

Music ensemble and Madrigal workshops, Kinnersley, May 2017

Steve and Marion Ellis will be offering workshops in ensemble playing and madrigal singing at the Kinnersley May Festival, as follows:

Music ensemble workshops

The aim of the workshops is to play a selection of dance-tunes (Cercle, Larridée, Mazurka, Scottish, Valse) specially written by Steve for ensemble playing and, if all goes well, to play them for dancing on one of the evenings. The tunes are suitable for most folk instruments (e.g. recorder, flute, C or Bb clarinet, saxophone, fiddle, mandolin, guitar, cello, chromatic accordion, G/C diatonic accordion), and have melody and harmony lines, and chords for accordion left hand and guitar. Bass lines are also available for cello. The tunes are not intended for percussion or brass, and because of their range and harmonic structure they are not particularly suitable for drone instruments. A basic music-reading ability will be necessary so that the tunes can be studied in advance, as time during the workshops will be limited. ***If you would like to participate, please email Steve Ellis at: s.ellis@hull.ac.uk saying which instrument you play, and he will email you the music and further details in advance.***

Madrigal workshops

The aim of the workshops is to sing some of the music that would have been in fashion when Kinnersley Castle was newly built, and thus to turn back the clock and enter into the spirit of group harmony-singing shared by amateur musicians four centuries ago. Four well-known madrigals (two English and two French) have been chosen, spanning the sixteenth century and representing a range of styles. They are originally for three to five voices, but Steve has arranged them all for three voices to make them more singable within the time available. The music will be sent to participants, along with links so that the songs can be heard on the internet in order to get a feel for them in advance. Although a basic ability to read music will be useful, it is by no means obligatory, as we will also be able to learn the parts by ear. Whether or not you read music, it will be useful to familiarise yourself in advance with the lyrics, to help the workshops proceed more effectively. ***If you would like to participate, please email Steve Ellis at: s.ellis@hull.ac.uk and he will email you the music and further details in advance.***