

The Collision and Collusion of Old and New: Music & Society in Tudor England

A Series of Music History Lectures

by John Prescott, Ph.D.

Five Saturday afternoons

2:00pm-4:00pm via Zoom

October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 13

These lectures will trace musical developments in England through the 1500s. This period saw the religious convulsions of the English Reformation. It also engendered more refined autonomous instrumental music, along with a flowering of secular song. We will explore how music had to accommodate extreme and sudden shifts between Catholic and Protestant religious practice. Composers, particularly Thomas Tallis and William Byrd, continued to create works of stunning beauty through all this turmoil. We will learn about developments and refinements in secular music, both vocal and instrumental. In addition to his more notorious traits, Henry VIII was a gifted composer. We will hear his music as well as the music written for his daughter, Elizabeth I, one of the greatest royal patrons of music.

No previous musical experience is necessary.

Come, listen, learn, and join in the adventure.

Sign up: If you wish to participate, email me at: johnrichardprescott@gmail.com. Specify which weeks you want to attend. I will then email you the Zoom link for each session you choose.

Suggested Donation: \$25 per individual session, or \$100 for the entire series.

Pay by: PayPal or VenMo at: johnrichardprescott@gmail.com. If paying by check, please email me at: johnrichardprescott@gmail.com and I will send you my mailing address.



Week 1. The End of the Medieval Tradition

Church music under Henry VII and the early years of Henry VIII.

Week 2. Reformation, and Reaction

Church music under Henry VIII, Edward VI, and Bloody Mary.

Week 3. A New Middle Way

Church music during the reign of Elizabeth I.

Week 4. Royal Music

Music by, for, and about Henry VIII and Elizabeth I.

Week 5. Viols, Voices, and Virginals

Continuing developments in vocal and instrumental music in England.



John Prescott received his M.A. and Ph.D. in musicology from U. C. Berkeley. Prior to this, he received his B.A. magna cum laude in Music from Carleton College (MN), and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He has been the recipient of a number of academic honors, including the British Marshall Scholarship for two years of study at St. John's College in Cambridge, England. He also studied at Oxford University's Worcester College.

Dr. Prescott has written extensively on the music of Handel. He wrote his doctoral dissertation on John Stanley, the 18th-century blind organist, conductor, violinist, and impresario. Dr. Prescott has taught music courses at U.C. Berkeley and music theory at The Crowden School (Berkeley CA), and was the musicologist for the San Francisco Elderhostel Arts and Humanities Program. He gives pre-concert lectures for a number of Bay Area musical organizations including the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. Since 2013 he has been a lecturer at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes.