

THE GOLDEN AGE OF POLISH MUSIC

Workshop for voices and instruments

Director: **Graham O'Reilly**

10.00 am – 5 pm, Saturday 23rd June 2012,
Clapham & Patching Village Hall



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The music: the first 50 years of the 17th century marked the Golden Age of Polish music. Polish composers were inspired by the music of Italy - both through studying there, and by working alongside the many Italian musicians who came to the court of King Sigismund III. **Mikolaj Zielenski** was sent to Rome (and Venice?) by the Primate of Poland. The polychoral motets of his collection *Offertoria totius anni* show all the hallmarks of what we know as Gabrielian style. **Bartolomiej Pekiel** was the most accomplished composer of the next generation, finding a distinctive voice for Polish music, still building on Italian harmonic principles. His mass *La Lombardesca* – especially the Credo - is full of variety in colour and texture, while a striking harmonic sequence at the beginning of each section provides unity. **Stanislaw Szarzynski** was active at the end of the 17th century, possibly in Lowicz. His music is melodic and charming, while remaining engagingly quirky. Key influences appear to include the music of north Germany, rather than the Italian style fashionable earlier in the century. **Note to singers: all the texts are in Latin (not Polish!).** There are some nice examples of this music on YouTube eg www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GwVQy50gK4

Applications are welcome from singers (all voices), and from instrumentalists, particularly strings (violin & viol families) cornetts, sackbuts and curtals, plus continuo (ideally keyboard & theorbo). Flutes, recorders etc are also welcome (good recorder players could find themselves playing a cornett or violin part!). If you have a modern instrument, or are unsure whether your instrument is suitable, please ask! Pitch is A=440. Players – please bring a music stand.

The Southern Early Music Forum is a network of musicians – amateur and professional – with an interest in playing, singing, or researching early music. We organise 8 -10 workshops and other events each year in Southern England, and members also use the network to arrange their own ad hoc music making. For more information see www.semff.org.uk.

Graham O'Reilly has always divided his time and energy between performance and research. While studying musicology at Sydney University, he also made his debuts both as tenor soloist in Messiah in the Sydney Town Hall, and as conductor with staged performances of Marco da Gagliano's opera Dafne, the subject of his first thesis. Since moving to London and then to Paris, he has had a varied career - as a singer, as a director of early music ensembles, leading workshops for choral directors, giving master-classes for singers, and continuing his research into singing techniques in Western music of all periods. In Paris, he founded the *Ensemble William Byrd*, whose repertoire centres primarily on European vocal music of the 16th and 17th centuries. The Ensemble's many recordings include *Polish Baroque: Pekiel and his contemporaries* – Graham will have some copies for sale at the workshop.

Venue and Directions: Clapham & Patching Village Hall. This is in the countryside just north of Worthing, midway between Bognor Regis and Brighton, on the A280, approximately half a mile north of the A27/A280 junction and 3 miles south of the A24/A280 junction. The hall is on the west side of the A280, just south of 'Seth Evans Joinery'. (Postcode BN13 3UT is just across the A280 from the hall.). Nearest stations are Arundel and Angmering (trains to Angmering stop at several other places on the south coast including Worthing & Littlehampton); we will try to arrange lifts or taxi sharing if needed.

Timetable: coffee/tuning at 10.00 am. Music begins at 10.30 and finishes at 5pm. Tea & coffee provided. Two pubs fairly near – or bring a packed lunch.

The workshop will be followed at 5pm by the SEMF AGM.

Fee: £14 for members of SEMF or other Early Music Fora, £18 for non-members. Under 25s £8. SEMF membership AND workshop £20 (full membership costs £8.50). Late booking surcharge of £2 for bookings received after 8th June.

Contact: Richard King: polishmusic@semff.org.uk (telephone – for emergencies only, please - 01730 823620)

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APPLICATION FORM. SEMF workshop for voices and instruments, Clapham & Patching, 23rd June 2012

Please return this form as soon as possible (& before 8th June 2012), with a cheque payable to 'Southern Early Music Forum', to:

Richard King, Donnington, Workhouse Lane, East Meon, Petersfield, Hants, GU32 1PD

I belong toEarly Music Forum OR I do/do not wish to join SEMF (delete as applicable).

I enclose £..... Forum members £14, non-members £18. Under 25s £8. Workshop AND membership £20 (only if you have not previously been a member). If booking after 8th June add £2 late booking surcharge (ie £16/£20/£10/£22 respectively).

Name.....Phone.....

Email.....OR I enclose an sae (delete as applicable)

Address.....

Instrument(s).....Sight-reading: good/fair (delete as applicable)
(continue overleaf if necessary – NB please only list instruments you intend to bring to the workshop)

Voice (SATB etc)Sight-reading: good/fair/adequate (delete as applicable)

I would be happy to sing a solo line (tick)

We try to keep event costs to a minimum; this means we cannot refund fees for attendees cancelling with less than one week's notice.