

The John Download Project

Sean Bell – countertenor, performer, arranger and producer

Harald Jordal – producer, sound designer and audio engineer

1. Come Again – 06.57
2. Can she excuse my wrongs – 02.30
3. Come heavy sleep – 03.44
4. The lowest trees have tops – 02.56
5. Fine knacks for ladies – 01.30
6. Say Love – 03.45
7. In darkness let me dwell – 04.56
8. Behold a wonder here – 02.37
9. I saw my lady weep – 04.30
10. Now, O now – 03.54
11. Flow my tears – 03.28

Duration: ca. 40 min

The John Download project explores the music of the great British songwriter and lutenist John Dowland (1563-1626) through a contemporary art pop expression. The musical journey started with the question: What would a different stylistic wrapping and exploration do to the communication of the songs and lyrics of Dowland?

As I started the creative experimenting, several possible outcomes and versions presented themselves: Would the music “survive”, in the way it is traditionally performed and what it normally communicates within classical performance practice? Would it die, in the meaning of being degraded or reduced into something where it loses its original meaning and aesthetics, and only serves as a fragile frame for some wacky synth-pop arrangements? Or could it be reborn, through discovering new layers of meaning and different ways of communicating through alternative performance practices?

The project seeks to explore and discover all of these outcomes.

John Download

A major part of this reshaping of Dowland’s music is the record, which will take the form of a pop music album with a selection of tracks that form a whole through their variation in expression, theme, arrangement and intensity. The record will be released and distributed online for download and streaming, like most popular music today. Background material such as reflective notes, and promo material such as music videos and singles will also be released online on various platforms. The record is planned to be released autumn 2020.

John Livestream

The continuation of the project will take form as a tour promoting the recorded album. In connection with the project’s modern, online and digital identity, the concerts are thought to all be livestreamed. In this way people who wish to follow the creative development of the project, can tune in and follow several of the concerts on the tour.

The project will in this way have several platforms of expression and audience involvement: The produced album through online distribution. Live concerts at various venues. Live stream of all the concerts online. Reflective notes on the process and development on the creative practice, distributed through a blog online.