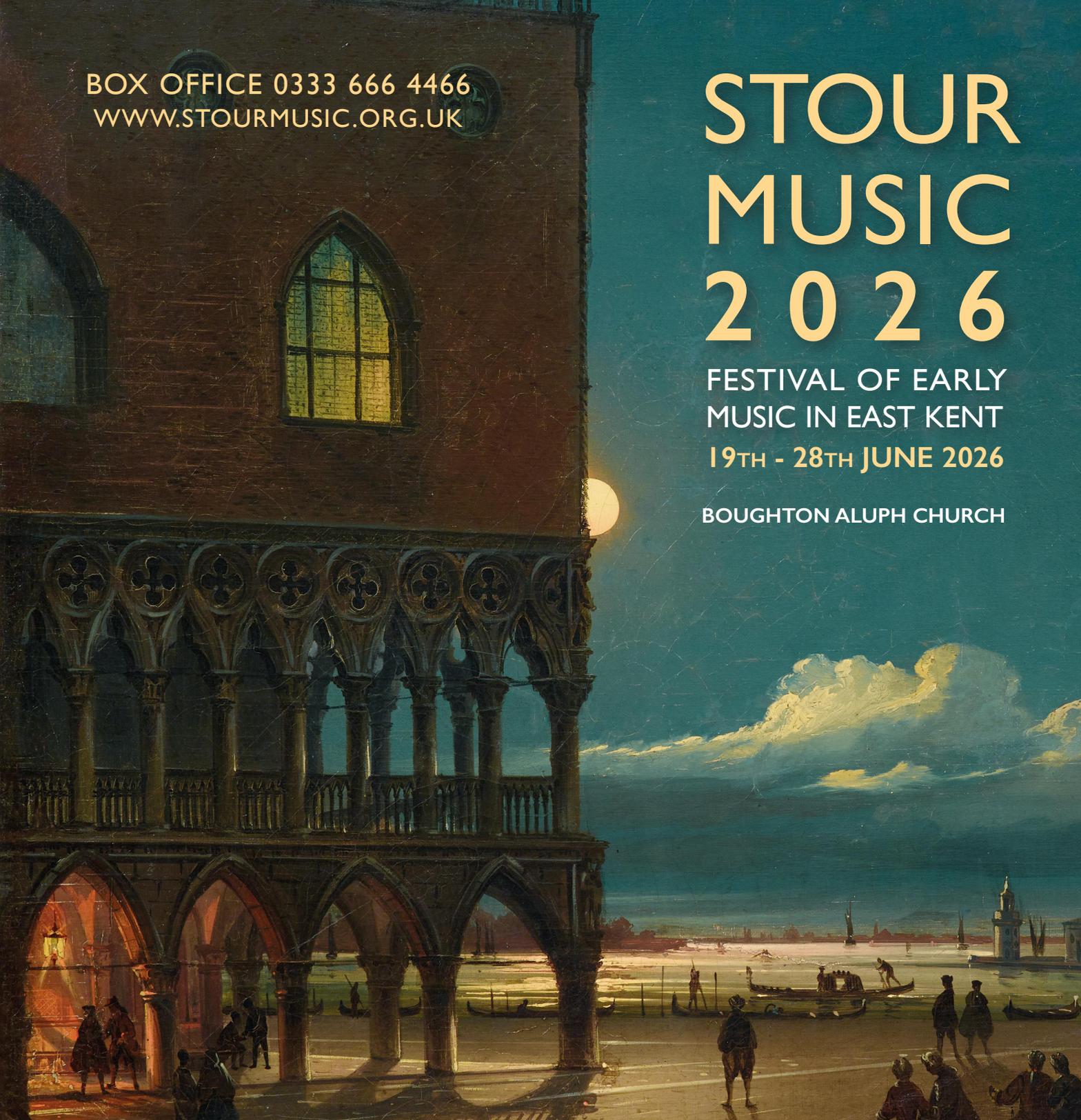


BOX OFFICE 0333 666 4466  
WWW.STOURMUSIC.ORG.UK

# STOUR MUSIC 2026

FESTIVAL OF EARLY  
MUSIC IN EAST KENT  
19<sup>TH</sup> - 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026

BOUGHTON ALUPH CHURCH



# STOUR MUSIC 2026

In that little corner of heaven that is an East Kentish churchyard, we offer an alchemic mix of early music, beautiful countryside and a flinty medieval church. Highlights for 2026 are I Fagiolini's one-to-a-part take on Monteverdi's 1610 Vespers and Handel's 'Music for Royal Occasions' performed by The 24 (University of York), with Kent choir Lees Court Music and northern visitors, Manchester Baroque.

