



SA**XON** **S**h**ORE** **E**AR**LY**
MUSIC **K**EN**ARDING**T**ON**

2022 -2023 Season

*Church of St. Mary Kenardington
TN26 2NQ*

***MR WILLIAM BYRDE
HIS QUATERCENTENARY***

Book online at www.ssemk.org

Box Office Enquiries: 01233 721242



SUNDAY 7th

MAY 4PM

Mr William Byrde ~ His Quatercentenary ~ III



Royal

Fantasies: A

Royal Celebration

Artists-in-Residence

NEWE VIALLES

LYNDA SAYCE *lute*

William Byrd & Orlando Gibbons

Following the Coronation of King Charles III, SSEMK invites you to the third concert of the five, looking back at the music of Byrd's world four hundred years ago. New Vialles takes you on a journey of exploration of the wide range of instrumental music by contemporaries William Byrd and Orlando Gibbons. The programme includes consort settings of popular tunes such as *Go from my Window* and *Browning*, contemporary lute arrangements of Byrd's works, Fantasias and In Nomines by both composers for 3, 4, 5 and 6 viols, plus dance music for viols and lute. Whilst Byrd had gone into semi-retirement from the Chapel Royal to Stondon Massey in about 1594, Gibbons went on to elevated positions in the Courts of James I and very briefly Charles I, whence his Royal Fantasies evolved.

Returning for the final time as SSEMK Artists-in-Residence, the viol consort Newe Vialles was launched in 2015 by co-directors Henrik Persson and Caroline Ritchie, their name reflecting the "Newe vialles" brought to the English court by Henry VIII to replace the "old vialles" (rebecs or fiddles), thus beginning the long tradition of viol-playing in the British Isles. With a repertoire stretching from the early 16th to the late 17th century, Newe Vialles is equally at home with polyphonic music from across the European continent as it is with the music of the English 'Golden Age'. Distinguished by its unique core sound, the group aims to engage with aspects of performance practice such as rhythmic flexibility and improvised ornamentation, resulting in a performance style that is both vibrant and engaging to the modern listener, and faithful to the vivid rhetoric of the music itself.

Come and celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III with Musick fit for a King!

Tickets: £24 / £20 / £17.50



SATURDAY 3rd

JUNE 7.30PM

Mr William Byrde ~ His Quatercentenary ~ IV

INAUGURAL RECITAL OF THE THOMAS ELLIOT ORGAN



A Reverential Awe Upon Our Spirits

GARY COOPER

William Byrd

Purcell Blow Pepusch B. Cooke Stanley Boyce

Handel Burney Bennett Atwood SS Wesley Haydn

In 1696, the Rev. John Newte preached a sermon on the occasion of the opening of an organ at Tiverton, where he argued for the instrument to be accepted in worship, not only to “*regulate the untunable Voices of the Multitude but to make the Singing in the Church more orderly and harmonious*”. It would “*stir up the Affections of Men, make them fitter for Devotion and to compose their thoughts, and drive away Evil suggestions from their Minds. Before the Lessons to be read, it would strike a reverential awe upon our spirits*”. The penultimate concert in this series features the inaugural recital of the Thomas Elliot organ, installed at St Mary’s in September last year. One of a very few instruments by that maker in virtual original condition, it epitomises the type of instrument that was being constructed at the turn of the century. Its actual date is uncertain, but recent detailed research suggests it is as early as 1805, the specification and casework being truly late 18th century. Thomas Elliot set up his business at 12 Tottenham Court, London in about 1802. SSEMK is delighted to welcome Gary Cooper back to the concert platform. Before his active retirement from opera and concerts alike, he was regarded as one of the foremost interpreters of early music, conducting New Chamber and English Touring Operas, as well as New Kent Opera and giving solo recitals all to critical acclaim.

Gary Cooper's recital will feature works by William Byrd, John Blow, Henry Purcell, William Boyce and beyond. It will explore the unusually large compass of the Elliot organ which extends down to G below the normal organ keyboard range we know today. It will also include works by contemporary key visitors or immigrants to England.

Tickets: £17 / £14 / £10



SUNDAY 2nd

JULY 4PM

(With Fundraising Dinner)

Mr William Byrde ~ His Quatercentenary ~ V



Before The Dawn

SANSARA

William Byrd & Philippe de Monte

Mr William Byrde – His Quatercentenary comes to a climactic conclusion when the outstanding vocal ensemble SANSARA make a welcome return to SSEMK as they herald 4 July, the 400th anniversary of his death at Stondon Massey in Essex. Their programme features some of the composer's well-known masterpieces alongside rarely performed gems including a work by Flemish composer Phillippe De Monte, who also died on 4 July, 20 years earlier. He entered into a fascinating compositional correspondence with Byrd when verses of Psalm 137 *Super Flumina Babylonis* (containing many allegorical references to the plight of Catholics unable to practice their faith openly,) were set to music and exchanged, in what is now seen as an encoded message of mutual support and friendship between brothers in faith.

SANSARA is an award-winning group of talented professional musicians, working as a collective to express a shared artistic vision. Described as “*the a cappella sound of the future*” by Tallis Scholars director Peter Phillips, SANSARA is made up of the UK's finest professional ensemble singers and is led by Artistic Director Tom Herring. “*Choral music with great depth*”. The Observer, “*SANSARA slips into the elite ranks of exceptional performers*”. Choir & Organ. Programme to include Byrd's *Infelix ego*, *Iustorum Animae*, *Ave verum corpus*, *Ne irascaris Domine*, *Emendemus in melius* and *Quomodo cantabimus* and De Monte's *Super Flumina Babylonis*.

Be part of history to remember Mr William Byrd, and join us for dinner to celebrate and raise funds for [SSEMK](#).

Tickets: £26 / £23 / £20