



Photo courtesy of Catherine Woodman

Strictly Singing Jean Maillard: International Man of Mystery

April in Paris: Strictly Singing's first workshop of 2024 explores the work of 16th century French composer Jean Maillard, a successful and much celebrated musician of his time, whose works have mysteriously been rarely performed in modern times.

Award-winning British conductor and countertenor **Rory McCleery**, artistic director of The Marian Consort, will lead us in exploring the music of this unjustly forgotten French musical master in his home city. Despite being described as "one of the most important French composers of the 16th century" by renowned musicologist François Lesure, Maillard's works are rarely performed today. This contrasts with his popularity during his own lifetime, when his music was performed often and throughout Europe. In fact, many of Maillard's contemporaries, including Claude Goudimel, Orlando Lassus and Giovanni Palestrina, modelled their own compositions on his work.

During this fun and engaging weekend discovering Jean Maillard, we will also sing works by fellow French composers Pierre Cadéac and Claude Goudimel.

We hope you can join us for this opportunity to immerse yourself in the best of French Renaissance choral music. Rehearsals will be held in the magnificent American Cathedral, located in the heart of Paris, a stone's throw from the Champs Elysées and the Arc de Triomphe.

Rory McCleery

Rory McCleery is an award-winning Scottish conductor, countertenor and musicologist whose work takes him across the world: he has directed choirs and led master classes and workshops in the USA, Spain, Germany and Italy, and features regularly on radio and television, including the BBC2 series 'Art That Made Us'. Rory is Artistic Director of The Marian Consort, with whom he performs internationally, including an upcoming tour to the USA (www.marianconsort.co.uk)

When not researching and conducting, Rory is active as a countertenor, performing as a soloist with such ensembles as the Dunedin Consort and the English Consort. He is also currently completing his doctoral research at the University of Oxford, centred on the French Renaissance composer Jean Mouton. *The Scotsman* has said of Rory: "McCleery elicits performances that glow with golden purity and soul."

Who is the course for?

The workshop is for experienced choral singers, who have good sight-reading skills. Participants are expected to prepare and learn the music before attending the workshop.

Schedule

Thursday 11 April	Welcome drinks followed by evening rehearsal
Friday 12 April	Morning rehearsal followed by free afternoon Evening rehearsal
Saturday 13 April	Full day rehearsal followed by dinner
Sunday 14 April	Free morning Afternoon: dress rehearsal and concert performance at the American Cathedral This will be followed by farewell reception

The Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity

Located on the avenue George V, just off the Champs Elysées, the American Cathedral was built at the end of the 19th century and is considered one of the finest examples of Victorian Gothic Revival architecture on the European continent. The Cathedral's tower is among the tallest in Paris. Notably for us, the Cathedral's Great Organ was built by the prestigious French firm Cavaillé-Coll.

Cost

380 € per person. The course fee covers tuition, refreshments, scores, post concert reception. It does not include meals (apart from those mentioned in the schedule above), travel or accommodation. Refreshments will be provided during rehearsals.

Non-singers are welcome to join us for the dinner on Saturday and post concert reception. The cost for non-singers is **90 €**.

Travel and accommodation

Travel and accommodation are NOT included in the course fees. Participants are expected to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. We are available to offer advice if needed.

Participants coming from abroad must purchase appropriate travel and health insurance.

Music

The music will be sent to you in advance.

How do I register for the course?

To apply for the course, please fill in the [application form](#) (Note that completing the form does not guarantee a place on the course as this will depend on numbers and balance).

For further information, email us: info@strictlysinging.org