

AIRS & DANCES

7.30PM, Thursday 30 October
Holy Trinity Cathedral

Director Andrew Beer

Programme Notes

Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

Sinfonia to Santa Beatri d'Este (1689)

Italian violinist and composer, Arcangelo Corelli was definitively the trendsetter of his time for musical style. He recycled a theme from his *Sinfonia to Santa Beatri d'Este* to a later *Concerto Grosso*, which has been the inspiration of many composers since. Only strings and harpsichord are present tonight – go home and compare this to a recording with a wind section! A theorbo (a large string instrument) is also featured here.

Ernest Bloch (1880-1959)

Concerto Grosso No. 2 (1952)

Bloch was inspired by Corelli's recycled *Sinfonia* theme and revels in neo-classical tradition. This modern take on Baroque music is unusual in featuring a string quartet rather than a traditional trio.

Ottorino Respighi (1879-1936)

Ancient Airs & Dances: Suite No.3 (1931)

Respighi was inspired by the Italian Renaissance, Baroque and French lute music when creating his three suites of *Ancient Airs & Dances*. The third suite is unique in its arrangement for strings only, differing from the previous two. It's more melancholy in mood, with the singable nature of the original lute song upheld in its orchestration.

Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber (1644-1704)

Battalia à 10 (1673)

Biber's *Battalia* is full of surprises: strings imitating wind and percussion, polytonality, 'prepared' bass and other unconventional tricks you'd expect to hear in 20th century music – not in a piece written in 1673! Believed to have been inspired by Biber's thoughts on the Thirty Years' War, it's a very programmatic work. Look out again for that theorbo here!