



20TH-29TH JUNE 2025
BOUGHTON ALUPH CHURCH

STOUR MUSIC

FESTIVAL of EARLY MUSIC in EAST KENT

BOX OFFICE 0333 666 4466
www.stourmusic.org.uk

Stour Music 2025

WHAT A LINE-UP WE HAVE FOR YOU

THIS YEAR! Some big ideas, certainly: **Solomon's Knot** with more Bach (after that astounding staged St Matthew in 2023); counter-tenor royalty **Iestyn Davies** with **Fretwork** in a Gibbons anniversary programme; sparkling and stylish **Hilary Cronin** and **Sam Boden** in a French Baroque spectacle.



My highest personal musical ecstasy last year was watching **Apotropaïk** - a young French ensemble that transports you back to medieval France.

Mesdames et messieurs: this is the real thing, a nightingale of the middle ages centuries come to life in a Kent field.



An engorged **I Fagiolini** is back with some completely unheard and jaw-dropping multi-choir music, and we finish with unknown Bachs, glorious Mendelssohn (and even S.S.Wesley) on the final afternoon.

We so look forward to seeing you again!

Robert Hollingworth
Artistic Director



But in a festival like this, it's the smaller-scale that sometimes packs as much of a punch so I'm delighted to bring you four artists new to Stour. **Apollo's Cabinet** I loved at the York Early Music Young Artists competition last year, similarly the German wind band, **Hanse Pfeifferey**, June 20-22, piping us into the concerts with rare to hear slide trumpet, shawm and more - see front cover! The **Gesualdo Six** bring us the utter refinement and flamboyance of 200 years of English vocal music. There's also jazz in the tent (vocal and instrumental this year).

Friday 20th June 7pm

The Gesualdo Six

English Motets

Owain Park *director and bass*
Guy James *counter-tenor*
Alasdair Austin *counter-tenor*
Joseph Wicks *tenor*
Josh Cooter *tenor*
Simon Grant *baritone*



During the English Renaissance, musical composition flourished but it was a time of great change fuelled by religious division. This programme traces music written by some of the English Renaissance masters over 200 years, encompassing florid medieval-sounding pieces by Dunstaple and Sherynham, intricately woven polyphony by Tallis and Byrd, and the beautiful simplicity of Gibbons and Tomkins.

'The Gesualdo Six sang magnificently... faultless. Their sound is precision-tooled for blend, perfectly rounded, and has the utmost ease and precision.' Opera Wire

Sponsored by Stephen Bann

Tickets: £20, £25, £30

9.15pm

Apollo's Cabinet

Re:invention Handel & Bach

Collin Shay *counter-tenor, harpsichord*
Simone Pirri *violin*
Teresa Wrann *recorder*
Thomas Pickering *harpsichord, traverso*
Jonatan Bougt *theorbo, Baroque guitar*
Harry Buckoke *viola da gamba*

Baroque composers were often inspired by each other's works, 'adopting' melodies and harmony for their own purposes, a process which



continues today. Re:invention highlights these links by showing similarities between Baroque music but also by pairing modern songs with their Baroque roots. When Handel was asked why he used a theme by Bononcini, he replied, 'It's much too good for him; he didn't know what to do with it!'

'Baroque meets Bridgerton' Göttinger Tagblatt

'One of the best performances in the festival's existence' Vorarlberger Nachrichten

Sponsored by David Green

Tickets: £20, £25, £30

Saturday 21st June 7pm

Fretwork & Iestyn Davies Gibbons 400

Emily Ashton, Emilia Benjamin,
Reiko Ichise, Joanna Levine,
Sam Stadlen & Jonathan Rees *viols*
Silas Wollston *harpsichord*

Orlando Gibbons died suddenly of a brain haemorrhage on 5th June 1625, 400 years ago. One of this country's greatest and still under-recognised composers, Fretwork and Iestyn Davies celebrate him in song, fantasies for viols and flamboyant keyboard music. Also to be heard is a fine tribute using the extraordinary surviving medical text on his own death. Interesting fact: Glenn Gould held Gibbons in the highest regard and wore out several Gibbons LPs of the Deller Consort!



