



MUSIC IN ART

SOPHIE MATTHEWS

The Arts Society Fylde

Lowther Pavilion Theatre and by Zoom

2 March 2022 at 2.00pm

This month, we welcome Sophie Matthews on her first visit to The Arts Society Fylde. As a historical musician and instrument maker, Sophie is well-placed to be our guide for an exploration in this lecture of the links between the visual and the aural. So many of our historical references for musical instruments can be found in works of art. Such images show us not only what the instruments looked like but can also indicate the social context in which they would have been played.

Music and different instruments play a strong role in symbolism in art. Drawing on the works of great painters such as Brueghel, Hogarth and Bosch, Sophie presents a variety of images of historical woodwind instruments in their original context. The symbolism of music in mediaeval and Renaissance arts is also explored; as an extra treat, we are promised performances of historical music on authentic instruments.

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Sophie tells us that, although she began playing the flute at the age of ten, she is now more well-known for her prowess on the English border bagpipes and has become one of the foremost players of that instrument in the UK. She also plays a variety of early woodwind instruments such as shawm, rauschpfeife and recorder. Sophie is one of a handful of British players of the baroque musette, an 18th century French bagpipe similar to the Northumbrian smallpipes.

Sophie is recognised as a superb interpreter of narrative song with a clear, pure and unaffected soprano voice. When not touring with GreenMatthews, Sophie makes instruments (she made her own baroque oboe) and works with respected luthier Tony Millyard on his flutes. She has previously worked with The Oxford Waits as well as the respected early music collective Piva. Sophie is self-taught on all of her instruments.

For The Arts Society nationally, Sophie lectures primarily on Music in Art - the lecture that she brings to us today.



Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528), Bagpiper, 1514, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (Public Domain)