

## **PHANTASM // LAURENCE DREYFUS // PROJECTS 2026-27**

Availability on request

29 August - 7 September 2026 as well as upon request

### **SECRET BYRD / Immersive performance**

with **Bill Barclay**, Artistic Director // **The Gesualdo Six**

The international tour of *Secret Byrd*, an innovative immersive concert-theater piece featuring The Gesualdo Six and Phantasm, created and directed by Bill Barclay and produced by Concert Theatre Works.

William Byrd, a rebellious Catholic of the Reformation era, composed his five-part mass for Catholics who risked torture and death to celebrate Mass in secret. For Byrd400, this mass is reimagined in a new immersive performance, bringing the sacrifices behind the art to life. The concert showcases the diversity of Byrd's vocal and instrumental works, with the "Mass for Five Voices" at its centre, accompanied by fantasias and motets like *Infelix ego* and *Haec Dies*.

**6 Instrumentalists, 6 singers**

16 - 22 September 2026 as well as upon request

### **SONGS AND FANTASIES - 400 anniversary of John Dowland's death**

with **Ian Bostridge**, tenor

Honouring the legacy of the incomparable tunesmith John Dowland in his anniversary year, this programme celebrates the marriage of words and music in both England and Italy with contrasting vocal and instrumental polyphony from the late 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the peerless songs by **John Dowland** and **William Byrd** and in the proto-Baroque madrigals by **Claudio Monteverdi** and his contemporaries, the intense expressivity of the texts shines through this collaboration between the inimitable tenor, Ian Bostridge, and the refined bow strokes of the viol consort Phantasm. Instrumental fantasies and dances by Byrd, **John Ward** and **Tarquinia Merula** complement the vocal works resulting in a rich tapestry of vibrant poetic utterances.

**5 musicians**

### **INSIDE BACH'S HEAD**

In this programme, we try to get 'inside Bach's head' to make concrete within Bach's glorious polyphony not only his vast range of references to arias, concertos, dances, sonatas but also as string players to engage with the astounding variety of characters, styles and emotions lurking beneath the surface of the notes. Even for those familiar with this repertoire from the keyboard will be astounded at how the clarity of lines audible on the viols that seems to result in new works penned by Bach's genius.

Works by J. S. Bach from Inventions, Clavierübung III, the Well Tempered Clavier I & II, among others.

**4 instrumentalists**

### **ARTS OF FUGHE**

We approach Art of Fugue not as an intellectual game (Sinnenspiel in the words of Johann Mattheson) but as an encyclopaedia of lived human experience (*Kunst* triumphing over *Künstlichkeit*) that appeals to the heart as much as to the mind and ear. In this summative exploration of Fugue in all its manifestations, Bach engages with the most profound secrets of counterpoint and harmony, creating in the process a variegated world rich in emotion and insight. We preface Bach's daring masterpiece with Mozart's own studies of Bachian techniques that came to play such a striking role in Mozart's late works.

W. A. Mozart: Fugues Arranged for Quartet from J. S. Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier II, K. 405

J. S. Bach: Art of Fugue (Kunst der Fuge), BWV 1080 (1-13, 19)

**4 instrumentalists**

## **LACHRIMAE John Dowland Jubiläumsjahr 2026**

with Elizabeth Kenny, Laute

J. Dowland: Lachrimae or Seaven Teares Figured in Seaven Passionate Pavans, with divers other Pavan, Galiards, and Almands, set forth for the Lute, Viols or Violons, in five parts (1604)

**Besetzung: 5 Instrumentalist:innen**

## **BYRD AND ENGLISH SONG**

with Anna Prohaska, soprano

The Demise of Tallis	T. Tallis:	A solfing song O nata lux Why fum'th in fight the Gentiles spite
Hints of the Erotic	W. Byrd	Susanna fair In nomine (II) La virginella Itene i miei sospiri (Gesualdo)
Tears and Joys	J. Dowland	Flow my tears (Lachrimae antiquae) Sorrow stay (arr. Wigthorpe) From Silent night
Devotion and Piety	W. Byrd	Miserere Lullaby O Lord how vain
Fallen Heroes	W. Byrd	Fair Britain isle Fantasia (II ; III) My mistress had a little Dog

Other programme variants around William Byrd with exclusively instrumental music (combined with works by J. S. Bach or English composers) also possible upon request.

**4 instrumentalists**

## **AN ENGLISH CHEST OF SIX**

O. Gibbons	Three Fantasies a6 (MB 35, 36, 33)
J. Ward	Two Fantasies a6, In Nomine a6
T. Tomkins	Two Fantasies a6 Pavan and Galliard a6
W. Lawes	Consort Set a6 in B flat major (Fantazia, Aire, Inominy)
O. Gibbons	Three Fantasies a6 (MB 31, 32, 34) Go from my Window (MB43) Pavan and Galliard a6 (MB 41, 42)

## PEARLS OF POLYPHONY

This programme showcases the intricate tapestry of polyphonic music, spanning from the Elizabethan era to the Baroque. Starting with works by *Alfonso Ferrabosco I* and *William Byrd*, masters of Elizabethan counterpoint, the program moves into the expressive voices of the Jacobean period with *Edward Bevin*, *Alfonso Ferrabosco II*, and *Richard Mico*. The journey continues into the Restoration with the richly layered fantasias of *Henry Purcell*, highlighting England's evolving musical voice. Finally, the program draws connections to the continental tradition of *J.S. Bach* and *W.A. Mozart*, with fugues that reveal Bach's influence on Mozart and underscore the timeless art of contrapuntal mastery.

Different variants with 3 or 4 instrumentalists are possible.

## THE ART OF BEING HUMAN

with **Alexander Polzin, Sculpture** // **Sommer Ulrickson, Choreography**

The Art of Being Human is an exploration of how it feels to be alive and to exist among others, in relationships that are perfectly expressed through the polyphony of Early Music - its dissonances and harmonies - and reflected in the movement of dancers' bodies, in a performance that offers profound insights into the very meaning of life. The Art of Being Human was commissioned by Pierre Boulez Saal, Berlin, where it will premiere in March 2023.

- Laurence Dreyfus and ensemble Phantasm perform English consort music of the 16th and 17th centuries on stage: Music by C. Tye, W. Byrd, O. Gibbons, W. Lawes, C. Simpson and H. Purcell)
- Sculpture by Alexander Polzin creates the landscape
- Choreography of five dancers by Sommer Ulrickson

5 instrumentalists, 5 dancers

### Contact

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