

Historic music in historic churches – early and Baroque music for voices and period instruments

THE
Suffolk Villages Festival



Autumn Concerts 2017

Artistic Director: Peter Holman MBE



SUDBURY DEDHAM



Reformation & Counter-Reformation

Great sacred music spanning the religious
divide – from Monteverdi to Handel

Sunday 12 November at 6pm
St Peter's Sudbury CO10 2EA



**Claire Coleman *soprano*, Psalmody, The John Jenkins Consort
directed by Peter Holman**

Almost exactly 500 years ago Martin Luther began the Reformation as a protest against the abuses of the Catholic church. The Reformation and the subsequent Counter-Reformation divided Europe into hostile armed camps for generations and led eventually to the 30 Years War, the most destructive conflict before modern times. But musicians continually crossed the religious divide and the great composers produced a creative synthesis of Protestant and Catholic sensibilities, often vividly reflecting the turmoil of the time.

This unusual and fascinating programme, much of it for divided choirs and six-part strings, ranges from Michael Praetorius's extraordinary Italianate setting of the Lutheran chorale 'Wachet auf' to Agostino Steffani's great Stabat Mater, probably composed in the 1690s as part of a plan to reconvert northern Germany. The theme is explored further in music by Heinrich Schütz and Handel (both eloquent prayers for peace in wartime), Johann Rosenmüller (a Protestant in Venice) and J.S. Bach (a reworking of a grand Sanctus by the Catholic Johann Caspar Kerll).

In memory of Nigel Rodley (1941-2017)

Tickets **£18 (reserved), £12 (unreserved), reserved seats for two concerts £32**

Pre-concert talk at 4.30pm in Gainsborough's House by Professor Stephen Rose

Now in its thirtieth year, the Suffolk Villages Festival brings high-quality performances of early music to rural East Anglia. Our venues are the fine historic churches of the Dedham Vale area: Stoke by Nayland, Nayland, Boxford, Hadleigh, Dedham and Sudbury – easily reached by road from London and the Suffolk coast via the A12 and from the Midlands via the A14. Colchester and Ipswich are the nearest mainline railway stations. Find local accommodation at: www.southandheartofsuffolk.org.uk or contact the Tourist Information Centre:

The Library, Market Hill, Sudbury, CO10 2EN
01787 881320

www.suffolkvillagesfestival.com
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The Suffolk Villages Festival
Registered Charity No. 1102789
119 Maldon Road
Colchester CO3 3AX
01206 366603



Gabriel's Message

Festive Music from Mediaeval England

Sunday 10 December at 6pm
St Mary's Church Dedham CO7 6DE



Mediva directed by Ann Allen
Ann Allen *shawms & recorders*
Adrien Reboisson *shawms & recorders*
Corina Marti *recorders & clavicymbalum*
Natalie Carducci *fiddle*
Erwan Picquet *voice*
Max Fiorani *percussion*

With a childrens' choir from local schools

Ann Allen's Baroque group Syrinx made a great impression when it was in residence during the 2016 Festival. Now she returns with the international line-up of virtuosos that is Mediva, one of Europe's most accomplished and innovative Mediaeval groups. It has appeared in many of the major music festivals in Britain and on the Continent, receiving enthusiastic reviews for its recordings, most recently for a CD of music by Hildegard of Bingen and the contemporary composer Hugh Collins Rich.

Gabriel's Message is a vivid celebration of Advent and Christmas. Songs, carols and dances from Mediaeval England evoke the sounds of winter, from harsh winds to crackling fires, from a peal of bells to a baby's cry.

In this special concert Mediva performs with a choir of children drawn from local schools and trained by Tom Stapleton as part of our developing education programme.

'Played and sung with much beauty and impressive commitment in a voyage of discovery for composer, performers and listeners alike', *Choir & Organ.*

Tickets **£18 (reserved), £12 (unreserved), reserved seats for two concerts £32**

Dates for your diary in 2018

Sunday 29 April
St Peter's, Sudbury

Margaret Faultless *violin*, Steven Devine *harpsichord*
J.S Bach sonatas for violin & harpsichord

Monday 28 May 2018
St Mary's, Hadleigh

John Eccles: *Semele* (1707)
concert performance of the opera
with words by William Congreve
Philippa Hyde *Semele*, Helen Charlston *Juno*
Essex Baroque Orchestra, directed by Peter Holman

24 – 27 August 2018

The Suffolk Villages Festival 2018

BOOKING INFORMATION

Booking opens on 25 September to Supporters (Friends, Patrons and Benefactors) of SVF, and on 2 October to the general public.

By post: please write to SVF Box Office: 119 Maldon Road, Colchester, CO3 3AX enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope. If ordering ten or more tickets, please use a large letter stamp. Cheques should be made payable to Suffolk Villages Festival.

Online: please visit the website at www.suffolkvillagesfestival.com to order your tickets and pay online via PayPal (you do not need to have a PayPal account in order to do this – you can pay using your credit or debit card).

By telephone: please contact the box office on 01206 366603. We can take payments over the phone via Visa, Visa Electron, Mastercard and Maestro.

Card payment: please note that a surcharge of £1 per transaction will apply for each transaction made online or by telephone. This includes posting your tickets if time permits.

Season ticket: £32 for top-price seats for both concerts, a saving of 10%.

Concessions: half-price tickets are available to full-time students.

Refunds: We regret that refunds can only be given if the concert is sold out and we are able to re-sell the ticket.

Seating: Top-price tickets are for numbered seats and have views unobstructed by pillars. All other tickets are unreserved and may have an obstructed view.

Every effort will be made to adhere to the advertised programme but please note that the organisers reserve the right to amend or cancel any part.

BOX OFFICE

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Supporters of The Suffolk Villages Festival

Supporters make annual donations that are the lifeline of SVF. They have priority booking for all concerts and events staged by SVF during the year. They receive regular newsletters and are invited to special Supporters' events. Patrons and Benefactors are listed in SVF programmes unless anonymity is requested.

Friends: £25-£99 single; £40-£99 joint
Patrons: £100-£299
Benefactors: £300 or more

If you would like to become a Supporter, please visit our website or contact the SVF office.