

## **Will Dawes**

Will is Director of Chapel Music of Somerville College, Oxford, Director of Music at the church of St Mary Magdalen, Conductor of Ensemble 45, and Director of Frideswide Voices (Oxford's first liturgical choir for 7-14 year-old girls).

His musical career started as a chorister at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. He studied music at the University of Edinburgh and then Choral Conducting and Voice at the Royal Academy of Music. On graduating, he was awarded the Thomas Armstrong Prize for Choral Direction. He was made an Associate of the RAM in 2018.

Will's work with his various choirs has ranged from Bach's *St John Passion* to MacMillan's *Seven last words from the Cross*. With Ensemble 45 he has directed national premieres of works by Pärt, Penderecki, Rautavaara and Whitacre alongside music by Brahms, Carver, Britten and Gabriel Jackson.

Aside from his career as a conductor, Will is active as a consort singer and is a member of the internationally acclaimed vocal ensemble Stile Antico. The group performs all over the globe, so far including concerts at the Wigmore Hall, Cadogan Hall (BBC Proms), 30 different venues in the USA, as well as Mexico, Portugal, Estonia and Canada. He is a former Lay Clerk of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, and has also appeared as part of the BBC Singers, Polyphony and Collegium Vocale Gent.

(If you Google 'Will Dawes presents Vigilate', you will find a YouTube clip with a brief appearance by Will and some glorious music by William Byrd!)

As a soloist, Will has sung works such as *Carmina Burana* (Orff), *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* (Mahler) and *The Wound Dresser* (Adams), as well as more canonic works by JS Bach and GF Handel. His one and only operatic role to date is that of Mr Gedge in *Albert Herring*.

Will is a very popular workshop tutor and we are sure of a highly enjoyable day singing under his direction.

## **The Bishop's Palace, Hereford**

Our venue is the Great Hall of the Bishop's Palace in Hereford, which stands to the south of the Cathedral Cloister. The present Hall was constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but embedded in its walls are the substantial remains of the timber framing of a 12<sup>th</sup> century hall. It was beautifully refurbished two years ago and is a fine room in which to sing.

We shall take our refreshment breaks in the next-door Conference Room, and we can eat picnic lunches there – or stroll into Hereford for the lunch break.

Directions to the Palace and other practical details about the day will be sent with the acknowledgement of your application.