

Weekend Courses 2023-24**The Golden Age of Elizabethan music and culture****Start date:** 17 May 2024 **End date:** 19 May 2024**Venue:** Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge
CB23 8AQ**Tutor:** Dr Francis Knights **Course Code:** 2324NRX036

Tutor biography

Francis Knights studied at Royal Holloway College and Magdalen College, Oxford. He has held positions at the Royal Northern College of Music, Somerville College, Oxford and King's College, London, and since 2008 has been Fellow, Tutor and Director of Studies in Music at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. He has published more than 80 articles, editions and books, and recently completed a 15-year project to perform all of the surviving Tudor keyboard repertoire.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the Terrace Bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	An introduction to the Elizabethan Age and its culture
22:00	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	The music of the streets: music in the theatre
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Music at Court: the secular traditions
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free time
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	'In quires and places where they sing': music in cathedral and chapel
18:00 – 18:30	Free time
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Lecture-recital by Francis Knights (harpsichord): Tudor keyboard virtuosos
21:30	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	Instrumental music: forms and styles
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	The wider context: heading towards the Civil War and music across the channel
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

The course will allow you to:

- be acquainted with a key period of English cultural history
- understand the social context for musical composition and performance
- appreciate the variety of forms and styles heard by all classes and conditions of people
- understand the craft skills behind the production of musical instruments, and manuscripts

Summary of content:

The Elizabethan period was a true 'golden age' in music, where great composers like Tallis, Byrd, Gibbons and Dowland worked in a cultural environment that cherished their talents. They were surrounded by a host of other excellent musicians, and together created works for voices, viols, lutes and keyboard that are still heard and appreciated today.

This course is designed for music-lovers interested in the historical background to this remarkable period of British culture. It will cover the major composers of the English musical renaissance, the context for their work and its performance, the development of musical instruments, religious controversies, court culture, patronage and politics, music and Shakespeare and many other aspects. No special musical training is assumed for attendees, and numerous music examples will form part of the course.

Presentation of the course:

Lectures, seminar and class discussion, live and recorded music examples. Show-and-tell with musical instruments and manuscript facsimiles.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, you should be able to:

- understand the historical context of musical developments in 16th-century England
- recall the major composers of the period and their contributions to Elizabethan music
- develop a deeper sense of this repertoire, as a listener

Reading and resources list

There are no compulsory readings for this course. However, you may find the below recommended reading list of interest to supplement your course.

Le Huray, Peter, *Music and the Reformation in England 1549-1660*, Cambridge University Press (1978)

Marsh, Christopher, *Music and Society in Early Modern England*, Cambridge University Press (2013)

Price, David, *Patrons and Musicians of the English Renaissance*, Cambridge University Press (2009)

Wulstan, David, *Tudor Music*, Iowa (1986)

Note: Institute of Continuing Education (ICE) students are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current ICE course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

(Information correct as of 15 May 2023)