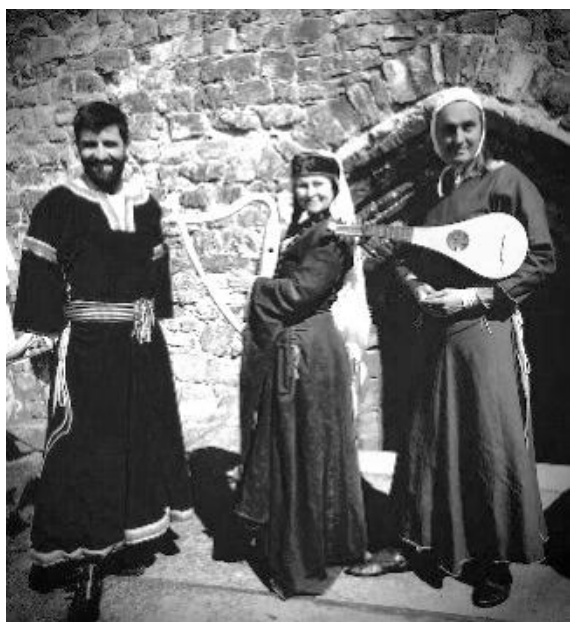


Saturday 27 September 2025

LUDUS DANIELIS: THE PLAY OF DANIEL

A workshop for singers and instrumentalists

- flutes, guitar-types and bowed strings of all kinds, harp, psaltery, hurdy gurdy, percussion of all kinds -

(medieval instruments welcome but not compulsory!)

Led by Gill Page, Paul Leigh and Richard de Winter

North East Early Music Forum
Registered Charity No: 326282

Burley-in-Wharfedale Methodist Church, Main St, Burley in Wharfedale, Ilkley LS29 7DT

10 for 10.30 - 16.30 , pitch A=440

The Play of Daniel (Ludus Danielis) is an outstanding example of paraliturgical music and church drama, dating from the middle of the twelfth century. It was composed - most likely over several years of development and performance - by the choristers of Beauvais Abbey in northern France under the direction of their choirmaster Ralph, an Englishman and a student of Peter Abelard. The Ludus is preserved in British Library Egerton MS 2615, which dates from the first half of the thirteenth century. In superb melody and combining solo and choral singing, the Play of Daniel tells the stories of the Writing on the Wall and the Lion's Den. The manuscript shows that this was no static choral work but a dramatic piece of theatre replete with stage movement, costumes and props. Further, though the Ludus is fundamentally a vocal piece, it does contain clear hints of instrumentation in performance. Thus this workshop contains plenty for both singers and players. Workshop participants will divide into instrumentalists and vocalists for most of the day before working together at the end to create a performance of a section of the Ludus.

Gill Page and Paul Leigh of Trouvere, the team behind the Medieval Music in the Dales festival taking place each September at Bolton Castle in Wensleydale, have been researching, recording and recreating medieval music for some 25 years. Their particular interest is in the music of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries and they have been relatively obsessed with the Play of Daniel since coming across a hurdy-gurdy-rich version by Estampie all too many years ago. For the past couple of years they have been editing and developing their own version of the Ludus with an emphasis on instrumentation and storytelling. For this workshop they are joined by vocalist and regular collaborator **Richard de Winter**, who will lead the singing element of the day while Gill and Paul work with participants on instrumental ideas to accompany the singing. Expect glorious medieval melodies, stirring choral singing and moments of high musical drama!

COST £18; concessions £9 (people aged ≤26 or on a very low income e.g. solely dependent on state benefits). STUDENTS FREE. Refreshments at breaks included. Bring a packed lunch or use local facilities. Please complete the booking form below and send with a cheque made payable to "NEEMF" to: **Joanna Rowling, 21A Manor Crescent, Pool-in-Wharfedale, Otley, LS21 1ND** (or book online via the workshop diary on our website www.neemf.org.uk). Closing date: 13 September 2025). If you cannot use your booked place, please inform us asap. For more information, please email joannarowling@btinternet.com

✂ -

Ludus Danielis with Trouvere, 27 September 2025 (Closing date for applications: 13 Sept 2025) **Application Form**

Completed form and cheque to: **Joanna Rowling, 21A Manor Crescent, Pool-in-Wharfedale, Otley, LS21 1ND**

Name and address (with postcode please)..

....

.... Postcode ....

Email ____ Tel: _______________________________

I wish to play:________________________ (*indicate instrument(s*) approx level *(eg starter, pro, student)* _________

or I wish to sing: ________________________ *(voice)* I would be able to sing solo (if required) □

Please also tell us if you have any special requirements (eg large print, transpositions or clefs preferred, etc):

____

I enclose a cheque (*please make payable to `NEEMF'*) for £ _______ Do you belong to NEEMF? Yes / No

Is this your first workshop? If so, we will try to arrange a welcomer to meet you. Yes / No

For non-members of NEEMF: May we email you occasionally? Your email address will not be shared with anyone. Yes / No

Signed __________________________________ Date __________________

Burley In Wharfedale lies off the A65 (Kendal – Skipton - Leeds road) between Ilkley and Otley. Main Street was the original A65, and is now accessed by a roundabout at either end of the town. The Methodist Church is on the left as you travel westwards, opposite the Co-op. There is a small car park at the back, on Back Lane, but also plenty of on-street parking. The railway station, which is on the Leeds/Bradford to Ilkley line, is 15 minutes' walk away to the SW.
Venue website: https://www.burleyinwharfedalemethodistchurch.org.uk/



Please note: The NEEMF half-price pensioner concession is only for pensioners whose SOLE source of income is the state pension. Pensioners who live on a combination of occupational and state pensions pay the full workshop rate.