

**St Albans
Chamber
Choir**

Saturday 1 February 2020

7.30pm

St Saviour's Church

St Albans AL1 4DF



Spanish Mystics

Tomás Luis de Victoria

Vespers

Geoffrey Burgon

Dos Coros

Geoffrey Burgon

Nunc Dimittis

*with readings from the writings of St Teresa of Ávila
and St John of the Cross*

Louisa Kataria

saxophone

John Gibbons

conductor

**TICKETS
&
BOOKING**

£15 (£5 child/student)

tel **07570 454744**; email tickets@stalbanschamberchoir.org.uk;

online www.ticketsource.co.uk, or via link from our own website

www.stalbanschamberchoir.org.uk

St Albans Chamber Choir is a registered charity no. 280876

Spanish Mystics

Mystical music, literature and art from Spain's Golden Age

Influential reformers of the Roman Catholic Church in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Spain, the Spanish mystics were also the authors of spiritual masterpieces, attempting to express in words the soul's deep longing to be united with God and the rapture and ecstasy of that union.

Dos Coros (1975) by **Geoffrey Burgon** is a choral setting of two poems by St John of the Cross (1542-1591), widely considered to be the greatest of the Spanish mystic poets in that he comes closest to expressing the inexpressible: a sense of the divine. St John and his spiritual mentor St Teresa of Ávila (1515-1582) – herself a significant writer – founded new convents and monasteries throughout Spain dedicated to a simple, austere and meditative life, unshackled by worldly goods.

Spanish mysticism also finds expression in the music of the greatest Spanish composer of the golden age of polyphony, **Tomás Luis de Victoria** (1548-1611). The *Second Vespers of the Feast of the Annunciation* is a collection of ten significant pieces of sacred music devoted to the Virgin Mary, published in Rome between 1581 and 1583. They might have been used at the Vesper (evening) service on the Feast of the Annunciation (25 March).

The music will be interspersed with readings from the mystic poets while images by the great religious painter **Domenikos Theotokopoulos (El Greco)** (1541-1614) – another Roman Catholic reformer and mystic – will be displayed.

Please join us afterwards for drinks and party nibbles in the church hall



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