



Temple Music

WILLIAM BYRD

FESTIVAL

29th June – 2nd July 2023



Concerts, talks and services
in the tranquility of the Temple.

Celebrating one of the greatest
English composers of all time.

Tickets: £5 - £40

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FESTIVAL

Welcome to the Temple, London's historic legal quarter and an oasis of calm in the City. This summer, we present a major celebration of William Byrd, one of the greatest composers of the Renaissance, who died in 1623.

Byrd's prolific output and dogged pursuit of his Roman Catholic faith during one of the most tumultuous periods in English history are a remarkable illustration of the power of the human spirit and the creativity it can engender.

To mark his 400th anniversary, an exceptional cohort of musicians gather in the Temple Church to perform consort, keyboard and choral music written and inspired by this towering figure in English music. Join them in one of London's most beautiful and historic churches, for a feast of exquisite music.

Two distinguished speakers also appear at the festival. Historian Tracy Borman gives a talk in the Elizabethan splendour of Middle Temple Hall, and over in Inner Temple's brand-new lecture theatre, Byrd biographer Kerry McCarthy offers a new retrospective on the composer 400 years on.

"One of the most acute thinkers of the Elizabethan Age"
Laurence Dreyfus
on Byrd



Thursday 29th June

Service: Choral Holy Communion

1.15pm – 2pm | Temple Church

Temple Singers

The festival opens with a service of Holy Communion sung by the Temple Singers, one of London's finest professional adult church choirs. The setting is Byrd's *Mass for Five Voices*, which ends with an exquisite, heartfelt plea for peace. The choir is directed by Eamonn Dougan, and the organist is Temple Church's former organ scholar, Polina Sosnina.

Free



Talk: Anne Boleyn & Elizabeth I

4.30pm – 5.30pm | Middle Temple Hall

Tracy Borman

Anne Boleyn and Elizabeth I. Two of the most famous women in British history. Their stories are as familiar as they are compelling. And yet, they have never been told together. Piecing together evidence from original documents and artefacts uncovered while researching her new book, historian and broadcaster Tracy Borman reveals Anne Boleyn's relationship with, and influence over her daughter Elizabeth, the celebrated Virgin Queen. In so doing, she sheds new light on an extraordinary mother and daughter who changed the course of British history forever.

Book signing by Dr Borman after the talk. Tea & coffee served beforehand from 4.15pm.

Tickets £20 (Students & NHS workers £5)



Concert: England's Nightingale

7.30pm – 9.15pm | Temple Church

Stile Antico

Renowned vocal ensemble Stile Antico explore the many faces of this extraordinary composer. They weave together the strands of Byrd's complex life as both pillar of the Protestant musical establishment and faithful servant to the underground Catholic community. We encounter Byrd working loyally at the Chapel Royal, hear his anguished musical pleas in support of his fellow Catholics, and savour the gentler music of his latter years. The programme features some of Byrd's most beloved works, including *Ave verum corpus*, *Sing Joyfully*, and *Ne irascaris*, alongside lesser-known gems and music by his pupils Thomas Morley, Peter Philips, and Thomas Tomkins.

Tickets £5 – 40

"The singing is staggeringly beautiful"
The Sunday Times



Friday 30th June

Concert: Fretwork

1pm – 2pm | Temple Church

Polyphonic and full of melancholy, the rich sonority and overlapping textures of William Byrd's viol consort music transport us back to the Elizabethan Age and beyond. Byrd's remarkable contribution to the genre includes lighter pieces which delight with their sweetness and tenderness. The beautiful programme from this outstanding group also includes works by Thomas Weelkes who, like Byrd, died in 1623.

Pavan & Galliard
Fantasy in 6 parts

Three Fantasies in 3 parts
Fantasy in 4 parts
Five-part Pavan
Browning

Two In Nomines in 5 parts
In Nomine in 5 parts (Weelkes)

Prelude & Ground
Fantasy: two parts in one the fourth above
Fantasy in 6 parts (Weelkes)
Fantasy in 6 parts

Tickets £5 – 30



"The finest viol
consort on the planet"
London Evening Standard

"An ensemble of supreme musicianship"
Gramophone Magazine

Talk: Mr Byrde affirms it to be truth

3.30pm – 4.30pm | Inner Temple Lecture Theatre

Kerry McCarthy

A new retrospective on Byrd's music and life, 400 years on. This talk revisits the composer through the eyes (and ears) of the people who knew him, and through his own words whenever possible. It also traces a web of social connections that take us far beyond Elizabethan London, farther than Byrd himself ever physically travelled.

