**Music for Awhile**

 In 1996 Simon Whistler and Margaret Faultless decided to celebrate their love of a tiny church in its magical setting with a concert, inviting musician friends of international standing to perform.

The church was All Saints, Alton Priors, and Music for Awhile was born.  We are delighted to be performing here today to celebrate music and gardens and the natural world.

Feel free to wander into the church and walk around - ask questions and in particular we will personalise our performances to make children and families feel particularly included and welcome.

 The annual focus is still the Summer Festival in the Vale of Pewsey  and this year, 2025 will be the 29th Festival with performances on July 12th and 13th. There  are many other performances throughout the year, including a chamber series, which for many years was held at Conock Manor. Festival programmes have included performances of early English opera, masques and theatre music. Music for Awhile has premiered new editions of manuscript material from the British Library and has created new works combining music and poetry. As well as recitals in churches the larger MFA ensemble collaborates with choirs performing major choral works in venues such as Westminster Abbey, Bath Abbey, Wells Cathedral and the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford. The MFA chamber recitals give rise to adventurous programming, notably in creating arrangements of large-scale works for more intimate venues.  The Cecil King Memorial Foundation and other sponsors, support the series of concerts in churches, bringing music-making of the highest calibre to local communities and fundraising for historic buildings.

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