



**An evening of
medieval music**

with

Cancionero

“Wassail”

(an Arts and Crafts Christmas)

Red House 7th December 2019

5pm

*Anne Purnell - Voice, recorder, hurdy gurdy and
percussion*

*Anthony Purnell - Voice, strings, recorder, bagpipes
and percussion*

Brian White - Voice and percussion

Today's flourishing early music movement, with an extensive network of performers, scholars and instrument makers can trace its origin back to the pioneering work of Arnold Dolmetsch. It was William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones who encouraged him to make his first harpsichord to exhibit at the Arts and Crafts exhibition in 1896. From this he went on to build lutes, harps, bowed strings and recorders.

William Morris also influenced the course of the folk music revival in England. His lectures at Cambridge University converted Cecil Sharp to socialism which prompted his research into the songs and dances of agricultural workers and villagers after he discovered the poverty of the Morris Dancers in Headington, near Oxford. Sharp in turn was a big influence on his younger friends Gustav Holst and Ralph Vaughan Williams.

As students at Oxford University Morris and Burne-Jones were members of a society devoted to singing plainsong. Morris disliked contemporary Victorian music and had a special loathing for the piano! Through studying medieval and renaissance paintings Burne-Jones developed an interest in early instruments which feature in many of his paintings, usually being played by angels – part of his fascination with what he called “Christmas Card Christianity”.

This evening's concert includes plainsong and uses both instruments shown in the paintings of Burne-Jones and those which were built and played by Dolmetsch. The music comes from the middle ages, the early renaissance and the folk tradition.

Instruments featured in this concert: *Recorders* by John Hanchet (Norwich), and Moeck (Germany), *Txirula* by Etienne Holmblat (France), *Bagpipes* by Fritz Dokter (Austria), *Hurdy-Gurdy* by Martin Turner (Norwich), *Lute* by Mid-East Manufacturing (Florida), *Fiddle, Psaltery and Harp* by Anthony Purnell (Kent), and percussion collected from a variety of sources.

The Gloucestershire Wassail	<i>English traditional</i>
Masters in this hall	<i>Words by William Morris - tune: French traditional</i>
God rest ye merry, gentlemen	<i>English traditional</i>
Verbum patris umanatur	<i>Moosburg Gradual 1355-60</i>
In dulci jubilo	<i>German 14th cent.</i>
and Sussex Carol	<i>English traditional</i>
Angelus ad Virginem	<i>13th century, British Lib.Arundel MS 248</i>
The Holly and the Ivy	<i>English traditional</i>
Gaudete	<i>Piae Cantiones, 1582</i>
Joseph dearest, Joseph mine	<i>Mainz Cantual, 1605</i>
I saw three ships	<i>English traditional</i>
Bransle de l'Official	<i>Arbeau, 1588</i>
and Les anges dans nos campagnes	<i>French traditional, 17th cent.</i>
Orientis Partibus	<i>Beauvais, France, 12th cent.</i>
Marcho di Rei	<i>Provençal traditional, 17th cent.</i>
Canzone d'i Zampognari	<i>Sicilian traditional</i>
Sans Day Carol	<i>Cornish traditional</i>
Forest Green	<i>English traditional</i>
Deck the halls	<i>Welsh traditional</i>
The Boar's Head Carol	<i>English traditional</i>
The first Nowell	<i>English traditional</i>
The Gower Wassail	<i>English traditional</i>
We wish you a merry Christmas	<i>English traditional</i>



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Cancionero perform music from the Middle Ages with an emphasis on the troubadour and Spanish repertoire but also early Renaissance music from the Tudor court.

The group have performed on BBC Radio 4's programme "Open Country" and on Radio Kent.

We have played for weddings and banquets and given concerts across London and the south east and as far afield as Yorkshire and South Wales. We especially enjoy playing in historic buildings where our music feels as though it "belongs".

We are always pleased to consider invitations to play for charitable functions and anything else which sounds fun or interesting.