Sponsored by the late James Bowman
Tickets: £20, £35, £40

9.15pm

Hanse Pfeifferey I Fagiolini Party like it's 1525

Lilli Pätzold *cornetto*
Alexandra Mikheeva *slide trumpet, trombone*
Laura Dümpelmann *shawm, arrangements*
Emily Saville *trombone*

Martha McLorinan, Matthew Long,
Greg Skidmore, Frederick Long *singers*



Hanse Pfeifferey is a thrilling prize-winning Renaissance wind ensemble from Germany. With I Fagiolini they take us on a journey featuring polyphony from French, Flemish, Italian, German and even English-speaking regions. Soft-sung vocal originals from precious manuscripts and the first printed songbooks in history, and the 'town square' or dance version for cornett, shawm, sackbut and the rarely heard slide trumpet.

Sponsored by Fiona Sunley and
Martin & Caroline Goodier
Tickets: £20, £25

Sunday 22nd June 3pm

I Fagiolini

Colossal Baroque

The rushing of a mighty wind



Benevoli *Missa Angelus Domini*
Palestrina *Dum complerentur*
Benevoli *Missa Dum complerentur*
Infantas *Loquebantur variis linguis*

Robert Hollingworth *conductor*



The grandest surround sound experience of the mid-17th century: not the Gabriellis up the road in Venice but a more Roman affair, music built on Palestrina's legacy - with 'a bit extra'. Intended for the great Roman churches, the congregation surrounded by singers, this will be the first performance of these works since the 18th century. Hear an Easter mass (three choirs) followed by the full four-choir glory of a mass for Pentecost based on Palestrina's motet - and one or two quite extraordinary extras.

Sponsored by Sir Graeme Odgers &
Mrs Susan Tait, the Hon Mrs Jenefer Dean,
and the late Mary Tidman

Tickets: £20, £35, £40

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 27th June 7pm

Solomon's Knot Bach's Angels



J.C.Bach *Es erhub sich ein Streit*
J.S.Bach

Man singet mit Freuden vom Sieg BWV 149

Es erhub sich ein Streit BWV 19

Herr Gott, dich loben alle wir BWV 130

Nun ist das Heil und die Kraft BWV 50

Solomon's Knot's staged performance of Bach's St Matthew Passion at Stour Music in 2023 is still talked about in hushed tones. We are thrilled to welcome them back for more Bach this year. The vivid story of the victory of St Michael and his army of angels over the dragon Satan, told in the Book of Revelation, inspired Bach to great heights of invention. His 200-odd surviving cantatas must be considered as one of the greatest collections of musical art of any age, but those for the Feast of St Michael and All Angels stand out even in this remarkable field.

Sponsored by James & Jane Loudon

Tickets: £20, £35, £40

9.15pm

ApotropaiK Bella Donna

Clémence Niclas	<i>voice, recorders</i>
Louise Bouedo	<i>bowed fiddle</i>
Marie-Domitille Murez	<i>gothic harp</i>
Clément Stagnol	<i>medieval lute</i>



Apotropaique means an object/saying used to protect against evil or misfortune. This brilliant ensemble - 'the real thing' (RH) - has won international competitions and is currently in residence at Fondation Royaumont.

The 'Bella Donna' in courtly love praises an idealized woman but also embodies the poisonous if sublime Deadly Nightshade, used by witches to prepare hallucinogenic ointments. Singing of 'Temperance, Charm and Torment', you'll hear soul, virtuosity and passion through the early medieval *Cantigas de Santa María* on to poet/composer Machaut and the virtuosity of Dufay. A rare chance to hear this repertoire with the flamboyance it deserves.

Sponsored by Gilbert Holbourn

Tickets: £20, £25

Saturday 28th June 8pm

Love after the Storm

Hilary Cronin *soprano*

Emily Gray *mezzo-soprano*

Sam Boden *tenor*

The Opera Company / Saraband

Sarah Bealby-Wright &

Guido Martin-Brandis *directors*



From the team that brought you *Castor et Pollux* in 2022, this innovative show explores the beautiful cantata repertoire being performed in French salons at the beginning of the 18th century. Full of drama, tragedy, and humour, these

miniature masterpieces are staged for the first time, interspersed with dance tunes from the opera house and folk tunes from the town square, taking you on a richly evocative journey overflowing with musical delights.



