



The Anima Consort is a new vocal quartet from Oxford founded and directed by Maxim Fielder and working towards a recital in Trinity Term 2024 which will be examined as part of Maxim's music degree. Maxim (bass) is delighted and exceedingly grateful to have three wonderful singer-friends – Ischia Gooda (soprano), Ellie Stamp (alto), and Daniel Atkinson (tenor) – on board as he approaches, for the second and Final time, his Finals. The present group reflects a(n other) happy collision of The Choir of The Queen's College and The Oxford Gargoyles ideally assembled to explore a shared love of solo voice ensemble singing through some particularly inventive and relatively little-known part song repertoire.

'Anima' represents many things encapsulated by today's programme. Borrowed from a Latin derivation, it is understood to refer to various elements of soul, spirit, nature, and gender. This programme proceeds initially from Benjamin Britten's *Five Flower Songs* (Op. 47) and explores various rhythms of nature – seasonal time, growth and decay, permanence and transience, stillness and motion – and culturally inflected expressions of love and desire.