



CLARE COLLEGE CHAPEL

50 Years of Co-Education: Voice and Lute Recital

Sunday 12 February 2023 at 5.25 p.m.

Elin Manahan Thomas (Clare 1995) | soprano
Elizabeth Kenny (Clare 1985) | lute

Queens of Heaven and Earth

<i>Can she excuse my wrongs</i>	John Dowland (c. 1563– 1626)
<i>His golden locks</i>	
Fantasia No. 1	John Dowland
<i>Woe worth the tyme</i>	Anonymous
<i>V'adoro, pupille</i> from <i>Giulio Cesare</i>	George Frideric Handel (1685– 1759)
<i>The Blessed Virgin's Expostulation</i>	Henry Purcell (1659– 95)

Elin Manahan Thomas was born and bred in Swansea, and studied Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic at Clare 1995-1998, while also singing, travelling and recording with the chapel choir. She undertook a postgraduate course at the Royal College of Music before forging a unique career in the world of music.

Best known for her interpretation of baroque repertoire - most famously at the London Paralympics 2012, and the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in 2018 - she is equally renowned for her performances of contemporary music and world premieres, ranging from John Rutter and John Tavener to Karl Jenkins. She has released six solo discs, with Universal, Sain and Coro records, and featured on numerous more with world-famous choirs such as The Sixteen, The Monteverdi Choir and Polyphony.

Alongside her singing, Elin is recognised as a presenter and broadcaster, appearing on BBC Four, BBC Two and hosting a regular series on BBC Radio 3. Her passion for education led her to form a children's choir in 2016, as well as participating in masterclasses and workshops for organisations such as The Benedetti Foundation and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

It is this passion - for leading and inspiring the next generation - that prompted Elin, in 2020, to embark upon a career in teaching, and she now brings the full force of her enthusiasm to a new role as primary class teacher.

Elizabeth Kenny is one of Europe's leading lute players. Her playing has been described as "incandescent" (Music and Vision), "radical" (The Independent on Sunday) and "indecently beautiful" (Toronto Post).

She has an extensive discography of collaborations with chamber ensembles across Europe and the USA. In 2017 Shakespeare Songs with Bostridge and co-collaborators won the Grammy best solo vocal recital, and the same year viol consort Phantasm and Kenny won the Gramophone Early Music award for their recording of Dowland's *Lachrime*. She has devised several critically acclaimed recordings of solo music from the ML Lute Book, and songs by Lawes, Purcell and Dowland. Her most recent solo recording, *Ars Longa* (Linn Records) was nominated for the BBC Music Magazine Solo Instrumental recording of the year 2019.

Kenny formed her own group, Theatre of the Ayre in 2007. Their various touring projects have sealed a reputation for an innovative and improvisatory approach to seventeenth-century music. Notable recording projects include John Blow's *Venus and Adonis* (Wigmore Live, 2011). *The Masque of Moments* (Linn, 2017) and *C17 Playlist*, with tenor Ed Lyon (Delphian).

In thirty years of touring Kenny has played with many of the world's best period instrument groups, including extended spells with Les Arts Florissants and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. She has given premiere performances of solo and chamber pieces by James MacMillan, Benjamin Oliver, Heiner Goebbels, Rachel Stott and Nico Muhly.

Elizabeth Kenny has been Professor of Lute at the Royal Academy of Music since 1999, and Dean of Students since 2020.