

Song Workshops - *MADE Winter School, 2019*

From Kinnersley Castle to Gaunt's House:

a journey through four centuries of English part-songs

with Steve Ellis

At the *MADE* Spring Festival at Kinnersley Castle in 2017, I ran a series of workshops where we rehearsed four English and French madrigals which I had arranged in three parts and which we then performed in the contemporary Late Renaissance setting of the castle's beautiful Great Hall.

This year, with the Winter Festival having moved from Kinnersley to Gaunt's House, I thought it might be an interesting project to sing a few songs which take us from the late sixteenth century - the time when Kinnersley Castle was built, through to the building and extension of Gaunt's House in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and onwards to the present time.

There will be four English part-songs, for which I have again made three-part arrangements (soprano, alto and bass) - a Late Renaissance madrigal, a Classical eighteenth-century love song, a Victorian 'parlour song' and one of my own songs written five years ago.

The workshops will be on **each of the first four days of the festival** (Saturday to Tuesday), and if all goes well, we will perform the songs. It will be important to attend all the workshops, as **progress will be cumulative** and there will be insufficient time to repeat points already covered in a previous workshop. It is not necessary to be able to read music, as we shall aim to learn the parts by ear, although if you are able to read, this can of course be helpful to the group. The main requirement is to be able to hold a line without being distracted by the other voices.

If you are interested in taking part, please email John Leopold at:

John [emaded@emaded.org.uk]

to let him know, and he will send you the music in the new year so that you can start to familiarise yourself with the words of the songs in advance, which will help to save time during the workshops.