



Saturday 31 October, 3pm on YouTube  
available until Saturday 7 November

## **BIRD CHARMER**

**James Duncan**

Learning and Engagement Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust

with

**Piers Adams** *recorders*

A virtuoso player and an enthusiastic naturalist meet in the woods to share knowledge of songbirds and some music inspired by them.

### **The music**

**Anonymous** 16th century

Variations on *The Woodcock*

**William Hill** dates unknown

The Bird Fancier's Delight (1717):

*Tunes for the Bullfinch*

*Tunes for the Linnet*

*A tune for the Woodlark*

*A tune for the Starling*

*A tune for the Sparrow*

*A tune for the Song thrush*

**Jacob van Eyck** c. 1590–1657

The English Nightingale

**Hans-Martin Linde** b. 1930

Music for a Bird

## James Duncan

My supreme passion for the natural world stems from childhood. From as early as I can remember I was either asking my dad to take me birdwatching (particularly at Rye Harbour) or busily looking for insects in the garden. If the weather wasn't conducive to going outside, I'd be thoroughly absorbed in a David Attenborough nature documentary instead. This intoxicating fascination with all things wildlife never left and I eventually moved into both voluntary and working roles within the conservation sector. I'm now extremely proud to have been at Sussex Wildlife Trust since 2018, working to help wildlife and local habitats.

The main focus of my role at the Wildlife Trust is to assist people's engagement with nature, a role that I adore. There can be few things more satisfying than demonstrating the mesmerising variety of species that call our county home. Of course, humanity's relationship with the natural world is currently more precarious than ever, so there's great importance in realising the ongoing struggles faced by many of our iconic species - exemplified by catastrophic declines in birds such as the turtle dove and nightingale. Part of my engagement role centres around raising awareness of conservation issues in order to enable more people to do whatever they can to help wildlife.

[sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Born on the Winter Solstice in 1963 and brought up in England's Thames Valley, **Piers Adams** initially considered a career in science, gaining a BSc in Physics before realising that his destiny lay elsewhere and embarking on a period of study with some of the leading recorder players of the day, including Dutch pioneer Kees Boeke, winning numerous awards and competitions along the way. A chance encounter with a group of Hungarian gypsy musicians whilst taking part in an early music festival was to provide inspiration for Piers in the years to follow: this was music performed with unbridled freedom, heart-on-sleeve emotion and sheer, joyous virtuosity - and these facets have now become the hallmarks of his own style.

Piers presents his craft through a wide range of concert and recording activities: his world-renowned baroque quartet Red Priest, whose latest CD reached No. 1 in the UK classical charts; duos with pianist Howard Beach and harpsichordist David Wright; concertos with orchestras across the globe; gala concerts for children; and festival gigs with the incredible Dodo Street Band.

[piersadams.com](http://piersadams.com)

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Videography: Zen Grisdale

Filmed at Woods Mill Nature Reserve with thanks to Sussex Wildlife Trust

Bird Photography: James Duncan, Derek Middleton, Roger Wilmshurst, John Bean, Sussex Wildlife Trust

Bird Videography: Tom Hibbert & James Duncan

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