



Sunday 1 November, 3pm on YouTube
available until Sunday 8 November

SWEET AYRES OF ARCADIA

Musicke in the Ayre

Gwendolen Martin *soprano*

Din Ghani *lute & baroque guitar*

Within the 'Arcadian' pastoral landscape of the Sussex Downs, the house and gardens of St Mary's House, Bramber provide the setting for songs reflecting on the beauty of nature as a metaphor for love, beauty and constancy.

The music

William Byrd 1539/40–1623 arr Francis Cutting (c.1550–1595)	Will ye go walk the woods so wild	
George Handford 1582/5–1647	Now each creature	Text by Samuel Daniel
Robert Jones c.1577–1617	There is a garden in her face	Text by Thomas Campion
Robert Johnson c.1550–1625	Have you seen but a white lily	Text by Ben Jonson
John Dowland 1562/3–1626	Oh sweet woods	Text by Philip Sidney & the Earl of Essex
Robert Johnson	Woods, rocks and mountains	Text anonymous
Nicholas Lanier 1588–1666	No more shall meads	Text by Thomas Carew
Thomas Campion 1567–1620	Your fair looks	Text by Thomas Campion
Henry Lawes 1596–1662	Among the myrtles	Text by Robert Herrick
William Lawes 1602–1645	Gather ye rosebuds	Text by Robert Herrick

The performers

Gwendolen Martin studied music at Worcester College, Oxford, where she was a choral scholar. She went on to study singing at Trinity College of Music and now enjoys a career as a soloist and ensemble singer. Gwendolen first performed at BREMF as part of The Marian Consort back in 2011 and has since returned with lutenist Toby Carr in James Redwood's education projects and Emma Kirkby's Dowland Works. Recent performing highlights include Purcell's *Indian Queen* (Opéra de Lille), Eurilla in Handel's *Il pastor fido* (New Chamber Opera), and Bach's *St John Passion* and Purcell's *Hail! bright Cecilia* (The Instruments of Time and Truth).

Her last live performance of 2020 was singing Beethoven's 9th Symphony in Chicago with the Monteverdi Choir, but she has been very busy during lockdown with her role as Curriculum Consultant for Southwark Music Service where she mentors specialist music teachers in primary schools. She has fought to maintain curriculum music provision in 30 Southwark primary schools and is proud to have won! She has also acquired a very naughty but extremely beautiful cocker spaniel puppy called Olive. Gwendolen is very excited to be performing this intimate, therapeutic programme of songs with Din and hopes to be able to share live music with audiences again soon.

gwendolenmartin.com

Din Ghani began performing in 1976 with a lute he built from a kit, but had to concentrate on the day job from 1982. Two decades later, he realised his dream of building a proper lute (and is now on his 10th build); he was also able to start performing again. A passion for lute song (fed by a steady stream of wonderful singers equally passionate) led him in 2011 to form Musicke in the Ayre as a performance vehicle. Through this he has given over 135 concerts across the UK and abroad, with singers from an evolving team of over 25; Gwendolen is a welcome addition! Since 2008, he has honed his skills accompanying singers in masterclasses given by Emma Kirkby and Evelyn Tubb, coached by David Miller and Michael Fields. However, the growth of Musicke in the Ayre owes as much to skills acquired in a previous life in research and development.

facebook.com/Musicke.in.the.Ayre

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Videography: Zen Grisdale
Filmed at St Mary's House, Bramber

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stmarysbramber.co.uk

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