

## **Report for Angel Early Music HEXAD Collective 'After Byrd'**

HEXAD Collective are extremely grateful to Angel Early Music for their support of the first two concerts in their series 'After Byrd', which took place on 1<sup>st</sup> May and 20<sup>th</sup> July at St Etheldreda's, Ely Place and Brunel Museum Tunnel Shaft respectively.

The first concert featured the Gradualia music of William Byrd for Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. We were able to attract an audience of 60 to the Crypt of St Etheldreda's Ely Place, where we premiered the first two movements of our Composer-Singers' Mass, Piers Kennedy's Kyrie and Anna Semple's Agnus Dei. We decided to repeat these at the Brunel Museum to give them further outings, and to continue to gain confidence in singing them.

The second concert included works for St Peter and Paul and the Assumption, and two further works from Kennedy (Gloria) and Semple (Sanctus and Benedictus). In the mysterious environment of the Brunel Tunnel Shaft, we set the place up to feel intimate and engaging, with two back-to-back performances to different audiences, allowing us to bring in 75 people.

In collaboration with Musicarta (<https://musicarta.co.uk>), we were able to film these performances to create an edited film of the concert experience, which we will use to cut into smaller works for social media and to give an infinitely better indication of our musicmaking on our website than we have previously been able to offer. Not only have we come away with video material but we were fortunate enough to have a wonderful review (<https://theartsdesk.com/after-byrd-hexad-collective-brunel-tunnel-shaft-review-resonant-tribute-subversive-genius>) from Rachel Halliburton at The Arts Desk.

The whole experience of these first two concerts, managing a bigger budget than ever before and exploring venues different to our usual locations, has given us great confidence that we are growing in artistic stature, building new programmes as we expand our repertoire. Without the assistance of Angel Early Music, we would not have had the means or courage to go about these two concerts, for which we are extremely grateful. They have been extremely meaningful concerts for us as an ensemble and we know too that our audience has found them transportative experiences, which is a great honour for us to have accomplished.

Many thanks,

Daniel Gethin and the rest of HEXAD Collective