



~ Biography ~

“...their interpretation at times almost touches the visionary.”
Gramophone

Formed in 1994 and directed by Alistair Dixon *Chapelle du Roi* is an ensemble of eight singers, many of whom are in the first few years of their professional careers. The choir specialises in performing and recording sacred music of the late medieval, and Renaissance periods.

Chapelle du Roi has two aims. First, to unearth music that has previously languished unseen and unheard on library shelves and that is deserving of greater prominence. Second, to help re-establish Renaissance music as repertoire that can be enjoyed by everybody by bringing it to wider audiences. Whilst the first aim is achieved by careful research and preparation of new editions (many of which are published by the group's director, Alistair Dixon, through The Cantiones Press, the second is met by giving live concerts in the UK and abroad and by making recordings and broadcasts. *Chapelle du Roi* places great emphasis on presenting programmes that are appealing and engaging and which allow the development of a strong rapport between audience and performers.



Chapelle du Roi is based in London, England, and in addition to accepting concert engagements it also promotes occasional concerts in and around London each year.

Chapelle du Roi gave its first concert at St Pancras Church, Euston Road, London on 29th October 1994. The programme was entitled *The Art of the Franco-Flemish Masters* but the repertoire of *Chapelle du Roi*, is not limited by national boundaries; France, Germany, Portugal, Mexico, Malta, Italy, and Scotland all produced important music in the renaissance period. Some emphasis, though, inevitably falls on English music, particularly that of the English Chapel Royal. *Chapelle du Roi* first made a name for itself in 1996 with a series of six concerts covering the complete works of Thomas Tallis, and this led to an invitation to record the same over nine CDs on the *Signum* label.

Since its inception *Chapelle du Roi* has established a strong concert audience following and continues to build on its enviable reputation for the interpretation of Renaissance music. Its highly acclaimed appearance at the York Early Music festival in 1997 and the Utrecht Early Music Festival the following three years running led the group to be continuously in demand.

Subsequent concert and radio appearances included performances for the 400th anniversary of the Spanish composer Francisco Guerrero at St John's Smith Square, the Warwick Arts Society, Birmingham Early Music Festival, Utrecht Early Music Festival, the Festival Hall Foyer series, the St Ceciliatide Festival at Stationer's Hall, the Stour Festival, engagements in Alden Biesen and the Flanders Festival as well as many appearances on BBC Radio 3. *Chapelle du Roi* made its debut tour of the United States with its *Millennium* programme in 2000.

Chapelle du Roi has continued to specialise in the English repertoire - particularly that of the English Chapel Royal - with performances of the works of William Mundy, John Sheppard and William Parsons. Further afield, repertoire interests extend to Spain and the Holy Roman Empire, including the music of Francisco Guerrero, Cristóbal Morales, Alonso Lobo and the neglected Spanish aristocratic composer, Don Fernando de las Infantas.

In February 1997 *Chapelle du Roi* released the first in a series of nine CDs covering the complete works of Thomas Tallis: the second was selected as early music disc of the month in Classic FM Magazine. The series was completed in 2005 with the release of the final volume and the boxed set. The group's discography on the Signum label now totals 12 discs with nine in the Tallis series, music for Philip of Spain, Charles V and Francisco Guerrero.

The first volume in a series of the complete works of William Mundy will be recorded in the Autumn of 2010.

Alistair Dixon

Chapelle du Roi is directed by Alistair Dixon who was born in 1961 and brought up in Ware, Hertfordshire. He was educated as a music scholar at Millfield School in Somerset where he studied the violin and organ. He graduated from Liverpool University in 1982 having continued his organ studies with Noel Rawsthorne and Ian Tracey.



After a spell as Director of Music at St. Mary's Ilkeston he became a Songman in the Cathedral Choir in Derby. In 1993 he was appointed a Gentleman in Ordinary at Her Majesty's Chapel Royal where duties included singing the Sunday services at St James' Palace and providing the music for state occasions such as the Distribution of the Maundy and the annual service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph.

