Join us on a journey traversing the rich textual and compositional connections in Iberian music!

Featuring music by Victoria, Lobo, Guerrero, Vivanco, and a new commission by Carlos Rodríguez Otero
Continuum was founded in 2018 by Harry Guthrie aiming to represent the very best traditions of choral singing. The choir prides itself in offering original and dynamic interpretations of firmly established choral repertoire alongside promoting new commissions and under-performed pieces. Covering repertoire from the Renaissance to the present, Continuum’s singers are drawn from some of the finest choral institutions in the UK with several having met at University whilst singing in the Choirs of Trinity and St John’s College in Cambridge. Many of the singers have performed with leading professional ensembles including Polyphony, Tenebrae, The Sixteen and The Monteverdi Choir. The choir typically comprises eighteen singers.

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Harry Guthrie is a choral conductor, baritone and teacher based in London. He founded Continuum in 2018 and directs the group in concerts and recordings in and around London. In addition to being Director of Music at St Barnabas’ Church, Ealing, he has been a Guest Conductor for the Cambridge University Chamber Choir, the Rodolfus Choir and has directed Ely Cathedral Choir. Harry will begin a new role as Musical Director of Fulham Camerata in September 2024.

Passionate about working with young people, Harry is Head of Choral Music at Notting Hill and Ealing High School. He has previously worked at Wells Cathedral School, St John’s College School, Cambridge, St Catharine’s College, Cambridge and at Ely Cathedral. Harry enjoys annual work with the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain and the Rodolfus Foundation, both of which were instrumental in developing his love of choral music.

After growing up in Bedford, Harry read Music at Trinity College, Cambridge where he held a Choral Scholarship under Stephen Layton. Before coming up to Cambridge, he spent a year as the Bass Choral Scholar at Wells Cathedral. Harry has studied conducting with Stephen Layton and Paul Spicer.
Singers

**Soprano** - Lingling Bao-Smith, Joanna Barrett, Katherine Gregory, Susannah Hill, Maggie Tam

**Alto** - Izzi Blain, Daniel Blaze, Rachel Coombs, Ellie Stamp,

**Tenor** - Joseph Hancock, Jack Harberd, Henry Laird, Hamish MacGregor

**Bass** - Jamie Goodwyn, Alex Hopkins, Henry Montgomery, Joel Nulsen, Alex Semple

Upcoming Performances by Continuum

25th May 2024, 7.30pm - Continuum in Concert: Miserere
St Paul’s Church, Bedford

31st May 2024, 7.30pm - Continuum in Concert: Miserere
St Mary’s Amersham

9th November 2024, 7.30pm - Fifth Anniversary Concert: Peace on Earth
Cambridge
Carlos Rodríguez Otero (b.1999)  
John IV of Portugal (c.1604-1656)  
Alonso Lobo (c.1555-1617)  
Francisco Guerrero (c.1528-1599)  
Cristóbal de Morales (c.1500-1553)  
Francisco Guerrero (c.1528-1599)  
Tomas Luis de Victoria (c.1548-1611)  
Francisco Guerrero (c.1528-1599)  
Sebastian de Vivanco (c.1551-1622)

Vexilla Regis vv. 1-3, with contapunto  
Crux Fidelis  
Versa est in Luctum  
Niño dios d’amor herido  
Quanti mercenarii  
Si tus penas no pruevo  
O Magnum Mysterium  
Ave virgo sanctissima  
Magnificat Octavi Toni

--------------------------------------------------------------------INTERVAL--------------------------------------------------------------------

Sebastian de Vivanco (c.1551-1622)  
King Alfonso X (c.1221-1284)  
Tomas Luis de Victoria (c.1548-1611)  
Anon (Lugo Choirbook)  
Anon (Lugo Choirbook)  
Carlos Rodríguez Otero (b.1999)

Veni, dilecte mi  
Rosa das Rosas  
Vidi speciosam  
Nunc Dimittis | Lumen ad revelationem  
Vexilla Regis  
Cruz: a triptych-motet to the Holy Cross*

This concert, and commission, was made possible by the generous support of Professor Eric Nye.

