

THE  
Suffolk Villages Festival

**THE DOWLAND SONG PROJECT**  
with Philippa Hyde *soprano*  
Elizabeth Kenny *lute* Reiko Ichise *bass viol*

16 July and 28 August (London) & 30 August (Suffolk)

**Applications are invited from student singers  
to take part in our Dowland Song Project.**

**What is the Dowland Song Project?**

A collaboration between three leading early music specialists, Philippa Hyde *soprano*, Elizabeth Kenny *lute* and Reiko Ichise *bass viol* with student singers (soprano, alto or countertenor, tenor and bass) to study and perform a selection of the four- and five-part versions of John Dowland's songs to mark the 400th anniversary of Dowland's death in 1626. The resulting performance will form part of the 2026 Suffolk Villages Festival. The programme will include sacred as well as secular works, drawn from all four of Dowland's published collections, and covering a wide variety of idioms ranging from light-hearted dance songs to profound motet-like pieces.

The tutors will work with the students on the repertoire on 16 July and 28 August in London, culminating in a concert in Stoke by Nayland Church on 30 August as part of the Suffolk Villages Festival.

**Is it for me?**

You should be enrolled at as a student at a British college, conservatoire or university and have an interest in historically informed performance. You should be free on 16 July and 28 August to rehearse in London, and on 30 August for rehearsals and a concert in Suffolk.

**How do I apply to take part?**

You should submit a completed application form ([Application Form](#)) together with a CV and a letter or email of recommendation from your teacher by 15 June. Please note that you may be asked to attend an audition or submit a short demo CD or sound file if we receive lots of applications.

**How much does it cost?**

Participation in the project is free. In addition, you will be provided with food and accommodation in Suffolk and reimbursed for all reasonable travel expenses within the UK.

**The Suffolk Villages Festival** has been promoting historically informed performances of early music for over 30 years and this project is part of our education programme, designed to encourage stylish performances of music before 1800. Based in 'Constable Country' on the Suffolk-Essex border, the Suffolk Villages Festival offers about nine concerts throughout the year, five at the Festival itself during the August bank holiday weekend and more in its Spring Series, from January to June. The Festival's resident groups (Essex Baroque Orchestra, Psalmody and the John Jenkins Consort) have a unique mix of players and singers (professional, student and local amateur) and aim to provide young musicians and good local amateurs with the opportunity to perform early music at a high level.

For any further information please contact: [louise@suffolkvillagesfestival.com](mailto:louise@suffolkvillagesfestival.com)

**Philippa Hyde** studied singing with Ann Lampard MBE, David Johnston and Yvonne Minton CBE, graduating from the Royal Academy of Music with the coveted Dip. RAM in 1993. She was subsequently awarded the ARAM, an honour granted to past students of the Academy who have achieved distinction in their profession. It was at the Royal Academy of Music that she developed a love for Renaissance music, inspired by the lutenist Robert Spencer, who placed expression of text at the heart of performance of the lute song. Since then, she has enjoyed performing alongside colleagues such as Elizabeth Kenny, Jakob Lindberg, David Miller, Fred Jacobs and William Carter. Philippa's busy and varied concert, oratorio and operatic career has taken her all over the world, from Helsinki to Beijing, as well as to many of the major concert venues and festivals of Europe. She has performed regularly with The Academy of Ancient Music, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, The Parley of Instruments, The Musicke Companye, Canzona, The Hanover Band, and the Harmonious Society of Tickle Fiddle Gentlemen, as well as with her own period instrument ensemble, Bloomsbury Baroque.

**Elizabeth Kenny**, born in 1967 in London, is one of Europe's leading lute players. Her playing has been described as 'incandescent' (*Music and Vision*), 'radical' (*The Independent on Sunday*) and 'indecently beautiful' (*Toronto Post*). She has devised several critically acclaimed recordings of solo music from the ML Lute Book, and, with long standing vocal partners, songs by Lawes, Purcell and Dowland. Her most recent solo recording, *Ars Longa* (Linn Records) was nominated for the *BBC Music Magazine* Solo Instrumental recording of 2019. She has an extensive discography of collaborations with chamber ensembles across Europe and the USA. She founded Theatre of the Ayre in 2007. Notable recording projects include John Blow's *Venus and Adonis* (Wigmore Live, 2011), *The Masque of Moments* (Linn, 2017) and *C17 Playlist*, with tenor Ed Lyon (Delphian). More recently the album *De Pasión Mortal* (Outhere, 2024) brought together music from mid twentieth century Latin America with the European seventeenth century. Elizabeth Kenny has been professor of Lute at the Royal Academy of Music since 1999, and Dean of Students since 2020. Between 2021 and 2020 she was Professor of Musical Performance at the University of Southampton, and Director of Performance and Performance Studies at the University of Oxford.

**Reiko Ichise** moved from Tokyo to London more than three decades ago to study at the Royal College of Music, and has since established herself as a leading viola da gamba player in the United Kingdom. Her passion for chamber music has led her to perform consistently with esteemed ensembles such as Florilegium, Passacaglia, the Bach Players, the Theatre of Ayre, Elephant House Quartet, the Society of Strange and Ancient Instruments, and the Irish Consort. For eight years, she was a vital member of the award-winning viol consort Fretwork, where she performed a rich repertoire of both old and new music. As a soloist, she has performed extensively, appearing at prestigious festivals and concert series with renowned orchestras such as the Academy of Ancient Music, English Baroque Soloists, Gabrieli Consort, Arte dei Suonatori, the Britten Sinfonia, and the Norwegian Soloists' Choir. she shares her extensive experience and skills as a viola da gamba professor at the Royal College of Music, shaping the next generation of musicians.