



**Spem in Alium** by Thomas Tallis (c1505 – 1585)  
Gloucester Cathedral  
Gloucester Choral Society & Friends  
Musical Director: Adrian Partington  
360 singers in 8 choirs around the nave  
*Admission Free: Retiring Collection for GCS Young Singers*

Complex, demanding and a real treat for lovers of choral music, this very special work is a motet, laid out for eight choirs of five voices (soprano, alto, tenor, baritone and bass).

Beginning with a single voice from the first choir, other voices join in imitation, each in turn falling silent as the music moves around the eight choirs.

All forty voices come together for a few bars, and then the pattern is reversed with the music passing from choir eight to choir one. After another brief moment of togetherness, the choirs sing in antiphonal pairs, throwing the sound across the space between them, calling and answering. Finally all voices join for the culmination of this fascinating work.

This piece is rarely performed, as it requires so many singers capable of meeting its technical demands. The challenge of performing this masterpiece is highlighted by the discipline needed from the conductor and singers alike. When performers are set throughout the cathedral nave, the conductor becomes the eye of the storm, as often there is little or no visibility between the choirs.

Please join us and our 8 choirs of talented choral singers from all over the country for a memorable afternoon of music.

**The performance will be followed by spoken prayer at 4.30pm**  
**Not Evensong as previously advised**