

STOKE NEWINGTON
EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Sunday 18th January 2026 7.30 pm
The Old Church, Stoke Newington N16 9ES

ONE CHARMING NIGHT

Songs and instrumental music by Henry Purcell (1659—1695)

Nicholas Mulroy—tenor

Toby Carr—lute

Sarah Sexton —violin, Sarah Moffat—violin

Rachel Stott —tenor viola, Sarah McMahon—violoncello

Evening Hymn (text by Bishop William Fuller)

See, even Night (The Fairy Queen)

Chaconne two in one upon a Ground (Dioclesian)

One Charming Night (The Fairy Queen)

A Prince of Glorious Race Descended (Birthday Ode for the Duke of Gloucester)

Fantasia 5—composed 22nd June 1680

In the Black Dismal Dungeon of Despair (text by Bishop William Fuller)

Music for a While (Incidental music to Oedipus)

Be Welcome then Great Sir (Fly, Bold Rebellion)

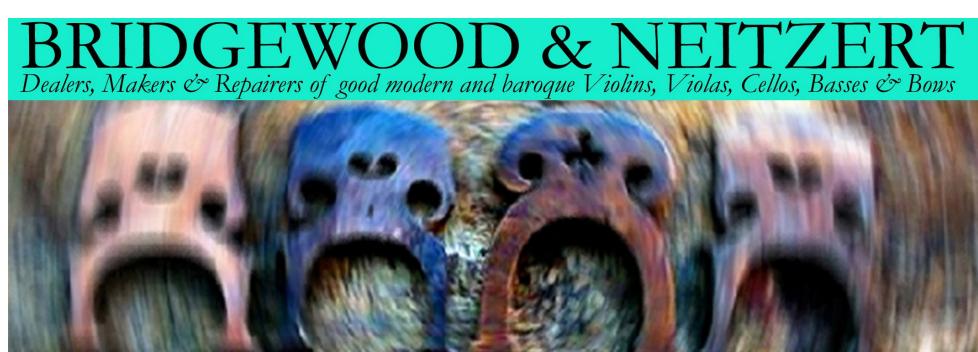
Fantasia 7—composed 19th August 1680

Beauty, thou Scene of Love (Welcome to all the Pleasures)

The Sparrow and the Gentle Dove

Entree d'Apollon for solo lute - Jean-Baptiste Lully arr. Robert de Visee

The Plaint (The Fairy Queen)



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Nicholas Mulroy on the music of Henry Purcell

Purcell wrote for a remarkable range of purposes: church music, state occasions (the amazing music for Queen Mary's funeral), friends down the pub, chamber music, intimate songs, the theatre. His output is staggering in both range and quality.

What we can see in the music is a tremendous receptivity to the musical currents of the time. He came into contact

with Italian and French music in the royal households as European luminaries traveled through, and one of his many talents was to synthesise these styles and their elegance and bravura with his own music - he'd studied especially with John Blow - and make it something simultaneously English and universal. There seems to have been a free exchange of ideas and aesthetics with other leading musicians across the Channel. Purcell was especially interested in what French music could do, and had a competitive friendship with Lully in particular.

Purcell has no equal when it comes to setting the English language. His ear for the musical semantics, his ability to manipulate harmony and dissonance, is that of an utter master, and places him alongside Schubert, Verdi, and Monteverdi as the supreme composer when it comes to elevating poetry into music.

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A photograph of a modern kitchen interior. The floor is covered in light-colored cork tiles. In the foreground, there's a large, light-colored kitchen island with a concrete top. Two bar stools with black seats and gold-colored legs are tucked under the island. The background shows white kitchen cabinets and a stainless steel range hood. A small potted plant sits on the counter. The overall aesthetic is clean and minimalist.

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Wednesday 1st April 7.30 pm

Faye Newton *soprano*
with Nicholas Parle *harpsichord*,
Thomas Dilley *organ*
& Peter McCarthy *bass viol*
Leçons de Ténèbres by de Lalande

Wednesday April 29th 7.30pm

Gemini Trio
String trios by Ernest John Moeran,
Gerald Finzi and Cecilia McDowall

Wednesday May 27th 7.30pm

Xuefei Yang
Classical guitar

Stoke Newington Early Music Festival (SNEMF), founded by Vanessa Coode, is a community event that has brought the finest Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque and Classical music to Stoke Newington for a quarter of a century. The festival's traditional home is The Old Church, the only Elizabethan church in London; a warm acoustic and intimate atmosphere make this building uniquely suitable for early music. Concerts also take place at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Bouverie Rd, Abney Park Chapel., West Reservoir Centre and other more informal venues. The summer festivals also include an afternoon concert by students from the historical music department of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in St Mary's, Stoke Newington.

Stoke Newington Early Music Festival is grateful to its main sponsors, Bridgewood and Neitzert, for their generous and consistent support, as well as its other long-standing sponsors and those who have joined our supporters more recently.

Heartfelt thanks are due to the festival Friends and to the Volunteers who assist with many aspects of publicity and admin. Without such people, no festival could happen!

Friends of SNEMF pay an annual subscription of £40. Benefits include invitation to private musical social events. If you would like to become a Friend of SNEMF, please get in touch:

rachelSNEMF@protonmail.com

Special thanks to our website manager www.carolynclarke.co.uk for creating and maintaining the beautiful festival website.

Thank you also to Deirdre Malynn at The Old Church, Anne Taylor at St Mary's, Luisa Rayworth at Our Lady of Good Counsel and Lutumba Nzinga at Hackney Venues for facilitating the hire of the concert venues.

Finally, thank YOU for lending your ears to all the wonderful musicians performing at this year's festival.