

EASTERN EARLY MUSIC FORUM



Madrigals: a summer musical progress

Tutored by Angus Smith

Saturday 13th August 2022

10.30am–5pm

The Old Chapel, Boxworth Road, Elsworth, Cambs. CB23 4JQ

The 16th century is often seen as the first ‘Golden Age’ of English music, but in this workshop Angus Smith will unveil the achievements of earlier generations of composers, named and anonymous, that not only equalled but surpassed those of their better-known successors. This day of summer music-making will progress from beautiful and serene 11th century music through the gradually expanding harmonic language of the 14th and 15th centuries, and conclude with pieces by Tye and Parsons that take on a new richness as they emerge from the shadows. As part of this journey, Angus will consider the case of a humble 13th-century monk of Bury St Edmunds, whose personal testimony was to prove crucial in enriching our understanding of medieval music and music-making across the whole of Europe.

Angus is today best known as a member of the Orlando Consort, for whom he also acts as the main programme planner. The Consort, considered to be one of Europe’s most expert and challenging groups performing repertoire from 1050 to 1550, has achieved worldwide acclaim for its performances over more than 32 years, with concerts and in festivals throughout Europe and North America and this year, among other festivals, at Ravenna and Lammamuir. The Orlandos are now more than halfway through recording the 12-disc Machaut Project with Hyperion Records and the Leverholme Trust and Dr Yolande Plumley.

Angus read History at St John’s College, Cambridge, where he was a choral scholar under George Guest. He won a scholarship to the Guildhall School of Music & Drama then continued his studies with Anthony Rolfe Johnson and Diane Forlano. Angus’s performances embrace a wide diversity of music. He has performed with ensembles, including the Gabrieli and Taverner Consorts, the Tallis Scholars, the Academy of Ancient Music, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and the Ensemble Vocale Européen. With the Consort Angus has a long history of introducing early music repertoire to amateur and youth choirs, and his appointment as ‘Choral Ambassador’ at Stainer & Bell music publishers encourages his ambition to extend these activities.

We are delighted to return to Michael Taylor’s house this summer. Numbers will be limited to around 24 on a first-come first-serve basis, but aiming to achieve good distribution of voices. The workshop will begin at 10 am for 10.30, and end at 5pm with a run through. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be provided, please bring a packed lunch or you can book a table at the pub opposite.

The cost of the workshop is £20 for EEMF and other Early Music Forum members, £22 for non-members. An application form and Jotform link will be provided.