



The **HANDFUL**  
Chamber Choir

**HEAVEN**  
**AND**  
**EARTH**

**Palestrina** Missa Papae Marcelli

**Lassus** Aurora lucis rutilat

and works by Thacker, Roth, Vasks

**SATURDAY 15 JUNE** 7.30pm

**TICKETS**

**Prior Park College Chapel**  
Ralph Allen Drive BA2 5AH  
[www.thehandful.org](http://www.thehandful.org)

£15 (£5 for under 25s)  
Bath Box Office 01225 463362  
[www.bathboxoffice.org.uk](http://www.bathboxoffice.org.uk)

The logo for 'The Handful' features a golden arch above the word 'HANDFUL' in a bold, golden, serif font. The word 'The' is in a smaller, italicized font to the left of 'HANDFUL'.

Works ranging from 16th-century Italy to a new commission explore the dialogue between *Heaven and Earth* in this sumptuous, sometimes meditative programme, inspired by Lassus's Easter hymn **Aurora lucis rutilat**. Lassus uses vivid imagery to describe the rejoicing of heaven and earth as Christ surges forth victoriously from the grave.

The earliest work in the programme is Palestrina's beautiful **Missa Papae Marcelli**, written to be sung at the Council of Trent, where the use of polyphonic music in the Catholic Church was in debate. Legend has it that its simple, declamatory style convinced Cardinal Borromeo that polyphony could be intelligible, and that such music was too beautiful to ban from the Church.

Two ground-breaking, 21st-century works and a world premiere complete the programme: Peteris Vasks' **Plainscapes** is a vocalise masterpiece accompanied by solo violin and cello that creates a haunting impression of a Baltic landscape, "a place where one can see the horizon and look at the stars in the sky", whilst Alec Roth's **Stargazer** is a playful, expressive and occasionally macabre rumination on the stars and how humans view outer space.

Bringing us right up to the present day, The Handful is proud to have commissioned a new work by the young award-winning composer Alexander Thacker. **Let Earth and Heaven Combine** explores the paradox of humanity and heaven being connected through the incarnation of Christ as a human.

**The Handful** has enjoyed an enviable reputation as one of the most exciting, vibrant and adventurous chamber choirs in and around Bath. Founded in 2002 as 'A Handful of Singers', the choir started out as a small group of experienced singers. Since then the choir has grown both in size (to 24 singers) and in stature. Now with **Tomos Watkins** at the helm, **The Handful** has entered a new phase as a forward-looking choir, always entrancing audiences with its fine sound and imaginative programming, and always seeking to leave them captivated.

*"A masterclass in purity of tone and musical understanding"*

## NEXT CONCERT

Saturday 14 December at St Mary the Virgin, Bathwick