*Co-commissioned by Continuum and Clare Hall College Cambridge.
Born in Santiago de Compostela and brought up in Bristol, Carlos Rodríguez Otero is a versatile singer, teacher and conductor. He is a tenor Lay Clerk at St John’s College, Cambridge, regularly singing and touring with concert choirs such as Tenebrae, and church choirs across the country. During 2018–21, Carlos re-founded and directed the Fisher House Schola Cantorum, which specialises in the liturgical performance of Gregorian chant and polyphony. During 2019–20, he was also Assistant Conductor of the Cambridge University Music Society, which, as well as assisting internationally renowned conductors in large-scale orchestral projects, involved regularly conducting the Cambridge University Wind Orchestra. He was also principal violinist of the Cambridge University Sinfonia during 2017–19, of which he was President 2018–19. In recent months, he has conducted Cambridge performances of Handel’s Dixit Dominus, Rachmaninov’s Second Piano Concerto and All Night Vigil, Dvorak’s Sixth Symphony, Mozart’s Requiem, and has been the musical director for Handel’s Xerxes, John Blow’s Venus and Adonis, and Francesca Caccini’s La liberazione di Ruggiero—all charity projects.

Carlos was previously a choral scholar at Queens’ College, Cambridge (2017), where he read for his undergraduate and master’s degrees in Music. His academic interests centre on sacred music in medieval and early modern Europe, and he is taking Doctoral studies with Iain Fenlon and Maria Jose de la Torre Molina at the University of Malaga, specialising in sacred music in Early Modern Galicia (Northern Spain). Carlos combines his activity as a freelance musician and postgraduate student with an active teaching practice in Cambridge, including supervising for the Faculty of Music, which he greatly enjoys.

Carlos Rodríguez Otero - Vexilla Regis, with contrapunto

Vexilla regis prodeunt:                      The Royal Banner forward goes,
Fulget crucis mysterium                      The mystic Cross refulgent glows:
Quo carne carnis conditor,                   Where He, in Flesh, flesh who made,
Suspensus est patibulo.                      Upon the Tree of pain is laid.

Confixa clavis viscera                       Behold! The nails with anguish fierce,
tendens manus, vestigia,                    His outstretched arms and vitals pierce:
redemptionis gratia                        Here our redemption to obtain,
hic immolata est hostia.                   The Mighty Sacrifice is slain.

Impleta sunt quae concinit                   Fulfilled is all that David told
David fidelis carmine,                     In true prophetic song, of old:
dicendo nationibus:                        Unto the nations, lo! saith he,
regnavit a ligno Deus.                     Our God hath reigned from the Tree
**John IV of Portugal - Crux Fidelis**

Crux fidelis, inter omnes
arbor una nobilis:
nulla Silva talen profert,
fronde, flore, germine.
Dulce lignum, dulces clavos,
dulce pondus sustinet.

**Faithful cross, above all other,**
**One and only noble tree:**
**None in foliage, none in blossom,**
**None in fruit thy peer may be,**
**Sweetest wood and sweetest iron,**
**Sweetest weight is hung on thee!**

**Alonso Lobo - Versa est in luctum**

Versa est in luctum cithara mea,
et organum meum in vocem flentium.
Parce mihi Domine,
nihil enim sunt dies mei.

**My harp is turned to grieving**
**and my flute to the voice of those who weep**
**Spare me, O Lord,**
**for my days are as nothing**

**Francisco Guerrero - Niño dios d'amor herido**

Niño Dios d’amor herido,
tan presto os enamoráis,
que apenas avés nascido,
quando d'amores lloráis.

**Heartbroken infant God,**
**so promptly you fall in love!**
**You are just a newborn**
**and you cry of heartbreak**

En esa mortal divisa,
nos mostráis bien el amar,
pues, siendo hijo de risa,
lo trocáis por el llorar.

**In taking human form,**
**you teach us well about love**
**since, being son of laughter**
**you exchange that for weeping**

La risa nos á cabido,
el llorar vos lo aceptáis,
y apenas avés nascido
quando d'amores lloráis.

**The laughter fits us well**
**You accept the weeping**
**You are just a newborn**
**and you cry of heartbreak.**

**Cristóbal de Morales - Quanti mercenarii**

Quanti mercenarii in domo Patris mei
abundant panibus,
ego autem hic fame pereo,
Surgam, et ibo ad Patrem meum et dicam ei:
fac me sicut unum ex mercenariis tuis.

**How many of my father's hired men have food**
**to spare,**
**and here I am starving to death!**
**I will arise and go to my father and say to him:**
'**Make me like one of your hired men.'**

Pater peccavi in coelum et coram te.
Iam non sum dignus vocari filius tuus,
fac me sicut unum ex mercenariis tuis.

**Father, I have sinned against heaven and**
**before you;**
**I am no longer worthy to be called your son:**
**make me like one of your hired men.**
Francisco Guerrero - **Si tus penas no pruebo**

Si tus penas no pruebo,
loh Jesús mío! vivo triste y penado.

