

*If music and sweet  
poetry agree*



A sequence of words and music  
from the time of Shakespeare

CLAIRE SILLINCE *reader*    MARTIN SHEPHERD *lute*

*Welcome to our short performance in the wonderful church of St Mary Magdalen. We have conceived the programme as a continuous sequence so please reserve any applause until the end.*

## ***Programme***

Solus cum sola	JOHN DOWLAND
If music and sweet poetry agree	RICHARD BARNFIELD
The Sharp Pavan	RICHARD ALISON
How sweet the moonlight sleeps ( <i>The Merchant of Venice, V, 1</i> )	WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
The Frog Galliard	JOHN DOWLAND
I know a bank) ( <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream, II, 1</i> )	SHAKESPEARE
The Fairy Round	ANTHONY HOLBORNE
The just exchange	SIR PHILIP SIDNEY
Lady Rich's Galliard	JOHN DOWLAND
Music to hear (Sonnet 8)	SHAKESPEARE
Mr Dowland's Midnight	ANONYMOUS
Prologue (chorus, <i>Henry V, VI</i> )	SHAKESPEARE
Dowland's Galliard	ANONYMOUS
Robin is to the greenwood gone	ANONYMOUS
Slow, slow fresh fount	BEN JONSON
Lachrimae Pavan	JOHN DOWLAND

Care-charmer sleep	SAMUEL DANIEL
What then is love but mourning?	PHILIP ROSSETER
Leave me, O love	SIR PHILIP SIDNEY
All the world's a stage ( <i>As You Like It</i> , II, 7)	SHAKESPEARE
Heres Paternus (pavan)	ANTHONY HOLBORNE
What is our life?	SIR WALTER RALEGH
Death be not proud	JOHN DONNE

### *The Composers and Poets*

**JOHN DOWLAND** (1562-1626) was perhaps the greatest lutenist/composer of his age and worked in various courts in Europe before finally gaining a place at the English court in 1612. He published four books of songs, but his lute music survives almost entirely in manuscripts written by others, notably Mathew Holmes, Precentor at Christ Church, Oxford from 1588 to 1597.

**RICHARD BARNFIELD** (1574-1627), the son of a Staffordshire gentleman, was educated at Brasenose College, Oxford (although he never graduated), and is believed to be the rival poet referred to in Shakespeare's sonnets.

**RICHARD ALISON** (fl.1592-1606) is best known for his consort music, which appears in several published volumes. His works also appear, though unattributed in Morley's *First Booke of Consort Lessons*.

**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE** (1564-1616) included many songs in his plays but few contemporary settings survive. The ballad tune "Bonny sweet Robin" is one of the songs sung by Ophelia, but though the tune survives in many settings, the words do not.

**ANTHONY HOLBORNE** (c.1584-1602), sometime Gentleman Usher to Queen Elizabeth, was a composer who published a tutor for the cittern in 1597 and a book of consort music in 1599, from which the pavan *Heres Paternus* is taken.

**SIR PHILIP SIDNEY** (1554-1586) was a graduate of Christ Church, Oxford. His father intended him to marry Penelope Devereux (sister of the Earl of Essex) but she married Lord Rich in 1581. She was clearly the inspiration for Stella in one of his best-known works, *Astrophel and Stella*.

**BEN JONSON** (c.1572-1637) was a playwright who is also known for his collaborations with Inigo Jones and others in the production of a series of Masques in the early Jacobean period.

**SAMUEL DANIEL** (1563-1619), brother of the lutenist-composer John Danyel, was a prominent member of the literary circle surrounding Mary, Countess of Pembroke, sister of Sir Philip Sidney.

**PHILIP ROSSETER** (c.1567-1623) was a lutenist and composer who was principally occupied with music for the theatre. His *Booke of Ayres* was published in 1601.

**SIR WALTER RALEGH** (c.1554-1618) was primarily an explorer and adventurer. His poems are difficult to date or authenticate though he did write an *Epitaph of Sir Philip Sydney* and the prefatory sonnet for Spenser's *The Fairie Queene*.

**JOHN DONNE** (1572-1631) is perhaps the best-known of the “metaphysical” poets. Most of his work circulated in undated manuscripts and was not published until after his death.

### *The Performers*

Martin Shepherd took up the lute in 1979 and since 1982 has combined the activities of performer, scholar and maker of instruments. Martin and Claire met in 1988 when she was looking for a lute and an accompanist – since then they have performed many concerts of lute songs together.