

Faire is the Rose: The Music of Orlando Gibbons

Pittville Pump Rooms
Sunday 6 July

Orlando Gibbons	Behold, I bring you glad tidings
Orlando Gibbons	Magnificat <i>from</i> 'The Second Service'
Orlando Gibbons	What is our life
Orlando Gibbons	Nay let me weep
Orlando Gibbons	This is the Record of John
Owain Park	The Testimony of St John (after Orlando Gibbons)
Orlando Gibbons	Nunc dimittis <i>from</i> 'The Second Service'
Interval	
Orlando Gibbons	The Silver Swan
Orlando Gibbons	Faire is the Rose
Áine Mallon	Nothing gold can stay (after Orlando Gibbons) (Cheltenham 2025 co-commission, world premiere)
Orlando Gibbons	Out of the deep
Orlando Gibbons	The Cries of London
Orlando Gibbons	See, See, the Word is incarnate

About the Programme

The Gesualdo Six and Chelys Consort unite for a captivating programme of music by Orlando Gibbons that celebrates the full breadth of his remarkable career. The performance features sacred works from his tenure at the Chapel Royal, lively secular pieces drawn from his witty and wry madrigal collection, a charming stroll through a Renaissance market in The Cries of London, and highlights from his exquisite consort music for viols and voices.

Artist Biographies

The Gesualdo Six

The Gesualdo Six is an award-inning British vocal ensemble comprising some of the UK's finest consort singers, directed by Owain park. Praised for their imaginative programming and impeccable blend, the group formed in 2014 for a performance of Gesualdo's Tenebrae Responsories in Cambridge and has gone on to perform at numerous major festivals around the world.

Notable highlights include a concert in the distinguished Deutschland Radio Debut Series, performances at renowned venues including Wigmore Hall (London), Miller Theatre (New York), the Sydney Opera House, and their debut at the BBC Proms in 2023.

Chelys Viol Consort

Described by Gramophone as having released 'unquestionably the most beautiful recording of the Lachrimae', Chelys have garnered a reputation for their faithful yet fresh interpretations of the consort repertoire. They take their name from an ancient Greek word which referred to a bowed lyre, said to have been invented by the god Hermes. The word was borrowed by the English violist Christopher Simpson on the title page of his treatise 'The Division Viol' when he translated the work into Latin. Perhaps this is what inspired their world premiere recording of Simpson's *Airs* for two trebles and two basses, a disc described as 'wonderfully supple, propulsive and alive' by the Guardian.

The members of Chelys are among the UK's leading exponents of the viol, particularly as a consort instrument, and their consort viols are strung entirely in gut (not strings overwound with metal), which lends them a particularly distinctive sound. They frequently collaborate with other period instrumentalists and singers, especially enjoying repertoire for voices and viols. A recent highlight has been recording songs and consort music by William Byrd with mezzo-soprano Helen Charlston in Byrd's 400th anniversary year. A collaboration with vocal consort Fieri saw Chelys performing and recording the complete 5-part viol fantasias of Michael East alongside some of East's compositions for voices and viols, where the two ensembles also commissioned a piece from composer Jill Jarman. Chelys have continued their association with Jill in an exciting current project *The Language of Bells*, a major new commission alongside percussionist Dame Evelyn Glennie and four singers.

The consort record for the BIS label, and their version of the complete fantasias and in nomines by Henry Purcell received a 5 star review in BBC Music Magazine, as well as *The Strad* praising its 'beguiling fidelity' and 'in-depth luxuriousness'.

The members of Chelys can be found in all sorts of other places in the wider Early Music world: playing with ensembles such as the Rose Consort of Viols, Fretwork, Musica Secreta and Ensemble Moliere, teaching on courses including the Benslow Trust, NORVIS, Dartington, the Irish Recorder and Viol Summer School, and the Easter Early Music Course, and coaching viol consorts at Morley College, the Royal College of Music and Royal Academy of Music.