

STOUR MUSIC 2021



Ye Leaves Be Greene The Guildhall Recorder Consort

Ian Wilson *director*

*Sponsored by
The Worshipful Company of Turners,
Melissa Scott & David Batchelor*

Saturday 26th June
10pm

BOUGHTON ALUPH CHURCH

Programme

Antony Holborne

Paradizo

The Choise

The Honiesuckle

William Byrd

Ye Leaves be Greene

Jacob van Eyck

English Nightingale

Pavane Lachrymae

Daphne

Anon 14th century Saltarello

Guillaume de Machaut

Rose, liz, printemps, verdure

John Dunstable

O Rosa Bella

Giles Farnaby

Bonny Sweet Robin

John Dowland / Thomas Morley

Frog Galliard

Anon, Dublin Virginal Book

Le Pied de Cheval

William Brade

Pavan

Antony Holborne

The Fruit of Love

Galliard

Performers

Ian Wilson
Finn Collinson
George Meeks
Olivia Petryszak
Tom Pickering
Leah Saltoun

Programme Notes

Tonight's programme places nature at its core; Medieval and Renaissance music with titles that perhaps conjure up a summer evening in an Elizabethan Physick Garden or quiet flowery glade where we can hear our feathered friends competing for attention.

Much respected by his contemporaries, **Anthony Holborne's** collection of 65 compositions entitled *Pavans, Galliards, Almains, and other short Aeirs both grave, and light, in five parts, for Viols, Violins or other Musically Winde Instruments* is the largest surviving collection of its type and certainly his most important work. These dance pieces are hugely enjoyable for both the player and listener and have intriguing titles, some of which have been linked to literary sources but many are still a mystery.

If one composer were to shine brighter than anyone else in the firmament of the English "Golden Age", it would perhaps be **William Byrd**. An occasionally controversial figure (he was a committed Catholic in an era when to be such was potentially dangerous), his was nonetheless a stellar presence. Perhaps seeing his worth as a musician as more important to her than his religious beliefs, Elizabeth effectively turned a blind eye to Byrd's Catholicism and even allowed a prosecution against him, for refusing to attend Protestant services, to be dropped "by order of the Queen". His piece performed tonight takes a popular tune of the day, *Ye leaves be greene* and weaves intricate lines around its ever repeating presence.

Dutch recorder virtuoso **Jacob van Eyck** was employed by the town of Utrecht to play the carillon in the great church tower in the centre of the city. When not on church duty, he could be found playing the recorder

in the plaza next to the church. Here he would improvise embellished forms of popular tunes of the day, melodies that include Scottish folk tunes, Italian art-songs, Lutheran Hymns and works of the Englishman, John Dowland.

Guillaume de Machaut was an important figure in the French Ars Nova and one of the most prolific composers of the 14th century. During his life Machaut transformed secular song by developing existing secular poetic forms, writing in two, three and four voice polyphony in a style known as the 'ars nova'.

There were many who sought Queen Elizabeth's hand, not to mention power and wealth, through marriage. Eager courtiers would flatter her with gifts and with celestial comparisons to the beautiful moon goddess, Cynthia. The swaggering Edward de Vere (Earl of Oxford), and the Bonny Sweet Robin (Earl of Leicester) were both favourites of the queen but it was the French Duke of Alencon (affectionately, or perhaps cruelly, known as the Frog) that so very nearly won the prize, being engaged to the indecisive Elizabeth for one night only. Two of these figures are represented here through the music of **Giles Farnaby** and **John Dowland** (arranged Morley).

A contemporary of Anthony Holborne, **William Brade** had a more international career, leaving England in 1590 for opportunities in both German and Danish courts. Like Holborne, most of Brade's work was for dancing to, publishing several collections of Pavans, Galliards and Almains.

Biography

Ian Wilson is the principal recorder professor at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London and Head of Woodwind at Eton College. In recent years he has performed as a soloist with orchestras including *The Dunedin Consort*, *The Korean Symphony Orchestra*, *The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra*, *Helsinki Baroque Orchestra* and *The Irish Baroque Orchestra* and he performs regularly with The Sixteen, English National Opera, Arcangelo and the Early Opera Company. He is a founding member of the recorder quartet The Flautadors, with whom he has recorded five highly acclaimed albums. In 2016 Ian had the title of Professor conferred upon him by the Guildhall School in recognition of his work within the institution.

The Recorder Consort consists of recorder players from both undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Playing on a vast array of instruments ranging from six inches to six feet long, they are rapidly gaining a reputation for colourful performances of music ranging from the medieval period to the modern day. In recent years they have performed in the Percy Grainger Festival at King's Place, made several tours to Scotland involving concerts and educational work and performed in the City of London Festival and the Blackheath Early Music Festival. Last year they continued giving their educational schools workshops in Scotland via Zoom!