Kerry McCarthy is a musician and author known for her work on the English Renaissance. Her publications include award-winning biographies of Thomas Tallis (OUP, 2020) and William Byrd (OUP, 2013). She is also active as a professional singer, and her next book will be on the lives of singers in Tudor England.

Tea & coffee will be served afterwards in the Breakout Space, with its views overlooking the Inner Temple's beautiful gardens.

Tickets £20 (Students & NHS workers £5)



Concert: William Byrd and the Tudor revival

6.30pm – 7.45pm | Temple Church

Westminster Cathedral Choir

The first quarter of the 20th century witnessed a revival of interest in early English choral music. Encountering Tudor music had a profound influence on Vaughan Williams whose *Mass in G Minor* was the first substantial, unaccompanied Mass setting in a distinctly English voice since the time of Byrd. To perform this glorious, otherworldly work we welcome one of the greatest choirs in the world to the Temple Church.

Westminster Cathedral Choir gave the first liturgical performance of the *Mass in G Minor* 100 years ago in 1923. This year they are making history by performing the entirety of Byrd's *Gradualia* – settings of music for Mass – during choral services at Westminster Cathedral. Their programme tonight includes Marian Properes from Byrd's magnificent collection as well as works by Herbert Howells and Roderick Williams.

Introit: *Salve sancta parens* (Byrd)

Kyrie & Gloria: *Mass in G Minor* (Vaughan Williams)

Gradual: *Benedicta et venerabilis* (Byrd)

Alleluia: *Post partum Virgo* (Byrd)

Credo: *Mass in G Minor* (Vaughan Williams)

Offertory: *Ave Maria* (Byrd)

Sanctus, Benedictus, Agnus Dei: *Mass in G Minor* (Vaughan Williams)

Motet: *Ave verum corpus re-imagined* (Roderick Williams)

Motet: *Beata viscera* (Byrd)

Organ: *Master Tallis' Testament* (Howells)

To end: *Tribue Domine - Te deprecor - Gloria Patri* (Byrd)

Tickets £5 – 35



Saturday 1st July

Concert: Mahan Esfahani

12pm – 1pm | Temple Church

Although best known for his vocal music, William Byrd also composed startlingly inventive works for keyboard instruments including over a hundred pieces which appear in the manuscripts, *My Ladye Nevells Booke* and the *Fitzwilliam Virginal Book*, as well as in *Parthenia*, the first printed collection of music for keyboard in England.

Iranian-American harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani, who last year became the youngest ever recipient of the Wigmore Medal, presents a wonderful selection of works from these hugely important collections. His lunchtime recital concludes with the last of Bach's English Suites, with its grand Prelude, majestic double Sarabande and veritable totentanz of a Gigue!

I

William Byrd:

Pavana Lachrymae BK54

Fantasia BK13

Jhon Come Kisse Me Now BK81

II

William Byrd:

Pavana & Galliaro Sir William Petre BK3a/b

Fantasia BK46

The Bells BK38

III

Johann Sebastian Bach:

English Suite No. 6 in D Minor BWV811

Tickets £5 – 30



Service: Choral Evensong

6pm - 7pm | Temple Church

Following their afternoon of coaching at a Come & Sing workshop, participants sing a service of Choral Evensong alongside members of Stile Antico. (All places on the Come & Sing are taken, so this is a chance to attend the service as a member of the congregation only.)

Introit: *Miserere mihi*

Responses: Byrd

Psalm: *Sing Joyfully*

Magnificat: *Great Service*

Nunc Dimittis: *Short Service*

Anthem: *Ad Dominum cum tribularer*

Hymn: *Eternal Ruler of the Ceaseless Round* (Gibbons)

Hymn: *Glory to Thee, My God This Night* (Tallis/Ravencroft)

Free



Sunday 2nd July

Service: Choral Holy Communion

11.15am – 12.15pm | Temple Church

Temple Church Choir

To conclude the festival, join the Master of the Temple, the Reader of the Temple, and the world-famous Temple Church Choir at this Sunday morning service of Holy Communion. The setting is Byrd's sublime Mass for Four Voices. The choir is directed by Jeremy Cole, and the organist is Polina Sosnina.

Introit: *Ave verum corpus* (Byrd)

Psalm 13

Setting: *Mass for Four Voices* (Byrd)

Motet: *Teach me, O Lord* (Byrd)

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