

2024
YORK
EARLY
MUSIC
FESTIVAL
6 – 13 JULY

Yorkshire Baroque Soloists

Entertainment in 18th-century London

National Centre for Early Music

Saturday 6 July 4.30pm

Yorkshire Baroque Soloists

Bethany Seymour *soprano*

Frederick Long *bass*

Ian Hoggart *recorder*

Peter Seymour *harpsichord*

with

Stephen Varcoe *reader*

Entertainment in 18th-century London

A Wonder, or the Honest Yorkshireman! **Henry Carey** 1687-1743

From *The Spectator*, 6th March, 1711 **Hurlo Thrumbo Johnson**
Ombra mai fu (from *Serse*) **George Frideric Handel** 1685-1759
Sento il cor che lieto gode (from *Sosarme*) **Handel**

From *The Citizen of the World* **Oliver Goldsmith**
Recorder Sonata **Handel**
Larghetto – Allegro – Siciliana – Allegro
Dr Johnson **Mrs Papendieck**

Invitation to Ranelagh **Michael Arne** c.1740-1786

From *The Citizen of the World* **Goldsmith**
Tell me lovely shepherd **William Boyce** 1711-79
Where the bee sucks **Thomas Arne** 1710-78

Orpheus with his lute **Thomas Chilcott** c.1707-1766

The Mermaid's Song **Franz Joseph Haydn** 1732-1809
The Sailor's Song
with extracts from Haydn's London Diaries

Dr Arne **Dr Charles Burney** 1726-1814

Cymon and Iphigenia **Thomas Arne**

Stephen Varcoe was one of Britain's best-known baritones in the field of Baroque music and the classical song repertoire, but retired a while back when he realised that the young ones were doing a grand job and could carry on without him. But far from simply concentrating on gardening and other leisure activities, he teaches singing and coaches repertoire at the Royal College of Music.

Stephen has worked with Peter Seymour over many years, both in Baroque music and in the early Lieder repertoire; in 2008 he completed a PhD at the University of York under Peter's watchful eye. He now gives lectures, masterclasses and seminars on various aspects of singing both in the UK and abroad in addition to his work at the RCM. He has also written articles and longer pieces of work on singing, especially about English song – most recently a chapter on the songs of Frank Bridge which will be published later this year.

Frederick Long trained at the Royal Academy of Music (where he was later elected an associate) and the National Opera Studio. Having launched his operatic career at Glyndebourne, he has since been lucky enough to be engaged by the other major houses in the UK.

Recent concert highlights include touring as a guest soloist with the Monteverdi Choir (Bach B minor Mass at Carnegie Hall, Christmas Oratorio at La Scala, Milan). Closer to home, he performed a chamber *Messiah* with the Irish Baroque Orchestra at Wigmore Hall, which will be recorded in Dublin later in the year. Frederick is proud of a long-standing relationship with the Yorkshire Baroque Soloists which has provided some of his most formative and memorable musical experiences, including the Haydn *Nelson Mass*, Bach *B minor Mass*, and a semi-staged *St Matthew Passion*.

When he is avoiding work, or work is avoiding him, he can be found pottering around the cider presses of Somerset, where he has made his home with his wife and two young children.

Bethany Seymour was born in York and read music at University of Leeds, graduating with a first class honours degree. A year of her studies involved studying at the Musikhochschule, Cologne with Barbara Schlick. She now divides her time between a solo career and performing in small vocal ensembles both in the UK and across Europe. Bethany spends much of her time in Germany, where she sings with various ensembles, including Rheinische Kantorei and Kölner Akademie with whom she has performed in festivals in Knechtsteden, Leipzig, Graz, Cologne, Amsterdam, Moscow, Perm, Bologna and Santiago de Compostella.

In the UK Bethany sings with several ensembles including Yorkshire Bach Choir and Yorkshire Baroque Soloists with whom she has sung soprano solo on three commercial recordings for Signum records: Bach *St John Passion*, Bach *B minor Mass* and Bach *St Matthew Passion*. She has also live appeared on BBC Radio 3 Early Music Show and In Tune.

Her concert career has focused on oratorio and early opera (staged performances of Purcell *King Arthur*; *Dido & Aeneas*; Pergolesi *L'Olympiade*) and Baroque cantatas by composers including JS Bach, Handel, A Scarlatti, Conti and CPE Bach. She frequently performs programmes with continuo in repertoire by Carissimi, Purcell and Handel. She also enjoys singing with fortepiano in programmes of early Lieder by CPE Bach, Mozart, Haydn, Zelter, Reichardt, Schubert, Loewe and Schumann.

Ian Hoggart completed a PhD in music at the University of York under the supervision of Professor Peter Seymour and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. He plays recorder and bassoon, both in ensembles and as a soloist, and has taught at a number of prestigious establishments including St Peter's School, Ampleforth College, York St John University and the University of York. He continues to perform and teach, combining this with work in the TV sector and as a Trustee for Apollo Music Projects, a charity that enables children from disadvantaged backgrounds to gain access to high-quality music education and live orchestral music.

Peter Seymour studied at University of York, including post-graduate work researching into the performance of Baroque music and, in July 1994, was awarded the degree of DMus., for research into performing style. He is director of Yorkshire Baroque Soloists which he formed in 1973, Yorkshire Bach Choir, which he formed in 1979, and Corona Coloniensis, the specialist Early Music choir of West-Deutscher Runsfunk, and has worked and recorded in most European countries. He is also an artistic adviser to York Early Music Festival and Professor Emeritus in Music and Organist at the University of York. He records regularly both as conductor and keyboard player for WDR-Köln, BBC and other radio stations. As a keyboard player he appears playing harpsichord, organ or fortepiano with singers Yvonne Seymour, Bethany Seymour, Stephen Varcoe, Mhairi Lawson, Barbara Schlick, Emma Kirkby, James Gilchrist, Charles Daniels, Joshua Ellicott, Roderick Williams, Peter Harvey and Matthew Brook as well as instrumentalists Crispian Steele-Perkins, Lucy Russell, Anthony Robson, and Pamela Thorby.

YORK EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Artistic Advisors

John Bryan
Helen Charlston
Lindsay Kemp
Peter Seymour

Director

Delma Tomlin MBE

York Early Music Festival is administered by the National Centre for Early Music through the York Early Music Foundation (charity number 1068331)

National Centre for Early Music
St Margaret's Church
Walmgate
York YO1 9TL
01904 632220
www.ncem.co.uk



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

NCEM
PATRONS

NCEM Patrons enjoy free membership of the Friends of York Early Music Festival, opportunities to meet like-minded individuals year-round and are vital to the NCEM's future. Look out for details on <https://www.ncem.co.uk/patrons-and-friends/> and help us to make a difference.