

## South West Viol Fest with Blackdowns Early Music Projects and Neue Vialles

### Three day Viol course Fri 4<sup>th</sup> – Sun 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2018 with option to perform in a public concert on Mon 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Calling all viol players! A brand new and exciting course, set in the wonderful village of Culmstock, Mid Devon, kicks off in May next year. The course will be a collaboration between the well-established Blackdowns Early Music Projects (BEMP) and led by Henrik Persson and Caroline Ritchie of the Neue Vialles viol consort.

The South West Viol Fest is aimed at experienced viol players and students. It will provide a unique opportunity for greater insight, learning and improvement as the course will take the form of open master classes, either with consorts or soloist participants.

**The focus in this inaugural year will be on French and English consort music and French solo music.**

The course will run concurrently with the BEMP singing weekend led by the highly respected Dutch director Jan Joost van Elburg, The singers will be working on a programme of Spanish and Portuguese repertoire to perform in a ticketed public concert on Bank Holiday Monday May 7<sup>th</sup> in the Church of St John the Baptist, Wellington, Somerset. There will be an opportunity for a number of viol players to perform in the concert with the singers.

Included in the course:

- Three days of open master classes focusing on French and English consort music and French solo music given by Henrik and Caroline. Accompaniment on viol by either person is also available!
- A talk given by Caroline, Royal Academy of Music, on French consort music.
- An exclusive talk by the internationally renowned master viol builder Jane Julier, with demonstrations of Henrik's and Caroline's instruments. Jane is a resident of Culmstock and an exclusive visit to her workshop is also included.
- A tutor's recital of French solo music given by Henrik, Caroline and Lynda Sayce of Neue Vialles in Culmstock Church on Sunday evening.
- Lunch and supper will be provided for tutees each day.
- Optional participation in, or a free ticket to, the concert in nearby Wellington, at 18.00 on Bank Holiday Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018. This is the conclusion of the BEMP Voices and Viols weekend, to be directed by Jan Joost van Elburg, accompanied by tutors.

**Course fees: £250, Students £175**

**Observers welcome: £30 per day** including lunch

Accommodation is not included, local suggestions will be provided on request.

**Expressions of Interest** from individuals or viol consorts to participate in the Master Classes are now invited. Please include a short description of your playing/performing experience by email to [blackdownsearlymusic@gmail.com](mailto:blackdownsearlymusic@gmail.com) to be received by **Monday February 5<sup>th</sup> 2018**.

*Successful applicants will be invited to confirm their attendance and to pay a 10% deposit before the end of February.*

Please note that the deposit is non-refundable unless the organisers are forced to cancel the course due to insufficient playing participants. In that circumstance the deposit will be returned in full.