

The Marian Consort

The Marian Consort

Rory McCleery *Artistic director*

Christ Church

Sunday 7 July

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| Rodrigo de Ceballos | Hortus Conclusus | 6' |
| Laura Cannell | For The Plants That Bind Us (Cheltenham Music Festival co-commission) | 7' |
| Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla | 'Kyrie' and 'Gloria' from <i>Missa Ego flos campi</i> | 7' |
| Benjamin Britten | Five Flower Songs, Op. 47 | 11' |
| Sebastián de Vivanco | Veni dilecte mi | 5' |
| Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla | 'Credo' from <i>Missa Ego flos campi</i> | 6' |
| Sebastián de Vivanco | Surge propera, amica mea | 4' |
| Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla | 'Sanctus & Benedictus' from <i>Missa Ego flos campi</i> | 2' |
| Sebastián de Vivanco | Sicit liliun | 3' |
| Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla | 'Agnus Dei' from <i>Missa Ego flos campi</i> | 2' |
| Leo Chadburn | Flower Dictionary | 7' |

Programme

The Language of Flowers

This exploration of flowers and gardens, both actual and allegorical, combines settings of the Song of Songs and its evocation of a luscious, fertile landscape by Spanish composers of the late Renaissance with Benjamin Britten's five playful Flower Songs. Two new commissions frame the second half of the programme: Laura Cannell brings together the influences of early, folk and experimental music in an exploration of plant lore (knowledge of plants gained through tradition or anecdote, much like folk lore), while Leo Chadburn's new work is inspired by Floriography (cryptological communication through the use or arrangement of flowers).

Artist Biography

The Marian Consort

The Marian Consort (TMC) is a vocal ensemble that presents bold and thrilling performances across the UK, Europe, North America and Asia. Led by founder and director, Rory McCleery, the group is composed of the very best singers in a flexible, intimate ensemble, allowing clarity of texture and subtlety of interpretation that illuminates the music for performer and audience alike. TMC features regularly on BBC Radio 3, and has released 15 recordings to critical acclaim, praised for 'precision and pellucid textures' (*The Times*).

TMC performs music from the 12th century to the present day, with a focus on bringing to light and championing marginalised and lesser-known composers such as Vicente Lusitano, Raffaella Aleotti, and Jean Maillard. TMC has premiered over 30 works to date, and in recent years it has commissioned Dani Howard, Marcus Rock, David Fennessy and Electra Perivolaris. TMC regularly collaborates with soloists and ensembles including Daniel Pioro, Britten Sinfonia, and Illyria Consort.

TMC is a pioneer of projects which move beyond the confines of the traditional concert, most notably *Breaking the Rules*, a staged concert-drama based on the life and crimes of Carlo Gesualdo called 'daring and vivid' by *The Guardian*; and *Lusitano Remixed*, a surround sound installation made with Roderick Williams. Recent highlights include a concert at the BBC Proms; performances in the Bascule Chamber inside London's Tower Bridge; the premiere of a major new commission by Laurence Osborn at Wigmore Hall; and tours of the US and Japan. The Marian Consort is ensemble in residence with Music at Oxford across 2023 and 2024.

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