



Chamber Music in the Galleries

Spirit of the English Renaissance

Collegium Musicum

Elena Bailey, director

6:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Cleveland Museum of Art

11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, OH Donna and James Reid Gallery (217 Italian Baroque)



10900 Euclid Avenue Cleveland, OH case.edu/artsci/music PROGRAM

All People Clap Your Hands Jubilate Deo

Like as the Lute Delights Oh Sleep, Fond Fancy What Greater Grief It Was a Time Come Woeful Orpheus

Mass for 3 Kyrie Gloria Cantatibus Organis

Fain Would I Change That Note The Lowest Trees Have Tops Jack and Joan April is in my Mistress' Face

Gloria in excelsis Deo Lord, Grant Grace Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623) Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

John Danyel (1564-c.1626) Thomas Morley (1557-1603) Tobias Hume (1569-1645) John Dowland (1563-1626) William Byrd (1540-1623)

William Byrd

Peter Philips (c.1560-1628)

Tobias Hume John Dowland Thomas Campion (1567-1620) Thomas Morley

> Thomas Weelkes Orlando Gibbons

PERSONNEL

Voices:

Elena Mullins Bailey Sophia Duray Suzanna Feldkamp Mary Galvin Danur Kvilhaug Alissa Magee Naomi McMahon Krista Mitchell Maura Sugg Hendrik Widener Lute:

Danur Kvilhaug

Viol: Willow Stracuzzi

Sackbut:

Hendrik Widener

Organ: QinYing Tan

PROGRAM NOTES

Thank you for coming to *Spirit of the English Renaissance*. Our program contains a variety of English vocal music from approximately 1560-1625, written by some well-loved composers of English polyphony and part songs, and some whose names might be new to you.

The decades around the turn of the seventeenth century were a period of rapid change throughout Europe, and England was no different. The political landscape there had been shaped by Henry VIII's break from the Catholic church in the 1530s and the subsequent English Reformation. After a brief resurgence of legal Catholicism under Queen Mary I in the 1550s, Elizabeth I took the throne and reestablished laws that required attendance in the Church of England. This contributed to continued tensions between Catholics and Protestants. Nevertheless, English arts and music flourished during this time, partly because new printing technologies made books accessible in a way they had not been before. Not only was it easier for English composers to learn from and be inspired by international styles of music, such as the Italian madrigal, but more people had the desire and means to be able to purchase books that supported music-making at home.

Tonight you will hear music by all sorts of composers, among whom are church musicians, such as Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625) and William Byrd (1540-1623), lutenists for royal courts, such as John Dowland (1563-1626) and John Danyel (1564-c.1626), music theorist and publisher Thomas Morley (1557-1603), and even a career soldier, Tobias Hume (1569-1645).

Two sets of Anglican anthems, the quintessential English-language sacred genre, frame the concert, while an excerpt from a Catholic mass and a Latin motet occupy the center. The large-scale anthems by Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623) and Orlando Gibbons likely accompanied services in the government-sanctioned Church of England. They require a large vocal ensemble and, at the very least,

organ accompaniment, though sometimes other bass instruments supplemented the organ. Verse Anthems, with their soloist-sung sections, developed later and were sometimes accompanied by entire viol consorts. Contrast these pieces with the sacred music by Byrd, who was a closet Catholic in a Protestant world. His three-voice mass was designed to be performed by one or two singers on each part, in an intimate setting, perhaps behind closed doors in a secret Catholic service.

Secular songs fill in the gaps in our program. Our selections show flexibility in the required performing forces for English Renaissance secular song. Some pieces are in an older format, part songs for more than one voice and no instruments. Here, Morley's works are the most representative of what we will call the English madrigal. Other songs are for solo voice with accompaniment by either viol, lute, or both. Though these examples remain polyphonic in strategy, they move toward the new soundscape of monody, which would be popularized by Italian composers such as Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643) and Jacopo Peri (1561-1633). Finally, the two songs by Dowland were published in a new format that allowed a group of four singers to read part songs from the same book, while still leaving room for a performance by solo voice and lute.

As mentioned before, English music from this time shows significant influence from Italian musical aesthetics. During the sixteenth century, Italians' musical goals shifted away from the more mathematical approach of medieval compositions as they began to attempt to use music to represent subjective human emotions and states of being. In our program, Morley's madrigals call to mind earlier Italian polyphony. Byrd's later work "Come, Woeful Orpheus" plays with chromatic melodies and harmonization to color the text in ways reminiscent of Monteverdi's more innovative madrigals. Among other pieces, Danyel's "Like as the lute delights" also adds accidentals to represent emotionally heightened moments through the metaphor of 'untuned notes.'

Poetry, music, and metaphor are entwined throughout the program, and the dramatic and metrical texts also recall that this was the lifetime of theater's favorite bard, William Shakespeare (1564-1616). Many of the poems sung today are written in iambic pentameter, and the ones that aren't are structured around the commonly-used poetic feet. Music-making is frequently used in these songs as a metaphor for love. Death is used for dramatic purposes in "What greater grief," a song which only reveals that its topic is unrequited love in its last two lines of text. Perhaps tonight's most interesting metaphor is found in Dowland's "It was a time," where bees are used as a stand-in for human political structures, and an unhappy bee complains to his monarch about never seeing the fruit of his labors. Dowland himself was repeatedly passed over for a position in Elizabeth I's consort of royal lutenists, so perhaps that is why he resonated with the poem.

We hope you enjoy the variety of ensembles and perspectives we offer tonight, and that you come away with a greater appreciation of the sounds of the English Renaissance and the worldviews they represent.

-Naomi McMahon

TRANSLATIONS

Mass for Three Kyrie

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te. Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens, Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe. Domine Deus, agnus Dei, filius patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus altissiumus. Jesu Christe, cum sancto spiritu in gloria Dei Patris. Amen

Mass for Three Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to men of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you. We give thanks for your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty, Lord the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Lord God, lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world, hear our prayer. You sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are holy, you alone are Lord, you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen

Cantantibus Organis

Cecilia virgo in corde suo soli Domino decantabat, dicens: "Fiat Domine cor meum et corpus meum immaculatum, ut non confundar."

While the musicians played,

Cecilia the virgin, in her heart, sang only to the Lord, saying: "Lord, keep my heart and my body immaculate, that I not be put to shame."

CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

The Cleveland Museum of Art's Performing Arts Series is robust and wideranging, spanning classical and contemporary music, global music traditions, as well as dance and film. The series is recognized internationally and stands out in the Northeast Ohio region for its vitality and the excitement it brings to a crowded musical landscape. These performances regularly complement special exhibitions, illuminate the permanent collection, and take unique advantage of the museum's performance spaces and architecture—often arranged in collaboration or interdisciplinary fashion with fellow curators.

www.clevelandart.org

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE PRACTICE

The **Historical Performance Practice (HPP) Program** at Case Western Reserve University is one of the nation's premier programs for advanced musicians pursuing careers in early music. This highly selective, fully funded program provides top-tier training in historically informed performance, combining rigorous academic study with extensive artistic and professional development.

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case.edu/artsci/music/news-events/upcoming-events

Tuesday, April 8, 7:30 p.m.

Mozart: The Sparrow Mass CWRU Baroque Orchestra & Early Music Singers Maltz Performing Arts Center

Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Chamber Music in the Atrium: La Barre's *La Sculpture* CWRU Baroque Dance & Baroque Chamber Ensembles Cleveland Museum of Art



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