

Thames Valley Early Music Forum

“I can't believe it's not Gesualdo...” a study day for voices and viols with Gerald Place

at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 865, Great West Road, Isleworth, TW7 5PD

Saturday 19th May 2012 from 10.00am to 5.00pm

Following last July's very successful workshop, Gerald will be taking a similar day exploring not only Don Carlo Gesualdo's music, but also chromatic music of his contemporaries and imitators. Other composers studied will include Pomponio Nenna (possibly Gesualdo's teacher); Alfonso Fontanelli; Giuseppe Caimo and Lassus. This challenging repertoire can often seem daunting & eccentric, but Gerald will aim to show how a flexible and expressive approach will unlock these treasures. For the sake of practicality, voices will be in small ensembles but not necessarily one-to-a-part, so have no fear. As last year, all the performers will join together at the end of the day to tackle one of the Gesualdo Tenebrae Responsories, this time in the beautiful acoustic of St Francis. Music will be supplied before the event, but a good standard of reading is essential. Pitch will be A 415.

Gerald Place is director of the Gesualdo Consort and records for ASV and Naxos. He has made several BBC broadcasts about the composer and collaborated with Werner Herzog on his Gesualdo film "Death for Five Voices" which won the Italia Prize. Details and soundclips of his ensemble can be found on www.gesualdoconsort.co.uk

The day will start with coffee at 10am followed by playing and singing at 10.30. The plan is for everyone to work together for the first session for both moral support and a collective introduction to interpretation. Then there will be two sessions working in smaller groups, and a final session all together. This will have to be organized well in advance so it is ESSENTIAL that you let Gerald know if you are not likely to arrive at the beginning or cannot stay all day, or find that you cannot come at all. Please do not back out at the last minute. The church is on the Great West Road, Isleworth, very close to the prominent Gillette building. Syon Lane (SW Trains) is a short walk away. Osterley (Piccadilly Line) Station is a 20 minute walk or 4 stops on the H91 bus. There is limited parking at the front of the church but plenty of space in the streets behind and there is an alleyway which runs alongside the church from Northumberland Avenue. Map on www.stfrancis-isleworth.org.

The cost will be £12 for members of TVEMF and other forums and £14 for non-members if booked by 1st May. Late bookings cost £14 and £16 respectively and if you want to make a late booking you need to e-mail or phone first on 0780 141 9336 sgeraldplace@hotmail.co.uk. to check that you can be fitted in. Don't just turn up on the day! Please return the form to: Gerald Place, 23 Oakdene Mews, Ash Road, Sutton, Surrey SM3 9LE enclosing a SAE (self-adhesive if possible) if you would like an acknowledgement. Maps are available on www.streetmap.co.uk if you enter the postcode, and on the Forum web site www.tvemf.org.

I would like to come to the Gesualdo study day on 19th May 2012 & enclose £ (Cheque payable to TVEMF)

Name and address:

telephone number:

e-mail:

Voice/viol: