

**2026
YORK
EARLY
MUSIC
FESTIVAL**

Thomas Dunford

'The Rarest Musician'

St Olave's Church, Marygate

Monday 6 July 1.00pm

Thomas Dunford *lute*

'The Rarest Musician'

Præludium

John Dowland 1563–1626

Come again, sweet love doth now invite

Fortune my foe

The King of Denmarke, His Galliard

I saw my Lady weepe

Flow my tears (*Lachrimae*)

Semper Dowland, semper dolens

Sorrow, stay

Melancholy Galliard

Can she excuse my wrongs?

A Dream

Go crystal tears

Lachrimæ

Frog Galliard

Now, O now I needs must part

John Dowland is one of the great poets of melancholy, but his music contains far more than sorrow alone. His songs and lute pieces move between intimacy, virtuosity, tenderness, wit, darkness and dance, revealing a world where emotion is shaped with extraordinary refinement.

This programme brings together some of Dowland's finest music for solo lute – works that show the instrument at its most expressive and brilliant. Dowland's imagination unfolds through delicate ornamentation, rhythmic elegance, and a striking sense of drama.

From the famous tears of *Lachrimae* to the elegance of his galliards, Dowland creates a language where virtuosity is never empty display. Every flourish, every

silence, every harmony seems to serve the emotional truth of the music. His art speaks across the centuries with a rare directness: fragile, noble, and profoundly human.

Thomas Dunford


Thomas Dunford

Born in Paris, Thomas Dunford discovered the lute at the age of nine, thanks to his first teacher Claire Antonini. He completed his studies in 2006 at the Conservatoire de Paris (CRR), when he obtained a unanimous 1st Prize with honours in the class of Charles-Edouard Fantin.


Thomas Dunford continued his studies at the Schola Cantorum in Basel with Hopkinson Smith, and participated in several master classes with Rolf Lislevand and Julian Bream, and in workshops with Eugène Ferré, Paul O'Dette, Pascale Boquet, Benjamin Perrot and Eduardo Eguéz. He was awarded his Bachelor's degree in 2009.

From September 2003 to January 2005, Thomas gave his first performances playing the role of the lutenist in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* on stage at the Comédie française. Since then, he has given solo recitals and appeared with leading ensembles in prestigious European and international festivals and at concert venues. He is attracted to a wide variety of music including jazz, and often takes part in chamber music projects.


thomas-dunford.com



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YORK EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL

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Friday 2 – Friday 9 July

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