

The City of Ely Waits



These municipal musicians are called upon to provide ‘public spectacle and ceremony’ at social, civic and religious events in and around Ely. Since their inception, in April 2008, the Ely Waits have performed at the Ely Mayor-making, The St. Etheldreda Day Procession, Eel Day, Aquafest, Fund-a-Physio, St. Winnold’s Day Procession (in Downham Market) and at various fundraising and private concerts.

At outdoor venues, where volume is important, the Waits play shawms (forerunner of the oboe), sackbuts (early version of the trombone) and drums. Their focus year is 1650, hence the Cromwellian costume. Music played is therefore chosen from the 16th and early 17th Centuries.

More recently, the Waits’ repertoire has extended into music of the Renaissance for those occasions where a more mellow sound is appropriate, as in recent concerts in the parish churches of Hartford, Linton and Long Melford. Crumhorns, recorders, oboes and bowed psaltery are then added to the array of instruments.

For information about appearances and bookings, contact:

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