

# Schütz and the Stile Antico

Workshop for voices and instruments

directed by Andrew Griffiths

Saturday 12 November 2016

Upland Primary School, Bexleyheath



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**Heinrich Schütz's 1648 collection** *Geistliche Chor-Music* (SWV 369-397) is perhaps his most perfect fusion of text and music. These motets, written just after the end of the Thirty Years' War, when Schütz was already sixty-three, represent a stylistic retrenchment: Schütz turns his back on the Italianate *concertante* style which he had cultivated for the previous two decades, in favour of the *stile antico*. His purpose is expressed in his preface: "to remind Germany's budding composers that, before proceeding to the *concertante* style, they should bite on this hard nut [the motet style] in which the true heart and foundation of good counterpoint will be found, and pass their first test in this way". Schütz manages to infuse the old polyphonic forms with new life, full of subtle and poetic attention to textual nuance. Some of these motets, like *Selig sind die Toten*, are well-known; many are unjustly neglected.

Our workshop is open to both singers and instrumentalists, in line with Schütz's preface: 'beydes Vocaliter und Instrumentaliter zugebrauchen'. The instrumental scoring is not specified but could accommodate strings (violin and viol families), cornetts and sackbuts, well-behaved dulcians and curtals, and plucked continuo. Soft winds (especially alto, tenor and bass) are also welcome, but should be prepared to sing and/or play another instrument for some of the time. Continuo players (plucked and keyboard) welcomed.

**PDFs of the scores** will be emailed in advance for you to print your own copy. Instrumental parts will be available on the day.

**Pitch** is A=440.

**Fee:** £12 for members of SEMF and other Fora, £18 for non-members and £8 for under 25s. Applications by 31 October (£2.00 surcharge for late bookings).

**Andrew Griffiths** enjoys a varied career as a conductor of choral music and opera, vocal coach, continuo player, and consort singer. He has conducted productions at The Royal Opera (where he trained as a Jette Parker Young Artist), Welsh National Opera, Opera North and has worked at Glyndebourne, ENO, Scottish Opera, Chicago Opera Theatre and with the BBC Symphony Orchestra. He regularly conducts the BBC Singers, with whom he has broadcast widely on Radio 3, and has appeared as a guest conductor with New London Chamber Choir, the BBC Symphony Chorus, and Hong Kong's Tallis Vocalis. Particularly experienced in Baroque repertoire, he has recently conducted Handel's *Orlando* for WNO, *Messiah* and *La Resurrezione* for Early Opera Company at Wigmore Hall, and Monteverdi's *Vespers* at Dartington. As well as singing as a founder member of renowned vocal ensemble Stile Antico, Andrew enjoys appearing as Evangelist in Bach's Passions (including at BREMF), and regularly coaches the singers at The Royal Opera and National Opera Studio.

**Venue:** Upland Primary School, Church Road, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 4DG. There is car parking on site. Railway station half a mile.

**Timetable:** Coffee at 10.00 am. Music begins at 10.30 and finishes at 5.00 pm with breaks for lunch and tea. Information about pubs and cafes will be sent out later, or bring a packed lunch.

**Organiser:** David Shaw (treasurer@semf.org.uk)  
Tel: 01227 769843; Mob: 07811 875269 (emergencies only).

**Southern Early Music Forum** is one of 9 regional groups encouraging the enjoyment of early music. Our members include singers, instrumentalists, and researchers, beginners and experts, amateurs and professionals. We organise 8–10 workshops and other events each year in our region. Members can also use the network to arrange their own *ad hoc* music making. Further information at [www.semf.org.uk](http://www.semf.org.uk).

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## SEMF workshop for voices and instruments, Upland Primary School, Bexleyheath, 12 November 2016

Please return this form as soon as possible (and before 31 October) to:

David Shaw (SEMF), 61 Broad Oak Road, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7PN.

I belong to .....Early Music Forum/please send me information about joining SEMF

I enclose a cheque made payable to "Southern Early Music Forum" for £.....

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

Email: ..... OR I enclose a SAE (delete as applicable)

Address: .....

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

I would be happy to sing a solo line: Yes / No (please circle)

Instrument(s) ..... Sight reading: good/fair

..... (continue overleaf if necessary)