London Handel Players offer us a whole programme of concertos - but some of Stour's most memorable moments happen at more intimate events. We open with a John Dowland anniversary recital from vocal magician Ruby Hughes and lutenist Jonas Nordberg, followed by virtuosic Italian madrigals from Fieri Consort, reminding us of Stour Music's Deller Consort roots. Sarah Latto's young Echo Vocal Ensemble brings us sun and moonlight, followed in the tent by 'Havana Nights' from Nicholas Mulroy's tropical Cubaroque.

And gentle innovation of course: two choral workshops open to all, and 'Master Byrd', a play looking back on William Byrd's life - with live music from London's The Renaissance Singers.



ROBERT HOLLINGWORTH  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

7PM

## AMIDST THE SHADES

Ruby Hughes

*soprano*

Jonas Nordberg

*lute*

'That strain again! It had a dying fall,' says Orsino in *Twelfth Night*. We open the festival with such sweet 17th-century melancholy on the 400th anniversary of the death of John Dowland. His music and melancholy ('semper dolens, semper Dowland') is tempered by more upbeat songs of his contemporaries and further up to Purcell, from artists that bring truly daring colours to their performance.

### John Dowland

Flow my tears, Time stands still, Sorrow stay,  
Semper Dowland semper dolens  
Can she excuse my wrongs, The Frog Galliard,  
Now oh now I needs must part,  
In darkness let me dwell

### Robert Johnson

Full Fathom Five, Mrs Winter's Jump,  
Where the bee sucks

### Henry Purcell

Amidst the shades,  
Oh Solitude, Here the deities approve

'Ruby Hughes is increasingly proving to be a key singer of the 21st century.'

Klassik Musik Magazine

Sponsored by David Green, Martin & Caroline Goodier

Tickets: £20, £25, £30

FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

9.15PM

## FREEING THE MUSE

### FIERI CONSORT

'Freeing the Muse' explores Renaissance ideas of female beauty as shaped by women themselves, revealing women who shaped musical culture in their own time, notably Maddalena Casulana, Raphaella Alleotti and Francesca Caccini. This is heard alongside madrigals of male contemporaries, forged in close dialogue with exceptional female singers, whose virtuosity transformed the sound of late 16th-century Italy. Here, the 'muse' is not a silent ideal but an active presence. Fieri celebrates the boldness, imagination and artistic authority of women whose voices resound throughout this repertoire.

Lucinda Cox, Hannah Ely

*sopranos*

Steph Dillon

*mezzo soprano*

Thomas Kelly, Christopher

Fitzgerald-Lombard

*tenors*

Ben Rowarth

*bass*

Toby Carr

*lute*

Harry Buckoke

*viola da gamba*

Madrigals by Casulana, Alleotti, Caccini, Luzzaschi, Gesualdo, Rore



Sponsored by Stephen Bann

Tickets: £20, £25, £30

SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

7.30PM

## MASTER BYRD A PLAY BY BREAN HAMMOND

Vincent Franklin  
actor

The Renaissance  
Singers

David Allinson  
Music director



The year is 1611 and away from the intrigues of court William Byrd rehearses a choir in his patron's house at Ingatestone, Essex. Byrd reflects on life, music, marriage and his religion. His thoughts are punctuated by his own choral music as we watch him struggling to understand the mystery that is his own music and what lies at its heart.

Every word of the text should be perfectly audible due to our new (and improved!) sound system.

*'One of the most memorable events I have ever been to. The Renaissance Singers' contribution was superb, beautifully sung... Vincent Franklin's portrayal of Byrd was mesmerising and the singers' interplay with him was delightful.'* Audience Member

Sponsored by THE ROTHERMERE FOUNDATION  
Tickets: £20, £30, £35



SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

9.45PM

## THE BYRDS AND THE BULLS

Maciej Skrzeczkowski *Harpsichord*

After a play about Byrd, a breathtakingly virtuosic display of his keyboard music and that of his younger Catholic contemporary, John Bull. This is not repertoire that many perform-

ers dare to attempt - but it's wonderfully characterful, even funky - and played by the hottest early keyboard ticket in Europe, winner of the prestigious Bruges harpsichord competition in 2023.



