

Thames Valley Early Music Forum

Gigantic polyphony, c.1500

A day for singers directed by **John Milsom**
Oxford Friends Meeting House, 43 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LW

Saturday 21st January 2017 (10.00 for 10.30 start till 5pm)

Most vocal polyphony in the decades around 1500 was scored for ensembles of 3, 4, 5, 6 or occasionally 7 voices but a few composers experimented with larger textures, and this workshop samples two of these ventures, one from early Tudor England, the other from Renaissance France. The 9-voice texture of Robert Wyllinson's *Salve Regina* (from the Eton Choirbook) mirrors the biblical concept of the 9 orders of angels; the 12 voices of Antoine Brumel's *Missa Et ecce terrae motus* (of which we will sing only the Gloria) are needed to simulate seismic activity in musical sound. Both works are based on plainchant melodies sung by a tenor voice and we will investigate how multi-voice polyphony of two very different kinds has been composed around these single structural voices. Participants are encouraged to listen to the two works in advance; both are easily accessible on the Internet and both have been recorded several times. Scores of both pieces will be supplied on the day. However, owners of the facsimile of the Eton Choirbook who want to try singing from it are welcome to bring their copies along – though ideally with robust music stands or small tables on which to place them!

John Milsom is well known to TVEMF members as an inspiring tutor who combines practical music-making with scholarly insights. He is one of the world's leading authorities on the musical culture of 16th century England; his performing editions of Tudor church music are used by choirs around the world. Another major interest is the craft of polyphony: how 16th century composers went about the task of creating new pieces. He has also written extensively about the music of Josquin Desprez.

The day will begin with coffee and registration at 10am for a 10.30 start and run until 5 pm with a break for lunch. The venue is less than a mile from Oxford rail station and close to the Gloucester Green bus station. It has a red door and is opposite the Lamb & Flag pub. If coming by car please use the Park & Ride so that the few car park spaces at the venue can be reserved for those in need of them. If this includes you, please mention it on the form. The charge to park at the venue is £3 for the day. There are pubs and cafés nearby and packed lunches can be eaten on the premises.

The fee is £14 for Early Music Forum members and £16 for non-members. You may pay by electronic transfer to TVEMF account number 00691902, sort code 30-94-28 giving your name as the reference and e-mail the details requested on the slip below to n.wilson-smith@ntlworld.com with a copy to treasurer@tvemf.org by January 14th. Alternatively post the completed form together with a cheque made payable to TVEMF, to Nicola Wilson-Smith, 86 Canterbury Road, North Harrow HA1 4PB. You should assume that your application has been accepted unless you hear to the contrary. For an acknowledgement of receipt please request an e-mail or send a SAE. If you are unable to attend, please notify the organiser ASAP so your place can be offered to someone else. Late cancellations received after **Monday 16th January** may forfeit the fee if they cannot be replaced from the waiting list. **ALL 'NO SHOWS' WILL FORFEIT THE FEE.**

Registered Charity No: 900284

TVEMF Workshop 21st January 2017- John Milsom

I enclose a cheque (payable to TVEMF) for £.....

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