



STOUR MUSIC

BOX OFFICE 0333 666 4466

www.stourmusic.org.uk

STOUR MUSIC

21ST-30TH JUNE 2024

BOUGHTON ALUPH CHURCH

FESTIVAL of
EARLY MUSIC
in EAST KENT

Stour Music 2024

FIREWORKS, A HANDEL OPERA, Flamenco, Alehouse and great choral music - what a way to spend a few days in this (normally) quiet country church on the Pilgrims' Way between Ashford and Canterbury.

We start 'at home' (at least for Stour) in early 17th-century Venice and Rome with rhapsodic music for soprano and harp, before being whisked off to Spain for Flamenco. The Tango and the dance element of Tudor Night was much enjoyed previously and now we have a better stage so that everyone can enjoy the footwork. On Saturday, the fireworks continue: both real ones after the concert and in a large orchestral Handel spectacular with soprano Anna Dennis.



We also offer a fully staged performance (with Baroque gesture) of Handel's opera *Orlando* (perhaps some of you will remember the late James Bowman in the role).



And what is 'currently the hottest early music act in Europe' (I quote myself) the Scandinavian freethinkers Barokksolistene with the force that is Mary Bevan in 'Purcell's Playground': I saw this in Norway - absolutely unmissable. Only this group could then top that with an outrageous late-night - their now infamous 'Alehouse' which starts with Playford and Purcell and ends up... well, that depends on the night.



Sundays are choirs days: on the first weekend, new consort/choir Lyons Mouth offers 16th and 19th-21st century masterworks. On the final Sunday we're at home to Mr Haydn with his wind band mass, and while we take tea in the tent afterwards, Boxwood & Brass play wind serenades.



Robert Hollingworth
Artistic Director

Friday 21st June 7pm

Apollo's Lyre

Julia Doyle *soprano*
Aileen Henry *harp*
Toby Carr *theorbo*
Kinga Ujszászi &
Manami Mizumoto *violins*

Claudio Monteverdi
Confitebor tibi Domine (1650)
Isabella Leonarda
Ave suavis dilectio
Giacomo Carissimi
Lamento di Maria Stuarda
Girolamo Frescobaldi *Toccata*

A highlight of our final 2023 event was a rhapsodic solo by virtuoso harpist Aileen Henry. What a pleasure to invite her back to open Stour 2024 with fabulous colleagues in a tailor-made 17th-century programme of miniatures from Venice and Rome.

The programme features two dramatic laments:

Carissimi's bitter 'Lament of Mary Stuart', the almost queen of England, and Barbara Strozzi's Apollo scored for soprano, two violins and basso continuo, one of her most substantial pieces - perhaps as close as this great composer came to writing opera.

Sponsored by
Stephen Bann
Tickets £20,
£25, £30



9.15pm

Fiesta Flamenco

Aitana Solo *dancer*
Claudia Mia Rubio *dancer*
Tito Heredia *guitar*
Bryan Reyes Rodriguez *guitar*
Carlos Barba Jiménez *singer*
Agony Perdomo *cajón*
Preetha Narayanan *violin*

After the memorable Tango and Jacobean dance of recent festivals, we present **Nuria García** and friends in an hour of Flamenco - one of Spain's oldest artistic and cultural traditions.

Flamenco represents the soul of Andalucía in extremes of passion in both music and movement.

Prepare yourselves for an hour of intensity, with some of the most dramatic Flamenco rhythms from some of the artform's most distinguished performers, dedicated Flamenco artists, each of them having studied the art in depth and working all around the world.



Sponsored by Martin & Caroline Goodier
and Gilbert Holbourn
Tickets £20, £25, £30

Saturday 22nd June 8pm

Handel - Water Music and Fireworks!



Anna Dennis
soprano

The Devine Music

Steven Devine
conductor

An extravagant evening of Handel with a large band of strings, wind, natural horns, trumpets and drums - plus opera arias sung by Handel *prima donna* Anna Dennis, whose singing of Purcell at Stour in 2020 kept our Covid spirits alive. The Water Music was composed in 1717 at the request of the new King, George I, to have a concert on the Thames.

The Fireworks are from 1749 and at the initial performance in Green Park, there was a three-hour traffic jam to get to the concert... Our bar will be open early.

Handel Water Music (D & F major suites)

Handel Music for the Royal Fireworks

Shall the Sun forget to Shine (*Solomon*)

In mezzo a voi due (*Imeneo*)

Desterò dal empia dite (*Amadigi*)

Ritorno o caro from (*Rodelinda*)

Sponsored by *The Rothermere Foundation*

Tickets: £25, £35, £40

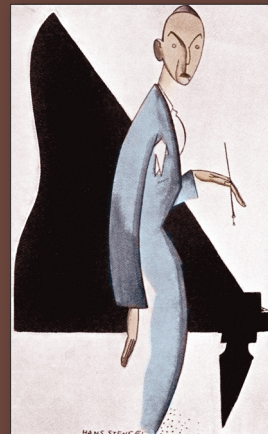


Handel and George I on the Thames

And to follow
Fireworks Display –
outside the Marquee 9.50pm (free)

10pm

Marquee (free entry)



'A bar on the
Piccolo Marina'

Molly Raine *voice*
Matthew King *piano*

A short cabaret of
Noël Coward,
Cole Porter
and more.

Noël Coward

Sunday 23rd June 3pm

The Lyons Mouth

Robert Hollingworth *conductor*
Music for two choirs (1560 - 2023)

Lassus *Two motets*

Wilbye/Monteverdi *Madrigals*

De Monte *Super flumina Babylonis*

Mendelssohn *Mitten wir im Leben sind*

Brahms *Motets for double choir Op.109*

Ravel *Soupir*

Caroline Shaw *And the swallow*

Joanna Marsh *All shall be well*



Robert Hollingworth brings a new choir of brilliant consort and choral singers, ex-students from the University of York. They have performed Bach at Brecon Baroque for Rachel Podger and will shortly appear on a new CD of Joanna Marsh. A work of hers will crown a programme of Renaissance and more recent masterworks, featuring Robert's choral favourites - as well as 16th century gems for solo-voice ensemble!

Tickets: £20, £25, £30



Bar and Supper in the Festival Marquee

The caterers will again be offering a choice of delicious main-course dishes and desserts, as well as cheese plates, coffee and tea. This year there will be one sitting for supper.

Meals must be ordered and paid for in advance using the booking form which can be downloaded from the website.

www.stourmusic.org.uk/food

For any queries about meal bookings,
phone 01233 812396.

The bar in the marquee will be open as usual
from 6.15 pm.

Teas will be available (no need to book)
following the Sunday afternoon concerts.

And a reminder:
please no picnics in the marquee.

Friday 28th June 7pm
(ends 10pm) with 1 hour interval

Handel *Orlando*

A staged performance with full costumes and baroque gesture



Liberata Collective

Christian Joel *Orlando*
Olivia Doutney *Angelica*
Susanna MacRae *Dorinda*
Joanna Harries *Medoro*
Jolyon Loy *Zoroastro*

Petra Hajduchova *Music Director*
and harpsichord

Simone Pirri *violin I*
Sophie Simpson *violin II*
Jordan Sian *viola*
Nathan Giorgetti *cello*
Oonagh Lee *oboe/recorders I*
Joel Raymond *oboe/recorders II*

Orlando is one of Handel's most intense and experimental operas. A masterpiece, it premiered at the King's Theatre in London in 1722 but ran for only 10 performances before falling into obscurity until the late 20th century (notably performed by the late James Bowman).



The plot centres on the love square between the knight Orlando, the princess Angelica, the prince Medoro and the shepherdess Dorinda, and leads to madness - even violence. Can the all-seeing sorcerer Zoroastro step in before it's too late? In this performance the singers use expressive physical movement in the style that Handel's own singers would have known.

'In a staging devised collectively (again in line with Baroque-era practices) by the singers themselves, any preconceptions of park-and-bark or overblown pantomime acting are put swiftly to bed.' *Bachtrack*

Sponsored by James & Jane Loudon

Tickets: £25, £35, £40



Saturday 29th June 7pm

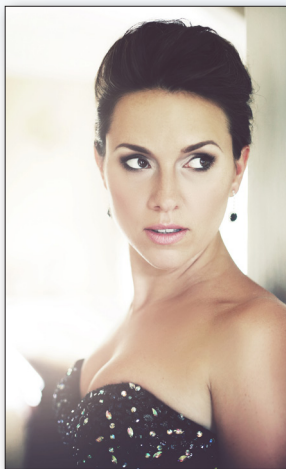
Purcell's Playground

Barokksolistene

Bjarte Eike
artistic director

Mary Bevan *soprano*

Robert writes: 'A thrilling double bill from one of the world's hottest early music groups - and one of our most in-demand sopranos. It's hard to put into words this magical



hour (which I saw last year): Purcell, as if you catch him at the moment of composition, musing, playing with ideas in his mind. Watching a possessed Mary Bevan in one of the madsongs with instruments playing by heart and somehow attached to her every phrase is something I'll hold on to for the rest of my life. Book early!



