

William Byrd - Verse Anthems

Workshop for voices and soft instruments

Director: **Bill Hunt**

10.30 am – 5.00 pm, Saturday 24th June 2023

Findon Village Hall BN14 0TA



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The 'verse anthem' is one of the most potent artistic creations to come out of the English Reformation. The simple structure of 'verses' for solo voice or voices alternating with passages of full chorus reaches its highest level of sophistication in the 'consort anthem', where voices and consort instruments share material on equal terms and give dramatic life to devotional texts through a new rhetorical approach to word-setting. William Byrd, whose centenary falls this year, can justly be regarded as the father of this peculiarly English musical form. We shall look at some relevant examples of his works, newly reconstructed, leading to detailed examination of his iconic consort anthem 'Christ rising/Christ is risen again'.

In this workshop, verses will be sung as a section, not as solos, and emphasis will be given to integrating chorus sections into the drama, so that all singers can expect to be fully involved.

Voices Byrd's scoring is not the easiest for us to replicate with modern voices. To give you an idea Cantus means mezzo, contra tenor parts may be best sung by an alto and a tenor together, tenor is really a baritone line and bass means bass.

Instruments Viols and soft wind (recorders, flutes, one or two well behaved bass curtals)

Bill Hunt was a founder member of the viol consort Fretwork and established its publishing operation 'Fretwork Editions', which he has directed and expanded since 1989. He has combined an initial focus on the great English viol consort repertory with an increasing interest in music for voices and viols, culminating most recently in doctoral research into performance of the Pre-Restoration consort anthem. At the same time he has pursued a performing career specialising in contrabass members of the viol family with leading ensembles such as London Baroque, Taverner Consort and the Dunedin Consort.

Pitch A440 Please bring a music stand.

Singers will be asked to print out scores but instrumental parts will be provided on the day.

Venue: Findon Village Hall, High St, Findon ,BN14 0TA - off the A24 north of Worthing

Timetable: coffee/tuning at 10.30 am. Music begins at 11am and finishes at 5.00pm with breaks for lunch & tea. Lunch options: a pub in the village but probably best to bring your own.

Fee: £18 for members of SEMF or other Early Music Fora, £24 for non-members. Under 26s £8 (SEMF membership costs £8.50-less for under 26s and Seniors) Late applications after Wednesday 7th June attract a £2 surcharge. We regret that after this date it will not be possible to return fees for cancellations.

Organiser : Janet Gascoine

janetgascoine@btinternet.com

Tel. 01892 770601 Mob: 079330394 (emergencies only please).

SEMF workshop for voices and soft instruments

Findon Village Hall, Saturday 18 February 2023

Please book online if you can, by clicking [here](#), filling in the form, and clicking "SUBMIT" at the bottom of the page. *(There will also be a link to the online form on the SEMF website.)*

As numbers will be limited and we must keep a balance of voices and instruments, if you book online **please do not pay until your application has been accepted.**

OR return this form as soon as possible (and before Wednesday 7th June) with a cheque payable to 'Southern Early Music Forum', to:

Janet Gascoine, Triples Cottage, Station Road, Withyham, East Sussex, TN7 4BT

I belong toEarly Music Forum

I enclose £.....

Name.....

Phone/Mobile.....

Email.....

Voice (S A T Bar B see voice descriptions above)

Instrument.....

Covid precautions: everyone who attends the workshop has a personal responsibility to others attending to help minimise the potential for any spread of COVID -19.

If you have received a positive test, or have any symptoms please do not come to the workshop and let the organiser know. Your fee will be refunded on request.