

## **Bruegel Consort: Feedback on the Stile Antico Ensemble Development Bursary**

Bruegel Consort has found Stile Antico's Ensemble Development Bursary and mentorship invaluable to the development of our ensemble over the last two years. The structure and support of the scheme has allowed us to be both creative and ambitious in our programming.

Over the two years, we have developed and performed four programmes of Tudor sacred music based on the research of our tenor, Nick Walters. Much of this repertoire is unrecorded and has not been performed since the time it was written. As this complex polyphony requires extensive rehearsal, such work would not have been possible without their financial support.

The bursary was also vital in helping us curate and tour our own concert programmes, exploring the lesser-known works of early Tudor polyphony. As many members of the ensemble are full-time postgraduate students, this financial assistance alleviated significant pressure, allowing us to focus on music-making and exploring new repertoire.

In addition, we benefited from multiple coaching sessions with members of Stile Antico, who attended our rehearsals. Their musical expertise helped us refine our interpretations, as well as the sound and blend of our ensemble. We were also privileged to observe Stile Antico's rehearsals, an experience from which we learned immensely.

Stile Antico's advice and mentorship have been instrumental in establishing Bruegel Consort as a professional ensemble. Their support with publicity has significantly increased our exposure, introducing our distinctive programmes to a wider audience. It has been especially rewarding to connect with audience members who share a passion for this repertoire. As our audience has grown, our performances have attracted recognition, leading to invitations from early music festivals across the UK.