'It was entirely magical, that bewitching freedom and fantasy and strangeness of French music, played and performed with palpable love, humour and huge enjoyment.' Opera Now Magazine

Sponsored by THE ROTHERMERE FOUNDATION

Tickets: £20, £35, £40

9.45pm

Fireworks Display outside the Marquee (free)

10pm

Standard Deviation with Chameleo



Jazz in the marquee after fireworks is becoming a thing. This year we invite back the vocal jazz of Standard Deviation (heard in 2023 to great acclaim) but now with young (Old-) York-based band Chameleo. A perfect end to a summer's evening. The bar will still be open.



Sponsored by The Pack Foundation
Suggested donation £15
(book online or contribute on the night)

Sunday 29th June 3pm

Mendelssohn and the Bachs

Stour Festival Orchestra & Choir

Eleonore Cockerham *soprano*
Ellie Stamp *mezzo-soprano*
George Clark *baritone*
Robert Hollingworth *conductor*

Johann Michael Bach *Halt, was du hast*
Unser Leben waehret
siebenzig Jahre
J.C./J.S. Bach *Ich lasse dich nicht*
Mendelssohn *Hebrides Overture*
Magnificat in D
S.S. Wesley *Ascribe unto the Lord*
Mendelssohn *Psalm 114*
Da Israel aus Aegypten zog

Sponsored by Lady Wilkinson

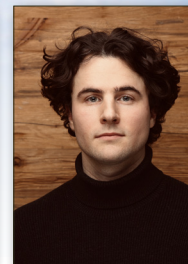
Tickets: £20, £35, £40



Eleonore Cockerham



Ellie Stamp



George Clark

It's hard to realise just how popular and influential Mendelssohn's music was in 19th-century England - but how little of it is now performed. The dramatic choral cantata 'When Israel came out of Egypt' is rarely heard but a *tour de force* as descriptive as the Hebrides Overture. Mendelssohn's early Magnificat, though, reminds us of his debt to generations of Bach as he grew up in Berlin, so we also offer well-known tunes in arrangements by Johann Christoph and Johann Michael Bach. Mendelssohn's own influence can be heard in the music of S.S. Wesley, a guilty pleasure of mine since the age of nine. The full orchestrated version of one of his greatest anthems is a feast!



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.

Please email contact@stourmusic.org.uk if you wish to have more information.

Registered Charity No.238476



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 would like to become 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. The approach to the church is a narrow lane with passing places, so please take care and have consideration for local residents.

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

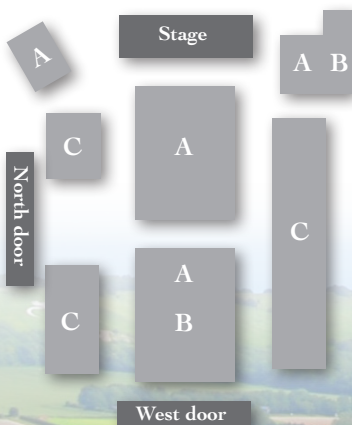
Friday 11 April

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

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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; the late James Bowman; the Hon Mrs Jenefer Dean; Martin & Caroline Goodier; David Green; Gilbert Holbourn; James & Jane Loudon; Sir Graeme Odgers and Mrs Susan Tait; The Pack Foundation; John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust; The Rothermere Foundation; Fiona Sunley; the late Mrs Mary Tidman; Lady Wilkinson.

We also wish to thank the Governors and staff of Wye School for supporting our outreach programme and welcoming other local schools to meet musicians.

Additional support from Cllr Noel Ovenden, ABC.



Picture credits

Abraham Buckoke (Apollo's Cabinet); Marco Borggreve (Sam Boden); Bonnie Britain (Love after the Storm); Bridgeman Images; Matt Brodie (I Fagiolini); Riccardo Cavallari (Robert Hollingworth); Gerard Collett (Solomon's Knot); Ash Mills (The Gesualdo Six); Nadine Nédellec, Jim Poyner (ApotropaïK); Elam Rotem (Hanse Pfeifferey); Pablo Strong (Iestyn Davies).

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All information in this brochure was correct at the time of going to print, but Stour Music reserves the right to make changes without prior notice where unforeseen circumstances dictate.