



# Early Music Online

## Digitising the British Library's 16th-century anthologies of printed music

5.30 pm, Tuesday 28 February 2012

British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB

The Early Music Online project has digitised 300 of the world's earliest surviving volumes of printed music, using copies in the British Library, and has made these freely available online. Full descriptions of each volume, with links to the digitised content, can be accessed via the British Library Catalogue and have also been included in the RISM UK database and in COPAC.

The project has digitised about half of the British Library's holdings of 16th-century anthologies of printed music. These volumes contain approximately 10,000 musical compositions, which are individually indexed. The volumes mainly consist of part books of vocal polyphony, but also include some early printed tablatures for keyboard or plucked string instruments. They include music printed in Italy, Germany, France and England.

The talk will illustrate the range of content of the database and discuss ways of making use of it. Some of the original sixteenth-century books will also be on display.

**Speakers:** Dr Sandra Tuppen (the project manager at the British Library) and Dr Nicolas Bell (Curator, Music Collections, British Library).

**Venue and Directions:** The British Library is on Euston Road, London NW1. It is next door to St Pancras and King's Cross Stations with excellent tube and bus services.



### APPLICATION FORM for SEMF visit and talk at the British Library, 28 February 2012

Please return this form as soon as possible (and **before 21 February 2012**), to:  
David Shaw, 61 Broad Oak Road, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7PN  
Or email to david@djshaw.co.uk

Please tick as appropriate:

- I belong to SEMF
- I belong to .....Early Music Forum
- I wish to join SEMF and enclose a cheque for £8.50 payable to SEMF for membership until the end of February 2013.
- I am not a member of an early music forum.

Name: ..... Phone: .....

Email: .....

Address: .....



southern  
early  
music  
forum

**Fee:** There is no charge for this talk but **booking is obligatory** because of the need to prepare individual security passes at the British Library.

**This visit is limited to a maximum of 20 participants.** Priority will be given to members of SEMF and then to members of other early music fora.

**Organiser:** David Shaw, email david@djshaw.co.uk (telephone – for emergencies only, please – 01227 769843).

**Exhibition of the Royal Manuscripts:** the British Library's unique collection of medieval and Renaissance illuminated manuscripts. Collected by the kings and queens of England over 800 years, these treasures are outstanding examples of the decorative and figurative painting of the era. Together they are our most vivid source for understanding royal identity, moral and religious beliefs, learning, faith, artistic trends and the international politics of the period.

The exhibition will be open until 20.00 pm on Tuesdays. For admission charges and further details, see the Library's web site: <http://www.bl.uk/royal>.

**About the Southern Early Music Forum.** SEMF is a network of musicians organising playing and singing days and tutored workshops for singers and instrumentalists in Southern England. Members receive a quarterly newsletter, a membership directory and discounts for SEMF events. Membership is an inexpensive way to connect with other musicians - amateur and professional - with an interest in playing, singing, studying or researching early music. For more information please see our website ([www.semf.org.uk](http://www.semf.org.uk)).