

Lunchtime Recital 5th June 2026 – Lin Xu-Zhang (piano)



This was Lin's second recital for us and the main emphasis was on the renaissance music of the late 16th and early 17th century. Since coming to the UK from Australia (a Sydneysider) he'd developed a deepening interest in this style of music originally composed for the harpsichord. For him the complexity of the music, the abrupt changes of tempo and the interplay of multiple tunes was both a challenge and a delight. For us, I think, more emphasis on the delight.

We note he played

the first two pieces without music, but for the five renaissance composers he had the score on his tablet. We wondered how he could even read the music given the speed of the many trills and frequent switches of tune between hands. In fact, he could play the pieces from memory but uses the score more as a backstop – impressive in any event.



Having graduated this year from the

Royal Academy of Music with first-class honours, he's now working on a Masters, and intends to progress to a PhD.



Plenty of time in London for another visit then!

You can view the recital video at <https://pottersbarurc.org/music-in-our-church/previous-recitals-2/5-june-2026/>

(At Lin's request we've not included the *Stephen Hough Fanfare Toccata* because of copyright concerns).

Programme:

Stephen Hough: Fanfare Toccata (2021)

Franz Joseph Haydn: Variations in F minor, Hob. XVII: 6

Giles Farnaby: Fantasia in G, MB 24/5

Thomas Tomkins: Pavan and Galliard: *Earl Strafford*, MB 5/43-44

Orlando Gibbons: *The Woods so Wild*, MB 20/29

William Byrd: Fantasia in A, MB 27/13

William Byrd: *O Mistress Mine*, MB 28/83

N.B. the works by Farnaby, Tomkins, Gibbons and Byrd will be performed as a set