



An Emerald in a Work of Gold: Music from the Dow Partbooks

A workshop for singers

Tutor: Rory McCleery

Saturday 26th February 2022, 10am–4.30pm

John Abel Room, Grange Court, Leominster HR6 8NL

In this workshop we explore some of the unfamiliar names and compositions hidden in the Dow Partbooks, the manuscript collection which belonged to the sixteenth-century bibliophile Robert Dow and contains an extraordinary diversity of music.

Dow had strong connections with the city of Oxford, beginning his studies at Corpus Christi College in 1574 and then becoming bursar of laws at All Souls College. The music found in the partbooks which bear his name is distinctly cosmopolitan, covering most of the forms and styles, both sacred and secular, that would have been familiar to educated Elizabethan music lovers. The reason behind the collation of these works is clear from one of a number of biblical quotations and Latin inscriptions that Dow added to the partbooks: 'As a signet of an emerald in a work of gold: so is the melody of music with pleasant and moderate wine.'

In keeping with Dow's original intentions, we will be exploring some choice gems from the partbooks, including works by William Mundy, Nicholas Stogers and Nathaniel Giles, as well as lesser-known compositions by William Byrd.

Rory McCleery began his musical career as a chorister at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh. He gained a double first in music at Oxford University as both Organ and Domus Academic scholar of St Peter's College, subsequently completing an MSt in Musicology with Distinction.

Rory is the founder and director of The Marian Consort, with whom he performs across the UK, Europe and North America. Under his direction, The Marian Consort has become renowned internationally for its compelling interpretations of a wide range of repertoire, particularly the music of the Renaissance and early Baroque, but also of works by contemporary British composers, and in 2017 was nominated for a Gramophone Award. They premiered at the Proms in 2021.

Rory has performed in concert, recording and broadcasts with groups including The Dunedin Consort, The Sixteen, The Gabrieli Consort, The Cardinal's Musick and the Rose Consort of Viols. Recent solo performances have included Bach's St John Passion, Handel's Messiah and Dixit Dominus; Pärt's St Matthew Passion; Purcell's Ode to St Cecilia; Monteverdi's 1610 Vespers. Rory is a passionate believer in the importance of music education and singing for young people and is director of choral music at City, University of London.

Booking is essential. You can book on line at <https://form.jotform.com/213335346302345> Or, you can e-mail or post the completed form below and return it to the organiser, Ellen Sarewitz. Early applications will be acknowledged after 10th January 2022. Instructions for travel to Grange Court will be sent nearer the time. The venue has its own café for hot drinks and food, you can also buy lunch in Leominster or bring your own flask and food. There will not be a BMEMF drinks table.

The fee for the workshop is £20 for BMEMF and other Forum members, £22 for non-members and £5 for students.

Application form

Organiser: Ellen Sarewitz, ellen.sarewitz@cantab.net Langworthy House, Brockhampton, Hereford HR1 4TQ, M: 07771 758637.

Please complete the on-line form or fill out this slip CAREFULLY and e-mail or post it to the Organiser.

EITHER: I have paid £_____ to BMEMF A/C 41571829, sort code 23-05-80, ref: 26 FEB;

OR: I enclose a cheque for £_____ payable to BMEMF and dated 26th February 2022.

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