

Owain's compositions are published by Novello and have been performed internationally by ensembles including the Tallis Scholars and the Aurora Orchestra. While at Cambridge University he studied orchestration with John Rutter, before undertaking a Masters degree in composition. He is composer-in-residence for the London Choral Sinfonia, and was one of BBC Radio 3's 31 under 31 Young Stars. The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge recorded an album of his compositions which was nominated for the BBC Music Magazine Awards. In 2023, *Battle Cry*, a collaborative album from Helen Charlston (mezzo-soprano) and Toby Carr (theorbo) featuring Owain's composition as the title track, won the Gramophone Award for Best Concept Album.

Owain is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists (FRCO), and was awarded the Dixon Prize for improvisation, having been Senior Organ Scholar at Wells Cathedral and Trinity College Cambridge. He was a Tenebrae Associate Artist for two seasons, and has worked with ensembles including The Sixteen, Gabrieli Consort, and Polyphony. Owain is a keen gardener, and when he's not on stage he can be found raking, pruning, or picking cherry tomatoes.

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ST PETER'S CHURCH DORCHESTER

The Gesualdo Six • Owain Park

Friday 6 September 2024



THE WISHING TREE

From the roots of choral singing to the flowering of a tradition

Embark on a captivating vocal journey with The Gesualdo Six as they curate a collection of exquisite vocal consort pieces. Experience Renaissance works celebrating nature and love by Cornysh and Byrd, alongside lyrical melodies by Ferrabosco and Gibbons. Discover how contemporary composers breathe life into verses by Lewis Carroll and Kathleen Jamie. Immerse yourself in skilful re-imaginings of traditional British folk songs that beautifully tie the sequence together.

The Gesualdo Six are outstanding, shifting impeccably from renaissance polyphony to twenty-first century music."

Seen and Heard International

PROGRAMME

William Byrd This sweet and merry month of May

David Bednall Put out into the deep
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams Bushes and Briars

Alison Willis The Wind's Warning
William Cornysh Ah Robyn, gentil Robyn
Alfonso Ferrabosco So, so, leave off this last lamenting kiss

Joby Talbot The Wishing Tree

arr. James Whitbourn The Lark in the clear air

Jacques Arcadelt Il bianco e dolce cigno

Orlando Gibbons The Silver Swan

Josquin des Prez El Grillo

Owain Park When love speaks

György Ligeti Nonsense Madrigals

iv. Flying Robert

v. The Lobster Quadrille

vi. A Long, Sad Tale

Eleanor Daley grandmother moon

THE GESUALDO SIX

Performers

Guy James *countertenor*

Alasdair Austin *countertenor*

Joseph Wicks *tenor*

Josh Cooter *tenor*

Michael Craddock *baritone*

Owain Park *director and bass*

“Ingeniously programmed and impeccably delivered, with that undefinable excitement that comes from a group of musicians working absolutely as one.” – Gramophone

The Gesualdo Six is an award-winning British vocal ensemble comprising some of the UK's finest consort singers, directed by Owain

Park. Praised for their imaginative programming and impeccable blend, the group formed in 2014 for a performance of Gesualdo's *Tenebrae Responsories* in Cambridge and has gone on to perform at numerous major festivals around the world.

Notable highlights include a concert in the distinguished Deutschlandradio Debut Series, performances at renowned venues including Wigmore Hall (London), Miller Theatre (New York), the Sydney Opera House, and their debut at the BBC Proms in 2023. In 2024, The Gesualdo Six made their South American debut in Colombia, and will appear in Japan, China and Singapore for the first time. The ensemble have collaborated with Fretwork, the Brodsky Quartet, and Matilda Lloyd, and tour a work of concert-theatre titled *Secret Byrd* with Director, Bill Barclay.

The Gesualdo Six is committed to music education, regularly hosting workshops for young musicians and composers. The ensemble have curated two Composition Competitions, with the most recent edition drawing entries from over three hundred composers worldwide. The group recently commissioned new works from Shruthi Rajasekar and Joanna Marsh, alongside *coronasolfège for 6* by Héloïse Werner.

The ensemble have harnessed the power of social media to make classical music accessible to millions worldwide, creating captivating videos from beautiful locations while on tour. The group released their debut recording *English Motets* on Hyperion Records in early 2018 to critical acclaim, followed by seven further albums (*Christmas, Fading, Josquin's Legacy, Gesualdo's Tenebrae Responsories, Lux Aeterna, William Byrd's Mass for five voices, Morning Star*). Their latest album, *Queen of Hearts* was released at the end of June 2024.

Owain Park was born in Bristol in 1993. As well as directing The Gesualdo Six, Owain is Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC Singers, and maintains a busy schedule of conducting projects with ensembles including Southbank Sinfonia, Ensemble la Sportelle and Cappella Cracoviensis.