

southern early music forum

VICTORIA

JEWEL OF THE SPANISH GOLDEN AGE

Choral Day in Challock, Kent, tutored by David Allinson

Saturday 19 February 2011 – 10.00 am to 5.00 pm

Music is not man's invention, but his heritage from the blessed spirits. Music, because instinct with rhythm and harmony, describes the very being of God. ... Music can affect for good or ill the body as well as the mind. -- Tomás Luis de Victoria.

Victoria, whose 400th anniversary falls in 2011, is the greatest Spanish composer of the Renaissance. Although his output of about 20 Masses and 50 motets is small compared with his contemporaries, his music is consistently superb: more sensual and directly emotional than Palestrina; more suave and sincere than Lassus. Victoria was praised in his own time for his ability to express true joy in music; in modern times, we prize the dark, penitential fervour of the Tenebrae responsaries and the Requiem.

Victoria's greatest achievement is the quality of his part-writing, so nobly crafted and utterly satisfying to sing. We will explore both sides of Victoria's character – from the sensual rapture of *Vadam et circuibio* to the dark despair of *Versa est in luctum*. The intention is to focus on a number of selected works, some lesser-known, and to create satisfying interpretations. The day will include several double-choir works, provided that viable forces sign up in advance.

Please sign up early – men especially – so that we can plan to tackle the more ambitious pieces.

Venue: The Village (Memorial) Hall, Challock, near Ashford, on the A252 between Charing (A20) and Chilham (A28). At Challock, go down Church Lane and take the first left (just past the Chequers Pub) into Blind Lane; the Memorial Hall is on the right. There is plenty of car-parking space at the Hall.

Lunch: Two pubs in the village serve lunch, or bring your own lunch to eat in the Hall. As last year, we will ask someone from one of the pubs to come and take orders at the start of the day. Coffee and tea are included in the fee.

Tutor: This is **David Allinson's** *ninth* visit to Challock, tribute enough to the popularity of these events. David is an experienced workshop leader, and has directed numerous workshops in the UK and Europe. A freelance performer, scholar and teacher, he specialises in the history and performance of Renaissance choral music. David studied music at St Peter's College, Oxford and University College, Durham; he completed a PhD (on the devotional and intellectual context of early Tudor church music) at Exeter University in 1998. He worked on the revised *Grove Dictionary of Music* and then became assistant editor of several music periodicals. Now freelance and based in London, he sings, conducts and teaches singing. David has lectured in music at City University, London, Oxford Brookes, and at many Oxford colleges; he currently works at Bristol University, supervising MA students and lecturing in history and musicology. In January 2010 he became conductor of the Renaissance Singers, and he is founding director of the early music ensemble, Cantores.

Timetable: 10.00 Arrival and Coffee 10.30 Session 1 11.45 Break 12.00 Session 2
13.00 Lunch 14.15 Session 3 15.30 Tea 15.45 Session 4 (end by 17.00)

Fee: SEMF or other EMF members £9-00; under-25 £5.00; others £12-00 (inc. 1-year's SEMF membership £15.00)

Contact: Richard Whitehouse, 31 Woodlands Avenue, Redhill, Surrey RH1 6EX . Tel: 01737 765725
e-mail: richard.j.whitehouse@btopenworld.com

SEMF on the World-Wide Web: www.semf.org.uk

You can assume the event will take place unless you hear otherwise, but please send a stamped addressed envelope if you want positive confirmation.

Please advise us of any changes to your booking as soon as possible so that it doesn't impact on other attendees.

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

Southern Early Music Forum

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

.....

TELEPHONE E-mail

I would like to come to the SEMF Day at Challock on **Saturday 19 February 2011** and I enclose payment of £
..... (cheques payable to **Southern Early Music Forum**)

Voice (give range if possible).....

Please return the form together with payment **no later than Saturday 12 February** to:

Richard Whitehouse, 31 Woodlands Avenue, Redhill, Surrey RH1 6EX Tel: 01737 765725;

e-mail: richard.j.whitehouse@btopenworld.com