Tu dorado cabello,
zagala mia, me tiene fuerte, atado.

Hiéreme, pues el alma ya te he dado;
y si este don me hicieres,
mi Dios, claro veré, que bien me quieres.

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Si I don’t taste your woes,
oh my Jesus, I live sadly and woefully

Your golden locks, my lad
Have bound me strongly

Wound me, for I have given you my soul,
And if you give me this gift,
I shall see, my God, how well you love me

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Tomás Luis de Victoria - **O Magnum Mysterium**

O magnum mysterium
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum
jacentem in praesepio.

O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt
portare Dominum Jesum Christum.
Alleluia!

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O great mystery
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord
lying in a manger!

O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb
was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.
Alleluia

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Francisco Guerrero - **Ave virgo sanctissima**

Ave virgo sanctissima
Dei mater piissima
Maris stella clarissima
Salve semper gloriosa
Margarita pretiosa
Sicut lilium formosa
Nitens olens velut rosa

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Hail, Holy Virgin,
most blessed Mother of God,
bright star of the sea.
Hail, ever glorious,
precious pearl,
lovely as the lily,
beautiful and perfumed as the rose.

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Sebastian de Vivanco - **Magnificat Octavi Toni**

Magnificat, anima mea, Dominum
et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo, salutari meo.
Quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ:
ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes
generationes.

Quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est, et
sanctum nomen eius,
et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies
timentibus eum.
Fecit potentiam in brachio suo,
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.

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Deposuit potentes de sede et exaltavit humiles;
esurientes implevit bonis et divites dimisit
inanes.

Suscepit Israel puerum suum recordatus
misericordiæ suæ,
sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et
semini eius in sæcula.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto:
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in
sæcula sæculorum. Amen.
My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his
handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall
call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is
his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout
all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of
their hearts.

Sebastian de Vivanco - Veni, dilecte mi

Veni, dilecte mi, egrediamur in agro,
commoremur in villis.
Mane surgamus ad vineas, videamus si floruit
vinea,
si flores fructus parturiunt, si floruerunt mala
punica.
Ibi dabo tibi ubera mea.
Mandragorae dederunt odorem suum, in
portis nostris omnia poma,
nova et vetera, dilecte mi, servavi tibi.

King Alfonso X - Rosa das Rosas

Rosa das rosas e Fror das frores,
Dona das donas, Sennor das sennores.

Rosa de beldad’ e de parecer
e Fror d’alegria e de prazer,
Dona en mui piadosa ser
Sennor en toller coitas e doores.

Atal Sennor dev’ ome muit’ amar,
que de todo mal o pode guardar;
e pode-l’l os peccados perdôar,
que faz no mundo per maos sabores.
Devemo-la muit’ amar e servir,
ca punna de nos guardar de falir;
des i dos erros nos faz repentir,
que nos fazemos come pecadores.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and
hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the
rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant
Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham
and his seed, for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall
be, world without end. Amen.

Come, my beloved, let us go forth to the field, let us
lodge in the villages.
Let us get up early to the vineyards, let us see if the
vine has budded,
if the grape blossoms are open, if the pomegranates
are in bloom.
There I will give you my breasts. The mandrakes
give off a fragrance,
and at our gates are pleasant fruits, all manner,
new and old, which I have laid up for you, my
beloved.

Rose of roses and flower of flowers,
Lady of ladies, Lord of lords.

Rose of beauty and fine appearance
And flower of happiness and pleasure,
lady of most merciful bearing,
And Lord for relieving all woes and cares;

Such a Mistress everybody should love,
For she can ward away any evil
And she can pardon any sinner
To create a better savor in this world.

We should love and serve her loyally,
For she can guard us from falling;
She makes us repent the errors
That we have committed as sinners:
Esta dona que tenno por Sennore de que quero ser trobador,
se eu per ren poss’ aver seu amor,
dou ao demo os outros amores.

Tomás Luis de Victoria - Vidi speciosam

Vidi speciosam sicut columbam ascendentem desuper rivos aquarum:
Cuius inaestimabilis odor erat nimis in vestimentis eius.
Et sicut dies verni, flores rosarum circumdabant eam, et lilia convallium.
Quae est ista, quae ascendit per desertum sicut virgula fumi,
ex aromatibus myrrhæ et thuris?
Et sicut dies verni, flores rosarum circumdabant eam, et lilia convallium.

Anon (Lugo Choirbook) - Nunc Dimitis | Lumen ad revelationem

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine,
secundum verbum tuum in pace:
Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum
Quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum:
Lumen ad revelationem gentium, et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto:

Anon (Lugo Choirbook) - Vexilla Regis

Vexilla regis prodeunt:
Fulget crucis mysterium
Quo carne carnis conditor,
Suspensus est patibulo.

