 454744** or email **tickets@stalbanschamberchoir.org.uk**
or online at **www.allaboutstalbans.com**

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