Sponsored by Paul & Janet Batchelor

Tickets: £20, £30, £35 (£5 discount when booking both 7pm and 9.15pm events)

9.15pm

Alehouse

Barokksolistene

This spectacular Purcell/pub/dance/fight/sea shanty mix-up has taken Europe by storm and left audiences of every type (from clubs to very respectable music festivals) surprised, elated and shouting for more.

Sponsored by Paul & Janet Batchelor

Tickets: £20, £30, £35 (£5 discount when booking both 7pm and 9.15pm events)



Sunday 30th June 3pm

Vienna

Haydn *Wind Band Mass*

Haydn 'Graceful Consort' (*Creation*)

Haydn *Insanae et vanae curae*

Michael Haydn *Timete Dominum*

Beethoven *Rondino in E-flat*

Stour Classical Players & Festival Choir
Boxwood & Brass (*period wind ensemble*)

Emily Vine *soprano*

Helena Cooke *mezzo-soprano*

Rory Carver *tenor*

Frederick Long *bass*

Robert Hollingworth *conductor*

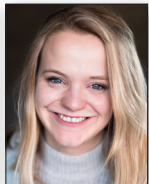


Boxwood & Brass

Vienna is our final resting place for Stour 2024. Haydn's B flat major mass is known as the 'wind band mass' because of its prominent use of wind and we're delighted to welcome Boxwood & Brass for the first time with their specialist classical instruments that will bring a slightly different colour to this soundworld. In addition a piece of early Beethoven (possibly composed as part of his lessons with Haydn), a short but beautiful motet from Haydn's brother and the 'husband and wife' aria from *Creation* - sung by husband and wife Frederick and Emily! Join us afterwards for a Viennese-themed tea in the marquee.



Emily Vine



Helena Cooke



Rory Carver



Frederick Long

Tickets:

£20, £30, £35

St Charles' Church, Vienna



Stour Festival Company Limited

This is a non-profit making organisation, established to support Stour Music in its efforts to provide an annual festival of international quality in East Kent. The Company has benefited over the years from a number of legacies, and patrons are encouraged to consider making provision in their Will for a bequest to be made to Stour Music, to help with the ever-increasing costs of maintaining the festival.

Details may be obtained from the Friends Secretary (see below). Registered Charity No.238476



The Chancellor
of the Exchequer

Stour
Festival
Company

AND
YOU

The Friends of Stour Music

In the absence of any public funding, this organisation provides a vital source of income support for the festival. For a minimum donation of £30pa, Friends are the first to receive the festival brochure, and have a priority booking period, allowing them first choice of the best seats available. In addition, they are notified of any special fringe events throughout the year, and invited to the annual AGM party, when the Director reveals his plans for the following year's festival. If you'd like to be a friend please visit: www.stourmusic.org.uk/friends or contact:

The Friends' Secretary,
87, Bridge Street, Wye, Ashford TN25 5ED
friends@stourmusic.org.uk

