

Orlando Gibbons - Verse Anthems

Workshop for voices and soft instruments

Director: Bill Hunt

10.30 am – 5.00 pm

Saturday 28 June 2025

Findon Village Hall BN14 0TA



southern
early
music
forum

Bill writes: In 2023 I had the pleasure of leading a workshop featuring verse anthems by William Byrd, the father of this musical form. This year we shall feature anthems by Orlando Gibbons to celebrate his quatercentenary (died 1625), in whose hands it arguably reached its finest expression.

The vocal scoring of sacred music from this period is not easy to replicate with modern voices - it is very clear that the voice ranges for which it was typically written are

significantly different from the normal SATB ranges that we know today. To give you an idea, 'Cantus' or 'mean' usually denotes what we would now call 'mezzo': 'Contratenor' means a high tenor range (not a falsetto 'countertenor') and is sometimes best achieved by combining a normal tenor with an alto in a kind of pantomime horse arrangement. 'Tenor' was the name given to what we would recognise as baritone; and Bassus means a 'real', i.e. low bass voice.

Instruments: Viols of all sizes and soft wind (recorders, flutes) with a supporting role for well-behaved curtals in the chorus sections. Organ and lute are also welcome to join.

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. Instruments 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 11.00 am and finishes at 5.00 pm with breaks for lunch & tea.

Lunch options: a pub in the village but probably best to bring your own.

Fee: £21.00 for members of SEMF or other Early Music Fora, £27.00 for non-members. Under 25s £9.00 (SEMF membership costs £8.50 – less for under 25s and Seniors). Late applications after Wednesday 11th 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 28 June 2025

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:

Please do not pay until your application has been accepted.

If you need to book by post, please return this form as soon as possible (and to arrive by Wednesday 11 June) with a cheque made payable to 'Southern Early Music Forum (not 'SEMF') to:

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

I belong to.....Early Music Forum

I enclose a cheque for

Name..... Phone / mobile.....

Email.....

Address.....

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

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 or flu .

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.