

'Regina Caeli, Regina Mundi'

Musical veneration of the Virgin Mary in the Spanish Golden Age

An online talk by David Allinson

Thursday 25th January, 7.30 – 9.00 pm on Zoom

In this talk, David Allinson will illuminate a gloomy January evening by exploring the Iberian tradition of making rich musical settings of devotional texts to Mary, mother of Jesus. With the help of musical examples, he will look at some of the techniques – including harmonic and spatial effects – used by composers such as Guerrero, Alonso Lobo, and Padilla.

If you would like to hear David's talk but are unable to join the live Zoom, please book before the event and we will send you a link to the recording; this will be available to watch (but not download) for a limited period.

For more information about David Allinson – plus a few reminders about Zoom – please see the next page.



The political and historical context of this music is fascinating: in Habsburg Spain, the Virgin Mary was not only a figure of veneration and protection; she also became a renewed focus of identity for a nation which had only relatively recently become united, following the defeat of the last Moorish rulers in the south.

As an expression of Counter-Reformatory zeal, the cult of Mary was carried by the conquistadors to the 'New World'. Placing heavy emphasis on the doctrine of the Virgin's *immaculate conception*, Spanish and Portuguese missionaries set about assimilating and supplanting local traditions of worshipping mother-goddesses in the new Central American territories.

David will aim to deepen our sense of wonder at the sheer aesthetic beauty of this music; he will also invite us to contemplate its wider role in the Catholic Church's campaigns of proselytization and mass conversion in the new colonies.

HOW TO BOOK

Please book early (our Zoom contract puts a limit on numbers) and in any case **by Monday 22nd January**. There is a minimum charge of £5; if you are able and would like to contribute more to show your support for David and other musicians, this would be much appreciated. 10% of receipts above David's agreed fee will go to the charity Help Musicians. The balance (after deducting any expenses) will go to David. Please book online: click on [this link](#), fill in the form, click "SUBMIT" at the end, and then pay by bank transfer (preferred) or by sending a cheque to the address on the form.

A link to the online booking form is also available from the SEMF website www.semf.org.uk.

David Allinson will be well-known to SEMF members. He has led countless workshops and residential choral courses in the UK and around Europe. He has been Musical Director of the Renaissance Singers of London since 2009 and has conducted numerous other choirs including his own ensemble, Cantores. With a wealth of university lecturing experience, he has recently developed a reputation for speaking online about 'early music' and its cultural context. He is currently Honorary Vice-President of SEMF. (More at www.davidallinson.com)

Zoom: a few reminders

1. Zoom will work on PCs, laptops, tablets or smartphones but the larger the screen size the better the experience. *If you have a PC with an internet connection but no webcam or microphone, you can still watch David's talk and ask questions via text "chat" – see (5) below.*
2. Download the Zoom app. <https://zoom.us/> (for a tablet or smartphone, download the Zoom app from the App Store). Even if you've used Zoom before, it is best to download it again a few hours before the talk, to ensure you have the latest version, and check that it works – including your camera and microphone connections (if applicable).
3. We'll email the link to the Zoom meeting the day before the event. Click on the link and follow the instructions. You can't join the meeting until the meeting Host has opened it and has let you in from the "waiting room". When you join the meeting, please turn on your camera if you have one – after that you can turn it off if you wish.
4. Mute/Unmute (the small microphone symbol). Your sound will be *muted* when you join (and again when the presentation begins) but if the host invites you to ask a question (or to show appreciation at the end!) please don't forget to *unmute* yourself!
5. Chat (the white speech bubble symbol usually at the bottom of the black Zoom screen, or under 3 dots on iPads). This allows you to send a message to another one participant if you select them by name, or to send a message or question to the host during the presentation. You can also send a chat message to *Everyone*. This is fine before David's presentation or during a break, but **please don't send chat messages to Everyone while David is speaking as this risks distracting him as well as everyone else!**
6. I'll be acting as Zoom host for this event. Please note that I won't be able to deal with email queries on the day!

Pat Stewart
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These reminders were adapted (with thanks) from flyers for Zoom talks by Patrick Craig.