*'All this virtuosity without ever sacrificing musical sensitivity – that's great art!'* Le Soir, France

Sponsored by Paddy Fraser  
Tickets: £10, £15, £20

SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE

3PM

## BAROQUE CONCERTOS LONDON HANDEL PLAYERS

**Telemann**

Concerto in A minor for recorder and viola da gamba

**Handel**

Organ Concerto in G minor Op.4 No.3

**Leclair**

Violin Concerto Op.10 No.3 in D major

**Telemann**

Concerto for viola in G major

**Vivaldi**

Sopranino Recorder Concerto in C major

**J.S. Bach**

Brandenburg Concerto No.4 in G major

A selection of LHP's favourite virtuoso baroque concertos. Handel and Leclair were famous throughout Europe as virtuosos on the organ and violin respectively, while Telemann often wrote concertos for combinations of instruments rarely found elsewhere. Rachel Brown dazzles on the miniature, high-pitched sopranino recorder and the programme is rounded off with Bach's glorious 4th Brandenburg Concerto featuring solo violin and two recorders.



**Rachel Brown**

*recorders*

**Adrian Butterfield**

*violin & director*

**Oliver Webber**

*violin*

**Maxim del Mar**

*violin & viola*

**Rachel Byrt**

*viola*

**Gavin Kibble**

*viola da gamba & cello*

**Cecelia Bruggemeyer**

*double bass*

**Silas Wollston**

*harpsichord & organ*

**Olwen Foulkes**

*recorder*

Sponsored by Paul & Janet Batchelor,  
Mrs Susan Tait, Richard & Catherine Thomas

Tickets: £25, £35, £40

## COME AND SING

Two opportunities for local singers:

**Saturday 20th June 10am-1pm**

Music by Monteverdi and Tallis led by Sarah Latto.

**Sunday 28th June 12-1pm**

'Zadok the Priest' and 'My heart is inditing' with full baroque orchestra, led by Robert Hollingworth.

See [www.stourmusic.org.uk](http://www.stourmusic.org.uk) for more information.

## BAR AND SUPPER IN THE FESTIVAL MARQUEE

A choice of delicious main-course dishes and desserts, as well as cheese plates, coffee and tea will be available. Meals must be ordered and paid for in advance using the downloadable booking form on the website.

The bar in the marquee will be open from 6.15pm  
And a reminder: please no picnics in the marquee.

FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

7.15PM

# MONTEVERDI

## 1610 VESPERS

I Fagiolini

English Cornett & Sackbut Ensemble

Robert Hollingworth *director*

I Fagiolini and ECSE's new recording of this iconic collection is released a few weeks after this concert and offers the latest thinking on how these grand psalms and intimate miniatures may have sounded at the time. It's an interpretation from a group steeped in Monteverdi's music for 40 years - whether madrigals, sacred music or opera. Their performance is also a love letter to the composer's rich soundworld of raw Italian power allied to



filigree ornamentation and astounding emotional depth. Featuring renowned Monteverdi singers Ciara Hendrick, Nicholas Mulroy, Matthew Long and many more.

*'Off-the-charts brilliant ... utterly enthralling'.  
(Arts Desk on London 1610 performance)*

Sponsored by James & Jane Loudon

Tickets: £25, £40, £45

FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

9.45PM

# SOFTEST THUNDER

Toby Carr *lute*

The perfect digestif to Monteverdi 1610 Vespers: an intimate, atmospheric lute recital of music from the same period - but a world away in its soft-edged, resonant beauty. John Dowland and Robert Johnson's dances and fantasies are here interwoven with dream-like music from Erik Satie. Join Gramophone Award winner Toby Carr as he brings his 'Softest Thunder' to Stour.

John Dowland - Viscount Lisle's Galliard

Robert Johnson - 'Hit it and take it'

Erik Satie and Francis Poulenc

Sponsored by Richard & Julie Goodman

Tickets: £10, £15, £20



*'Unfailingly eloquent... these gentle miniatures meandered with wonderful freedom, the carefully painted sonic canvas mesmerising.'* Opera Today

SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

8PM

# THE SUN HAS BURST THE SKY

Echo Vocal Ensemble

Sarah Latto *director*

The nine 'sparkling, poised and powerful' voices of Echo Vocal Ensemble and director Sarah Latto present a transformative journey through five centuries of vocal music. The programme draws inspiration from the turn of day into dusk, and features Renaissance alongside brand new work by Sarah Dacey - and Echo's unique take on the rare art of choral improvisation.