Confixa clavis viscera
tendens manus, vestigia,
redemptionis gratia
hic immolata est hostia.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

The Royal Banner forward goes,
The mystic Cross refulgent glows:
Where He, in Flesh, flesh who made,
Upon the Tree of pain is laid.

Behold! The nails with anguish fierce,
His outstretched arms and vitals pierce:
Here our redemption to obtain,
The Mighty Sacrifice is slain.
Carlos Rodríguez Otero - Cruz: a triptych-motet to the Holy Cross

El Ruiseñor que pierde sus hijuelos

Cual suele el ruiseñor entre las sombras de las hojas del olmo o de la haya
la pérdida llorar de sus hijuelos,
a los cuales sin plumas aleando
el duro labrador tomó del nido;
llora la triste pajarilla entonces
la noche entera sin descanso alguno,
y desde allí, do está puesta en su ramo,
renovando su llanto dolorido,
de sus querellas hincha todo el campo.

Juan Boscán (1490 – 1542)

The Nightingale who Loses her Young*

How the nightingale, in the shadows of elm and beech leaves
cries for the loss of her young, whom, wingless and flailing,
the harsh labourer took from their nest! So the sad little bird weeps
All night long, restlessly,
And there, from her branch,
Renewing her pained weeping, Fills the fields with her complaint.

Arbor decora et fulgida, ornata Regis purpura,
electa digno stipite
tam sancta membra tangere.
(Vexilla regis, v. 4)

Return to you (excerpts)*

¿Quién nos separará del amor de Cristo?
Romans 8:35

Señor, una vez más vengo a buscarte. Una vez más —la primera o la última— a que me digas por qué tengo mi alma tan arañada de caminos. Tú que todo lo sabes, enciende en mi la verdad, aunque sea tan rotunda como un rayo, y quédeme yo traspasado de tu verdad, aunque tenga que desnudarme del todo Como Tú, duramente.

Antonio Gala (1930–2023)

Beata, cuius brachiis pretium pependit saeculi:
statera facta corporis, praedam tutilque tartari.
(Vexilla regis, v. 5)

Lord, once again I come to seek you. Once again—the first time or the last—
So you can tell me why my soul has been so scratched by the paths.
You who know everything, Light in me the truth,
Even if it’s clear like lightning, And let me be pierced by your truth, Even I have to undress myself totally Like you, harshly.

Blest Tree, whose happy branches bore the wealth that did the world restore; the beam that did that Body weigh which raised up Hell’s expected prey.
Cruz, descanso sabroso
Cruz, descanso sabroso de mi vida vos seáis la bienvenida.
Oh bandera, en cuyo amparo el más flaco será fuerte,
qué bien la has resucitado; al león has amansado, Pues por ti perdió la vida:
vos seáis la bienvenida.

St. Teresa of Ávila (1515–82)

O Crux ave, spes unica, hoc Passionis tempore!
pis adaige gratiam, reisque dele crimina.
Te, fons salutis Trinitas, collaudet omnis spiritus:
quos per Crucis mysterium salvas, fove per saecula. Amen.

(Vexilla regis, vv. 6, 7)

Greeting to the Cross
Cross, thou delicious solace of my life,
I welcome thee!
O standard, 'neath whose sign, the worst Of cowards must be brave!
O thou our life, who erst our death Didst raise from out the grave!
Thy strength the lion didst subdue, 
For 'twas thy power the foe that slew!— Welcome! all hail!
(Trans. by the Benedictine nuns of Stanbrook Abbey)

Hail Cross, of hopes the most sublime! Now, in the mournful Passion time; grant to the just increase of grace, and every sinner’s crimes efface. 
Blest Trinity, salvation’s spring may every soul Thy praises sing;
to those Thou grantest conquest by the Holy Cross, rewards supply. Amen.

* Translations by the composer.
Upcoming Concerts at Clare Hall College, Cambridge

27th April, 7.30pm - Ondes Martenot and Theremin concert by Charlie Draper with Patrick Hemmerlé - Clare Hall, Cambridge

18th May, 7.30pm - Fitzwilliam String Quartet with Patrick Hemmerlé - Clare Hall, Cambridge

8th June, 7.30pm - A concert by Freya Goldmark and Patrick Hemmerlé - Clare Hall, Cambridge

29th June, 7.30pm - A concert by soprano Grace Davidson and harpsichordist Julian Perkins - Clare Hall, Cambridge