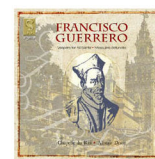
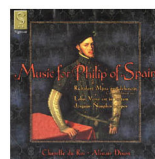
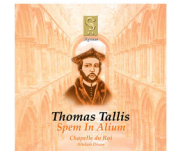
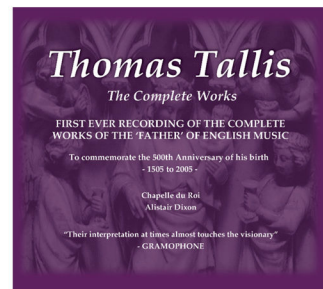
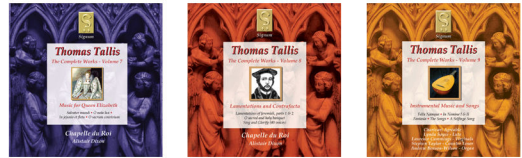
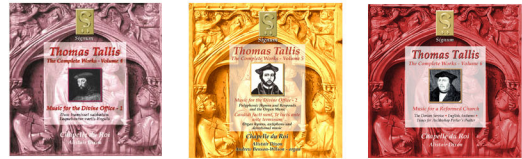
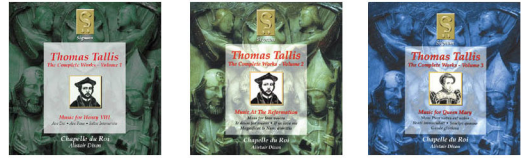
Alistair Dixon is chairman of the Renaissance Society and jointly runs the recently established music publishing company *The Cantiones Press*.

~ Discography ~

All discs are on *Signum Classics*.

Thomas Tallis—The Complete Works

Vol. 1 <i>The Early Works</i>	SIGCD001
Vol. 2 <i>Music at the Reformation</i>	SIGCD002
Vol. 3 <i>Music for Queen Mary</i>	SIGCD003
Vol. 4 <i>Music for The Divine Office - 1</i>	SIGCD010
Vol. 5 <i>Music for The Divine Office - 2</i>	SIGCD016
Vol. 6 <i>Music for a Reformed Church</i>	SIGCD022
Vol. 7 <i>Music for Queen Elizabeth</i>	SIGCD029
Vol. 8 <i>Lamentations and Contrafacta</i>	SIGCD036
Vol. 9 <i>Instrumental and Secular Music</i>	SIGCD042
Spem in Alium – CD Single	SIGCD047
Music for Philip II of Spain	SIGCD005
Requiem - The Music of Francisco Guerrero	SIGCD017
Music for Charles V Holy Roman Emperor	SIGCD019





~ Quotes from the reviews ~

When you hear such natural unaffected music-making and such polished contrapuntal dovetailing as in William Mundy's sumptuous Vox Patris Caelestis, you realise that Chapelle du Roi is an ensemble finely honed and responsive, with vitalising clarity and diction and texture.

The Daily Telegraph

They make a beautiful sound as anyone can hear on this projected series of nine CDs. Beati immaculati opens with clean counter-tenors rising with sexless potency, the sopranos flying like hire-wire artists on the strong but implicit pulse, the young tenors personifying innocence and the dark basses fastening the entire impressive ensemble to earth. The plainchant .. is far better than any you will hear on any hyped and marketed "Gregorian" disc. Alistair Dixon, the conductor and founder of Chapelle du Roi has shaped a remarkably beautiful CD here.

London Evening Standard.

Directed by Alistair Dixon the eight singers gave a seamless performance, the voices almost angelic...

The Scotsman

The pure, golden voices of Chapelle du Roi, under their director Alistair Dixon ... a choral sound that in Chapelle du Roi's case is pure and rounded.

The Scotsman

... Alistair Dixon was an admirable conductor, alive to the meaning of the words and drawing out singing of real distinction ...

The Church Times

The choir's concert in Jesus College Chapel ... was typically inspired. This was an enthusiastic, capable and at times inspired group whose concerts are well worth seeking out.

The Church Times

... the flow of Tallis's music was counterbalanced by some of the best singing of plainsong I have ever heard.

Early Music Review

the quality of this disc will surely put these talented performers on the musical map.

BBC Music Magazine

Current interest in authentic performance was demonstrated on 20th May by a substantial audience for a concert by Chapelle du Roi under the baton of Alistair Dixon. It was a memorable experience ...

Organists Review