



Christine Gevert, Founding Artistic Director
2014 winner of Chorus America's ASCAP/Alice Parker Award for Adventurous Programming

**ELIZABETHAN MADRIGALS, MOTETS
AND
THE SOUNDS OF HAMLET**

The award-winning music organization Crescendo will present its spring concert program of two concerts on May 21 and 22 in Lakeville, CT and Great Barrington, MA. *Elizabethan Music and The Sounds of Hamlet* will feature madrigals and motets by some of the greatest British composers of England's Elizabethan Age: William Byrd, Orlando Gibbons, Thomas Morley, Thomas Weelkes, and John Wilbye. In a tribute to William Shakespeare, Crescendo performs the world premiere of a commissioned work by organist and composer, Juan Mesa, entitled "*Three Fantasies on Quotes from Shakespeare's Hamlet.*"

Performers are the Crescendo Chorus, soloists, the Boston-based Arcadia Viols Gamba Consort, and Larry Wallach on continuo organ. Crescendo's founder and artistic director Christine Gevert will conduct.

A native of Chile, composer Juan Mesa began studying music at age 9. In the U.S. he studied organ performance and composition at Western Connecticut State University as well as at Indiana University (MA) where he is now a Ph.D. candidate. He has composed and arranged extensively for the liturgical choir setting, and his works have been performed by the St. Mary's Choir in Holliston, MA, where he is the Music Director, and Trinity Episcopal Church in Indianapolis.

Composers in the "Golden Age" of Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603) lived to see their music flourish both in the sacred and secular arenas. As an example, William Byrd, a devout Catholic, composed sacred motets and masses for both Catholic and Anglican churches as well as his popular--and secular--madrigals. Two of Byrd's sacred motets and one by Orlando Gibbons are included in the program along with some of the best of the English madrigals. "Anyone who has sung in a chorus probably has sung an English madrigal," notes Ms. Gevert. "These short pieces are full of character, tell lively stories and are wonderfully crafted for voices. We are featuring in this program a selection of madrigals from the 1601 collection "The Triumphs of Oriana" all written to honor Queen Elizabeth."

Concerts are at 6 pm on Saturday, May 21 at the First Congregational Church, 251 Main St., Great Barrington, MA, and at 4pm in Lakeville at Trinity Church Lime Rock, 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lakeville, CT.

Tickets: \$30 general seating, \$50 premium seating and \$10 under 18. Groups of ten have a special rate of \$220 for the May 21 concert. Tickets are available online at www.worldclassmusic.org/buy-tickets/. For more information call 860-435-4866. Crescendo's performances are Take Part Culture Card events of the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council.

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