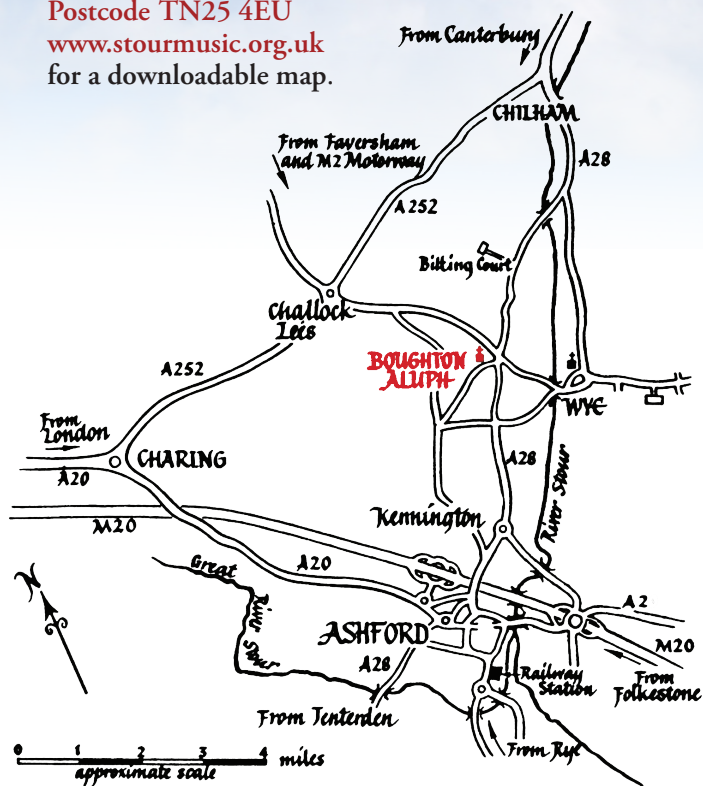
Boughton Aluph Church

All concerts during the festival take place in this beautiful Pilgrim church, set in the heart of the Kent countryside. The church is located just off the A28, about 4 miles from Ashford (Exit 9 from M20) and 10 miles from Canterbury. There are yellow Stour Music signs on the main Ashford to Canterbury road to direct traffic to the church and car park.

Boughton Aluph Church

Postcode TN25 4EU

www.stourmusic.org.uk
for a downloadable map.



Disabled Access & Parking

The rural nature of its location means that access to the church for disabled patrons is not easy, and caution is advised. The ground in the car park fields can be uneven, and there is a short but steep path down from the marquee field and also leading up into the churchyard. As last year, disabled parking will be provided at the top of the main car park field, as close as possible to the entrance to the Festival Marquee. (Severely disabled people can be dropped off at the top of the lane at the entrance to the churchyard, and then cars parked in the normal manner.) There is level wheelchair access to the church via the South door, or by use of a ramp at the North door. St John Ambulance personnel will be on hand to give assistance where required.

Booking arrangements

Tickets

- We are using TicketSource again as our online and telephone Box Office. The TicketSource booking fee is 6.5% + VAT per booking. When booking online, you will be sent an e-ticket with your booking confirmation; please present this on the door of the concert - either on an electronic device or printed.
- Stour Music Friends have a Priority Booking period until General Booking opens on 11 April.
- There will also be a box office for purchase of tickets at the entrance to the festival marquee, which will open 45 minutes before the start of each concert.
- Wheelchair spaces are available throughout the three price code areas. Please select one of these spaces when booking online or indicate to the TicketSource team when booking by telephone.
- Concessions: 10% discount when booking for 6 concerts or more, with 50% discount for those in full-time education.
- Tickets cannot normally be exchanged or money refunded.

General Booking

Thursday 11 April

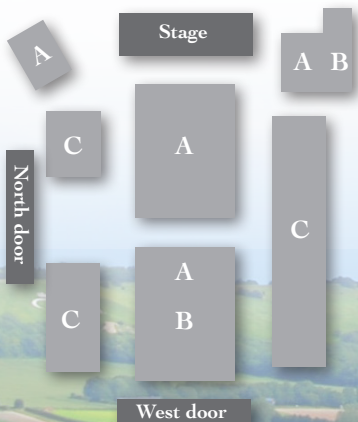
Tickets may be purchased online via

www.stourmusic.org.uk/book

Or call the Box Office on 0333 666 4466

Box Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9am-7pm Saturday: 9am-5pm



Price Code:

- A** numbered and reserved
- B** numbered and reserved
- C** unreserved

General Enquiries

secretary@stourmusic.org.uk
Tel: 07971 642154

www.stourmusic.org.uk

Acknowledgements

Stour Music is grateful to the Vicar and PCC of All Saints' Boughton Aluph for allowing the festival to be held in the church; Mr and Mrs Hugh Summerfield and Mr Bay Green for use of their land to accommodate the festival marquee and car parking; The Stour Festival Company and the Friends of Stour Music for their continued support of the festival.

In particular this year we wish to thank the following for their generous sponsorship: Stephen Bann; Paul & Janet Batchelor; Martin & Caroline Goodier; Gilbert Holbourn; James & Jane Loudon; John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust; The Rothermere Foundation.

Additional support from Cllr Clair Bell, KCC and Cllr Noel Ovenden, ABC.



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