Einojuhani Rautavaara - Evening Hymn

John Sheppard - Libera Nos

Carlo Gesualdo - O Vos Omnes

Sarah Dacey - All that we see

Claudio Monteverdi - Sfogava con le stelle

Thomas Tallis - Improvisation on 'Te Lucis Ante Terminum'

Laura Mvula - Sing to the moon

Heap arr.Latto - The moment I said it

Sponsored by Gilbert Holbourn,

Graham & Nina Williams

Tickets: £20, £30, £35

Echo Ensemble has performed at Queen Elizabeth Hall, at Sadler's Wells, as Ensemble-in-Residence at Ryedale Festival and live on BBC Radio 3. Notable collaborators include poet Roger McGough, choreographer Gregory Maqoma, visual artist Polly Apfelbaum and the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Their debut album, INNO-CENCE, was launched in 2024 at Wigmore Hall and was nominated for Best Newcomer at the BBC Music Magazine Awards, 2025.

*'crafted with skill, flair, understanding, passion and respect for the traditions to which they belong...brilliantly conceived and executed.'* Gramophone

*'The sound experience was incredible - I don't think I've ever heard anything like it.'* Audience member, London



## HAVANA NIGHTS

CUBAROQUE

Nicholas Mulroy *singer*

George Tarlton *guitar*

Joe Pettitt *bass*

Matthew West *percussion*



IN THE TENT

10PM

After 'Song to the moon' with Echo, finish the evening in a tropical South American bar with 'Havana nights', a new South American-inspired vocal cocktail from Cubaroque. Exuberant rhythms meet tender longing, Caribbean sunlight - and the darkest of shadows. (You may dress appropriately.)

Sponsored by Nicola Calcutt

Tickets: £15

SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

3PM

# HANDEL

## MUSIC FOR ROYAL OCCASIONS



This year we take advantage of an existing collaboration between two northern ensembles and introduce a Kent choir to Stour Music. A glorious programme of Handel at his most impressive from 'Zadok the priest' to the sublime 'Eternal source of light divine'.

### Coronation Anthems

Zadok The Priest  
My heart is inditing  
Let thy hand be strengthened  
The king shall rejoice

### Three movements from The Fireworks Music

Ode on Queen Anne's Birthday  
Tu del ciel ministro eletto (*Fernando*)  
Sento il cor (*Il trionfo del tempo*)

### Manchester Baroque

The 24 (University of York)

### Lees Court Music

Emily Vine	<i>soprano</i>
Martha McLorinan	<i>mezzo-soprano</i>
Nicholas Mulroy	<i>tenor</i>
Frederick Long	<i>bass</i>
Robert Hollingworth	<i>conductor</i>



Sponsored by Catherine Hilton; James Bird in memory of his wife Jenny; Jack & Kate Ward, Toby & Alison Ward in memory of their parents John & Alison Ward



Tickets: £25, £35, £40

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.stourmusic.org.uk/friends) or contact:  
The Friends' Secretary,  
87, Bridge Street, Wye, Ashford TN25 5ED  
[friends@stourmusic.org.uk](mailto: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](http://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 7% + 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 13 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.

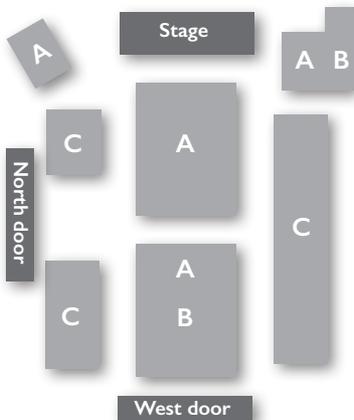
## GENERAL BOOKING

Monday 13 April

Tickets may be purchased online via  
[www.stourmusic.org.uk/book](http://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](mailto:secretary@stourmusic.org.uk)

Tel: 07976 354683

[www.stourmusic.org.uk](http://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; the Summerfield family 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. Thanks are due to Sarah Morris for floral arrangements in the church.

In particular this year we wish to thank the following for their generous donations and sponsorship: Stephen Bann; Paul & Janet Batchelor; James Bird; The Blair Foundation; Nicola Calcutt; Paddy Fraser; Martin & Caroline Goodier; Richard & Julie Goodman; David Green; Catherine Hilton; Gilbert Holbourn; The JL Charitable Fund; James & Jane Loudon; Pat Morgan; The Pack Foundation; The Rothermere Foundation; Mrs Susan Tait; Richard & Catherine Thomas; Jack & Kate Ward, Toby & Alison Ward; Graham & Nina Williams.

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.



## PICTURE CREDITS

Victoria Beddoes (Echo Ensemble); Matthew Brodie (I Fagiolini); Piotr Grzybowski (Maciej Skrzeczkowski); Matthew Johnson (Toby Carr); Phil Sharp (Ruby Hughes); Claudia Terpstra (Manchester Baroque).

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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.*