PRESS RELEASE

**The Lion and the Lance: From Venice to Leipzig**

Marin Ennis *conductor*

Cambridge University Collegium Musicum directed by Margaret Faultless

Historic Brass of the Combined Conservatoires directed by Jeremy West

Cambridge University Chamber Choir

**JS Bach Magnificat, BWV 243
JS Bach Komm, Jesu, komm, BWV 229
Works by Giovanni Gabrieli (celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Sacrae Symphoniae of 1615), Biber and Schein**

Following the sell-out success of their previous programme, ‘Echoes of Venice’, join the Cambridge University Chamber Choir once again as they perform with Cambridge University Collegium Musicum and the Historic Brass of the Combined Conservatoires. Conducted by Martin Ennis, these concerts promise to explore a programme of music that will take us on a journey from St Mark’s Basilica in Venice to St Thomas’ Church in Leipzig. Taking place at 8pm on Friday February 6th in St John’s College Chapel and again at 8pm on Saturday February 7th in Girton College Great Hall, there is no excuse to miss this event! Performing works by Bach, Schein and Gabrieli, there is no doubt that these concerts will be two exquisite evenings of music-making.

Bach’s *Magnificat* is a masterpiece of construction as it is built symmetrically around the seventh movement with the first, seventh and twelfth movements acting as the foundations of the composition - each of them feature full choir and orchestra and are set in the tonic key. The Magnificat opens with a jubilant chorus, followed by the Et Exultavit, a solo movement for soprano which continues the joyous mood. As the work reaches the central seventh movement the text ‘mente cordis sui’ is illustrated by glorious long chords with heraldic accents from the trumpets. The final movement of the work, the Gloria Patri, sees the second part of the text ‘Sicut errat in principio’ (‘as it was in the beginning’) repeat the material from the opening of the work in a joyous and powerful conclusion.

The Gabrieli works have been programmed to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Sacrae Symphoniae of 1615. A Sacrae Symphoniae is a religious composition, also known as a sacred concerto, in which an instrumental consort (mainly winds) are combined and contrasted with a vocal ensemble. In Gabrieli’s Sacrae Symphoniae of 1615 a consort of three cornets, two trombones and a tenor violin alternate with and accompany a choir, as well as performing alone. This particular combination of vocal and instrumental ensembles is wonderfully unique experience and one not to be missed.

**Cambridge University Chamber Choir provides the best student singers in Cambridge with the opportunity to perform repertoire that is not usually undertaken by Cambridge chapel choirs to the highest possible standard. They are delighted to be working with the Historic Brass of the Combined Conservatoires and the Cambridge University Collegium Musicum once more, in a concert of truly exceptional period performance.**

Martin Ennis is Senior Lecturer in Music at the Faculty of Music and Fellow and Director of Music at Girton College, Cambridge and combines his university life with a busy career as a performer, specialising as a continuo player. In addition to his work as the principal keyboard player of the London Mozart Players he has performed with such groups as the Monteverdi Choir (for their 25th anniversary concert), the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the Kölner Bach-Collegium, the Polish Chamber Orchestra, and the Orchestra of St Luke’s in New York.

Friday 6 February 2015, 8pm

St John’s College Chapel

Tickets £18, students £6

Saturday 7 February 2015, 8pm

Girton College Great Hall

Tickets £15, students £5

Booking: www.adcticketing.com

Tel: 01223 300085

ADC Theatre, Park Street, Cambridge, CB5 8AS

For more information about CUMS and all of our concerts please visit our website: [www.cums.org.uk](http://www.cums.org.uk)

For more information or images of Marin Ennis, the choir or ensembles please contact Helen Daniels, Marketing Coordinator at hd317@cam.ac.uk.