

# *Aeolian Singers*



## ***William Byrd 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert***

### ***SACRED AND SECULAR MUSIC FROM TUDOR ENGLAND***

***Including music by Gibbons, Tallis and others***

***Directed by: Stephen Jones***

Thursday 21 September 2023, 7:30pm  
Potters Bar United Reformed Church  
Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, EN6 1BZ



# *Aeolian Singers*

## **Life Members:**

Jean Garner, Peter Garner

## **Friends:**

Pat Brown, Rowena Eardley, Rita Fryer

Kevin Griffin, Anna Le Hair

Carole Lewis, Mary Purbrick

*(Please contact the Friends' Secretary, [friends-sec@aeoliansingers.org.uk](mailto:friends-sec@aeoliansingers.org.uk), for details)*

## **Come and enjoy the pleasure of singing great music**

Singing some of the most beautiful music ever written, in the company of like-minded people, must be top of the list of life-enhancing ways to spend a Thursday evening.

We perform a wide range of choral music, old and new, including music from musicals and pop music arrangements.

Please come along and join us. No audition. We welcome experienced singers but even if you have never sung in a choir come along and try us out for a few rehearsals.

We meet every Thursday, 7.30 to 9.45 (term time only) at Leverstock Green Primary School, Green Lane, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 4SA.

Get more information from our website [www.aeoliansingers.org.uk](http://www.aeoliansingers.org.uk).

Contact our Membership Secretary on [info@aeoliansingers.org.uk](mailto:info@aeoliansingers.org.uk).

Registered Charity No. 281612



***William Byrd 400<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Concert***

**Fair Phyllis I saw sitting all alone - John Farmer**

**Since first I saw your face - Thomas Ford**

**Come, heavy sleep - John Dowland**

**Organ Solos**

**If ye love me - Thomas Tallis**

**Ave verum Corpus - William Byrd**

**O Lord, the maker - William Mundy**

*Short Interval*

**I Heard a Voice - Thomas Tomkins**

**Call to remembrance - Richard Farrant**

**Almighty and everlasting God - Orlando Gibbons**

From **Howells' Clavichord - Herbert Howells**

**Never weather-beaten sail - Thomas Campion**

**Ah, dear heart - Orlando Gibbons**

**Now, O now I needs must part - Dowland arr. Grainger**

**Farewell, dear love - Robert Jones**

**Stephen Jones - Conductor**

## **Fair Phyllis I saw sitting all alone**

*Aeolian Singers*

John Farmer, c.1570-c.1601

**Fair Phyllis I saw sitting all alone** is an English madrigal by John Farmer published in 1599. Farmer uses clever word painting. For example, in the opening line "Fair Phyllis I saw sitting all alone", Farmer had only the soprano sing since she was all alone. In the next line "Feeding her flock near to the mountain side", all the voices sang since it was her flock. Additionally, the second phase, which begins with "Up and down he wandered" and ends with "then they fell a-kissing" repeats rather suggestively.

The madrigal featured in the episode *Death in Chorus* of the British detective drama *Midsomer Murders*.

## **Since first I saw your face** - Thomas Ford, d.1648

Thomas Ford was an English lutanist and composer working at court from 1611 to 1642. His songs, published in 1607, are the best of his work. His best-known song **Since first I saw your face** has simple memorable tunes: Ford's other music is more elaborate and less charming.

## **Come, heavy sleep** - John Dowland, 1563-1626

John Dowland was an English Renaissance composer, lutenist, and singer: he was suspected of treason because of his Catholic contacts so worked in European courts from 1590 to 1606. He is best known today for his melancholy songs such as **Come, heavy sleep**.

## **Organ Solos** - To be announced

*Stephen Jones*

## **If ye love me**

*Aeolian Singers*

Thomas Tallis, c.1505-1585

**If ye love me** is a four-part motet or anthem by the English composer Thomas Tallis, a setting of a passage from the Gospel of John. First published in 1565 during the reign of Elizabeth I, it is an example of Tudor music and is part of the repertoire of Anglican church music: it is frequently performed today, and has been sung at special occasions including a papal visit and a royal wedding.

## **Ave verum Corpus**

William Byrd, 1543-1623

This short Eucharistic hymn dates to the 14th century, and has sometimes been attributed to Pope Innocent VI (d 1362). William Byrd's setting of **Ave verum Corpus** was written to celebrate the Feast

of Corpus Christi, which had been outlawed in England in 1548 following the Reformation, but Roman Catholics still surviving in England celebrated the feast secretly, sometimes more brazenly.

Ave verum corpus, natum  
de Maria Virgine,  
vere passum, immolatum  
in cruce pro homine  
cuius latus perforatum  
fluxit aqua et sanguine:  
esto nobis praegustatum  
in mortis examine.

O Iesu dulcis, O Iesu pie,  
O Iesu, fili Mariae.  
Miserere mei. Amen

Hail, true body, born  
of the Virgin Mary,  
having truly suffered, sacrificed  
on the cross for mankind,  
from whose pierced side  
water and blood flowed:  
Be for us a foretaste [of the  
Heavenly banquet]  
in the trial of death!

