



BLACKDOWNS EARLY MUSIC PROJECTS
SOUTHWEST VIOLS, LUTES AND VOICES
May 7-11 2020
Residential Course in Culmstock on the Somerset/Devon borders
Tutors: Caroline Ritchie, Henrik Persson and Lynda Sayce

Following the last two years' gatherings of viol players at Cadbury House and elsewhere in Culmstock, organisers Catherine and Geoffrey Bass are this year running a residential course open to viol players and lutenists, focussing on English music of the 16th and 17th centuries. This year, we are delighted to announce that Lynda Sayce will join us as a tutor for lute, theorbo and ensembles, with Caroline Ritchie and Henrik Persson returning as tutors for viol, consort and continuo.

Where: Based at Cadbury House, Fore Street, Culmstock, Devon EX15 3JD. There is a variety of practice and performance spaces available, including the Church opposite the house, as well as quite a lot of overnight accommodation if required, for those coming from a distance.

Dates: The course starts with a meal together on Thursday evening, 7th May, and will progress until final departures on Monday morning, May 11th. All meals and refreshments will be provided within the course fee, all diets accommodated.

Content: Three days full of consort playing, consort songs, lute songs, solo lessons, continuo coaching and masterclasses. We welcome both pre-formed consorts or duos, and individual viol players and lutenists. Lute song duos are also welcome to apply. Henrik, Caroline and Lynda will be delighted to work with any combinations of instruments, and as with previous years, there will also be opportunities for solo lessons and coaching. A wide range of music will be available, although participants are welcome to bring any repertoire they would like to work on. Observers will also be welcome.

Visit: A visit to the workshop of world renowned viol-maker Jane Julier will be arranged during the weekend (resident in Culmstock).

Entertainment: in addition to enjoying one another's good company, on Saturday evening the course tutors will be joined by Catherine Bass in a programme of English sonatas, divisions and lute songs, under the Newe Vialles banner. Last year's recital was absolutely electrifying and we can't wait for this next one! The performance is included in the course fee and is ticketed for the general public. Finally, there will be an end of course play-through for all participants on Sunday afternoon which will be open to an interested local audience.

Fee: £275 pp for 3.5 day including meals, excluding accommodation. We can consider shorter participations of one or two days if the full course is not possible for some. A number of discounted places for students may be available, please enquire. Pre formed ensembles or duos are welcome to apply as a group

Accommodation: If you are travelling some distance to attend and would like to stay at Cadbury House (a number of twin/double rooms is available) this will cost an additional £20 pp pn. If all these rooms are booked, then we may be able to find you alternative local accommodation with friends at a similar rate, otherwise we can suggest local B&B/hotel accommodation.

To apply for the course please write to Catherine Bass blackdownsearlymusic@gmail.com with your name and contact details, providing a brief summary of your experience, which instruments you play and whether you would like solo coaching (possibly in a masterclass setting). Please also indicate if you would like to stay in Cadbury House or nearby.