



## A Brief History of Western Art Music – Part 1

In this course you will be led from Plainsong to the Renaissance by two highly-experienced and knowledgeable tutors

### Dates and Content

**Sessions are all on Thursdays from 6.00pm-7.15pm UK time and will be recorded**

**NB One session will be on a Friday – 24<sup>th</sup> May \***

#### **Plainsong To Palestrina**

**May 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> \***

**Marek Maryniak**

#### **Renaissance**

**June 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Selena Kay**

### Fees

**£70 per three-session block**

**£105 for the entire course if booked by midnight UK time Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May - £135 thereafter**

**Please make payment to**

**Cyrilla Rowsell**

**08-90-66**

**06479907**

## Marek Maryniak

## From Plainsong To Palestrina



Marek Maryniak graduated in Music and Philosophy, completed a PGCE, and then took a Master's degree in Education in the USA.

He has worked as a music teacher and music therapist in many schools and at the Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy Centre. He also pursued a special interest in composition under Antonin Tučapský. He graduated with distinction in Music Pedagogy from the Kodály Pedagogical Institute of Music, Kecskemét, Hungary, and taught musicianship at the Kodály School there.

He currently teaches and conducts at the Rachmaninoff Music Academy and in the Junior Department at the Guildhall (Junior Choir, Composition, Theory and Musical Awareness). Marek has trained music teachers and conducted

musicianship workshops in the UK and overseas. He also composes choral works for church, youth and children's choirs.

*Plainsong notation is the first example of melody rendered into neumes on a staff. These attractive oblong, diamond and curved notes mark the pitch.*

*Why was Sacred Music moving from an oral tradition to a written one in the mediaeval era? In the first three sessions of this course, we will trace the origins of Western music notation from the eighth century onwards culminating in a look at "Veni Sancti Spiritus" – a masterpiece of late mediaeval music by the influential English composer, John Dunstable.*

*We will sing! We will sing plainsong using relative solfa and enjoy the various modal colours that this ancient and beautiful repertoire offers us.*

*Once music was written down in this way, Western art music was born in a process of evolution. It started to be, to some extent, a visual art form: becoming open to new kinds of transformation, development and creative thought.*





Selena is a composer and educator with a specialism in adult education.

She teaches practical musicianship courses from beginner to advanced level as well as advanced theory and composition courses covering the techniques of harmony and counterpoint.

She has a passion for Kodály principles and for instilling a deep understanding of music in her students.

Her musical interests are wide ranging, extending from the origins of tonality to electronic and experimental music.

She is one half of music duo KOGG.

*This part of the course will focus on the polyphonic style of the Sixteenth Century. This period in which composers such as Palestrina developed a "pure" style of polyphony was highly influential on the development of Western art music, and formed foundations of music pedagogy which are still relevant today. This part of the course will focus on listening and analysis as well as on understanding the technical aspects of this style of music.*

*Session 1:*

- *Introduction to Sixteen Century polyphonic style*
- *Principles of a polyphonic approach: melody, rhythm, consonance and dissonance*

*Session 2:*

- *Overview of Sixteen Century polyphonic sacred style*
- *Analysis of Palestrina Missa Aeterna Christi Munera*
- *Rhythmic, melodic and harmonic characteristics*

*Session 3:*

- *Comparing polyphony in the sacred and secular styles*
- *Moves towards tonality*
- *Analysis of a madrigal*

