

Shakespeare's London in Music and Dance

This 45- to 60-minute program can be adjusted to fit audiences from adults to large school groups:

This program offers some of the music from our Elizabethan program – poignant lute songs, robust consort music, rollicking country dances, and virtuosic divisions. Short period readings and informal commentary evoke the character of Shakespeare's world and the plays from which some of the tunes are taken. The musicians offer an up-close look at the noble lute and at the violin family from the early days of its development, sharing information about off-shoulder technique and the unusual five-string bass violin. For elementary school assemblies, there's a chance to sing along with us.

Shakespeare's World in Music and Dance

This 45- to 60-minute participatory program is suitable for family performances and classroom groups:

In between some of our lute songs, consort music, country dances, and virtuosic divisions, the ensemble invites children and families to make music with us. Singable tunes from Thomas Ravenscroft and a cheeky round from Shakespeare combine with the street cries of the London tradespeople to bring Elizabethan culture to life. A simple country dance taught and accompanied by the band brings everyone to their feet, and we end with a chance to try the galliard, the Queen's daily exercise.

From Country to Courtly: Dance of the English Renaissance

A one- to two-hour dance workshop suitable for ages 6 to adult:

No experience is necessary for this feast of dances, taught and accompanied by Plaine & Easie in English renaissance style. The sociable ease of English country dance draws everyone in, and you'll be improvising your own galliard steps in no time. Wear comfortable shoes!

Elizabethan Consort and Lute Song

This afternoon or all-day workshop for adult early music players can contain any or all of the following elements, to be scheduled as appropriate:

- A lecture-demonstration on arrangement, ornamentation, and improvisation in Elizabethan music;
- A master class for singers, lutenists, and consorts in Renaissance music;
- Coached reading sessions of Elizabethan repertoire, including both classics and little-known gems, for singers and instrumentalists.