

SEI CANTI (for four or two soprano saxophones) was composed in 2016
commissioned by The Flanders Festival Mechelen/Kempen
for performance in MUSICA DIVINA - 24 September 2016

SEI CANTI was written for and first performed by B!ndman [sax], directed by the composer

FORWARD

Sei Canti was composed for performance in Mechelen Cathedral, and designed as interludes between groups of motets from my reconstruction of Gesualdo's *Sacrae Cantiones, Liber Secundus*.

The musical material is based on the melodic and rhythmic shapes of selected imitation Points in the individual motets of their titles, and each *CANTO* was designed either to precede or succeed its corresponding motet. The complete sequence of Gesualdo motets and the *Sei Canti* in the first performance in Mechelen was as follows:

Gesualdo	<i>Miserere (Responsoria 1611)</i>
Gesualdo	<i>Discedite a me omnes</i>
Gesualdo	<i>Verba mea</i>
Gesualdo	<i>Virgo benedicta</i>
Wood	<i>CANTO PRIMO - sul Virgo benedicta</i>
Gesualdo	<i>Sana me Domine</i>
Gesualdo	<i>Ave sanctissima Maria</i>
Wood	<i>CANTO SECONDO - sul O oriens</i>
Gesualdo	<i>O oriens</i>
Gesualdo	<i>Franciscus humilis et pauper</i>
Wood	<i>CANTO TERZO - sul O beata Mater</i>
Gesualdo	<i>O beata Mater</i>
Gesualdo	<i>O sacrum convivium</i>
Wood	<i>CANTO QUARTO - sul O sacrum convivium</i>
Gesualdo	<i>Ne derelinquas me</i>
Gesualdo	<i>Adoramus te Christe</i>
Wood	<i>CANTO QUINTO - sul Ardens est cor meum</i>
Gesualdo	<i>Ardens est cor meum</i>
Gesualdo	<i>Assumpta est Maria</i>
Wood	<i>CANTO SESTO - sul Assumpta est Maria</i>
Gesualdo	<i>Benedictus (Responsoria 1611)</i>

It was, however, always my intention that the *Sei Canti* could be performed in many other musical contexts, independent of the Gesualdo motets on which they based. They can also be played by two soprano saxophones (see Notes for Performance).

James Wood (July 2016)