

## **SHAKESPEARE IN MUSIC FESTIVAL**

*Stratford-upon-Avon  
2 May to 5 May 2025*



### ***How Shakespeare became global***

Professor Michael Dobson, Director of the Shakespeare Institute

Before Shakespeare's plays and poems could become the basis for Italian operas, or German lieder, or French art songs, or Chinese *xiqu*, the Shakespeare canon first had to find its way into other languages and other performance cultures. Professor Dobson, who has lectured on Shakespeare in more than 30 countries and has seen Shakespearean performances given in more than 20 different languages, will provide an overview of the broad historical movements and individual border-crossing adventures that have helped make Shakespeare's complete works into the international resource that they have become.



**Michael Dobson** is Director of the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon and Professor of Shakespeare Studies at the University of Birmingham; he is also a Trustee of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, an Honorary Governor of the Royal Shakespeare Company, co-director of the Shakespeare Centre, China, and an honorary member of the Academy of Sciences of the Higher School of Ukraine. His publications include: *The Making of the National Poet*; *England's Elizabeth* (with Nicola Watson); *The Oxford Companion to Shakespeare* (with Stanley Wells); *Performing Shakespeare's Tragedies Today*; and *Shakespeare and Amateur Performance*.

The Trustees of Shakespeare in Music are grateful to the HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust for their generous support of instructive talks in the Festival programme.