

**SHAKESPEARE IN MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
**Stratford-upon-Avon**  
**2 May to 5 May 2025**



***Twelfth Night and Music***

Dr Simon Smith, Shakespeare Institute

*Twelfth Night* and music have always been inseparable. This is true from the play's first appearance, laden with songs, in the early seventeenth century, through to productions in the last twelve months at Regent's Park, the Orange Tree and the RSC, all of which made newly-composed music a central focus. In between, adaptations from Frederick Reynolds' operatic production at Covent Garden in 1820, to Brewster Morgan's 45-minute radio version for CBS, starring Orson Welles as Orsino, have found the play musically generative in many different ways. This talk will explore the history of *Twelfth Night* and music, from early performances onwards, drawing on Smith's current research for the new Cambridge Shakespeare Edition of the play, and his previous experiences as a historical music researcher and advisor for Shakespeare's Globe and elsewhere.



**Dr Simon Smith's** research covers all aspects of early modern culture, focusing particularly on drama, music, playhouse culture, and historical sense-scapes. His monograph *Musical Response in the Early Modern Playhouse, 1603-1625* (CUP, 2017) won the Shakespeare's Globe Book Award and the University English Book Prize. As Early Modern Music Research Associate of Shakespeare's Globe Smith provided historical music research for various productions including 'Original Practices' stagings of *Richard III* and *Twelfth Night*. He also provided historical music and theatre research for the BBC adaptation of *Wolf Hall*.

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