O sweet Jesus, O holy Jesus,  
O Jesus, son of Mary,  
have mercy on me. Amen.

## **O Lord, the maker** - William Mundy, c.1530-1591

From 1564 William Mundy was a Gentleman at the Chapel Royal. He composed much sacred music, including Anthems for the Anglican Church and Latin antiphons for the Roman Catholic church. His best-known work today is the beautiful anthem **O Lord, the maker of all thing**.

## Interval

There will now be a short interval

## **I Heard a Voice** - Thomas Tomkins, 1572-1656

In addition to being one of the prominent members of the English Madrigal School, Tomkins was a skilled composer of keyboard and consort music, and the last member of the English virginalist school. He was an admired successor to Byrd (who was probably one of his teachers) though his contemporary compositions were often criticized for being anachronistic, as there is barely a trace of the new Italianate style in his music. **I Heard a Voice** is one of over one hundred anthems that Tomkins composed, published posthumously in *Musica Deo sacra* by his son Nathaniel.

## **Call to remembrance** - Richard Farrant, c.1525-1580

Richard Farrant was a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal from 1552 and sang there during the reign of Mary Tudor, taking up the post of Master of the Choristers at St George's Chapel in 1564. In 1569 he became Master of the Choristers of the Chapel Royal. Also known as a musical dramatist and creation of the first Blackfriars Theatre, he presented the choristers to the Monarch every winter and produced a play which was staged by them. The text for **Call to Remembrance** is two verses from Psalm 25. Its title is merely a 'Psalm of David' and, as David was so often in trouble, it could have been written at one of many different points in his life: it seeks mercy for the sins and offences of his youth.

## **Almighty and everlasting God** - Orlando Gibbons, 1583-1625

Orlando Gibbons was an English composer and keyboard player who was one of the last masters of the English Virginalist School and English Madrigal School. By the 1610s he was the leading composer and organist in England, with a career cut short by his sudden death in 1625, probably due to a brain haemorrhage. As a result, Gibbons' oeuvre was not as large as that of his contemporaries, like the older William Byrd, but he made considerable contributions to many genres of his time. He is often seen as a transitional figure from the Renaissance to the Baroque periods.

The source of the text of **Almighty and Everlasting God** was the *Collect for the Third Sunday after Epiphany*. It was first published in 1641 by John Barnard in *First Book of Selected Church Music*.

From **Howells' Clavichord** - Herbert Howells, 1892-1983

*Stephen Jones, piano*

**Never weather-beaten sail**

*Aeolian Singers*

Thomas Campion, 1557-1620

Thomas Campion from a wealthy background, was well educated at Cambridge and at Grays Inn, and he also obtained a medical degree in Caen. He produced four books of songs to his own words, with a simplicity of style that matched words and music perfectly. **Never weather-beaten sail** comes from his *Two Bookes of Ayres, The First Contayning Divine and Morall Songs*, published in 1613 for domestic personal use.

**Ah, dear heart** - Orlando Gibbons, 1583-1625

Although not a student of William Byrd, Gibbons was clearly influenced by him. The words of **Ah, dear heart** are almost the same as those of a song by John Dowland, but modern scholars reject other such attributions. The song was first published in Gibbons's *First Set of Madrigals and Motets of 5 parts* in 1612, which incidentally includes *The Silver Swan*, often thought to be the best-known English madrigal.

**Now, O now I needs must part** - Dowland, arranged P A Grainger

*Stephen Jones, piano*

**Farewell, dear love** - Robert Jones, c.1577-1615 *Aeolian Singers*

Robert Jones was an English lutenist and composer, the most prolific of the English lute song composers (along with Thomas Campion). Despite graduating from Oxford in 1597 Jones seems to be the least competent of the composers who wrote madrigals and songs.

**Farewell, dear love** was published in 1600 in *The First Booke of Songes or Ayres*. The words are quoted by William Shakespeare in *Twelfth Night, Act II, scene iii*, sung in a rowdy manner by Sir Toby Belch and the clown.

Thank you for coming

We hope you enjoyed this concert

## Stephen Jones

Stephen Jones has been Music Director of the Aeolians Singers since 1994, bringing with him a wealth of expertise gained as a conductor, singer, choral animateur and occasional lecturer. He studied piano at London's Trinity College of Music with John Bingham and singing with John Huw Davies and has sung in a host of interesting places from Westminster Abbey to the Café Royal. He is an accomplished continuo player, working with many leading orchestras. Stephen's experience extends to light music and he has regularly broadcast on BBC Radio 2 with the male voice quartet Original Blend.



Aeolian Singers are keen to help people experience the joy of singing, and welcomes new members, whatever their previous expertise, especially Tenors and Basses.

Please contact Membership Secretary on [info@aeoliansingers.org.uk](mailto:info@aeoliansingers.org.uk), or view our website: [www.aeoliansingers.org.uk](http://www.aeoliansingers.org.uk).



# *Aeolian Singers*

## Keep in Touch

Please email [info@aeoliansingers.org.uk](mailto:info@aeoliansingers.org.uk) to join our mailing list to receive concert and other information directly. Your information will be used solely for this.

Visit our website [www.aeoliansingers.org.uk](http://www.aeoliansingers.org.uk)

