

Thames Valley Early Music Forum

Eastern Early Music Forum

The pleasures of the plains – music from the 18th century pleasure gardens

A day for singers and instrumentalists directed by **Steven Devine** and **Kate Semmens**

Sunday 15th April 2018 at Benslow Music, Benslow Lane, Hitchin, Herts, SG4 9RB

The Pleasure Gardens of London were at their height in the 18th Century. Composers such as Thomas Arne and William Boyce became prolific in their song-writing, composing new pieces that could be performed and then sold as sheet music to the public. The workshop will include extracts from Thomas Linley's 'Shakespeare Ode', selections from Thomas Arne's 'Judgement of Paris' and 'Alfred', and glees and choruses by Philip Hayes, William Boyce, William Shield and George Frederick Handel. There are no solos, so there should be no sitting around waiting to play or sing.

Applications are invited from singers, strings (violin family & viols), flutes, oboes, recorders, bassoons and continuo. Pitch will be A=415. Instrumentalists should indicate their voice type on the form below if they wish to sing some of the time. There is no need to bring a stand, as Benslow will provide these.

Steven Devine has been the harpsichordist with London Baroque since 2007, is co-principal keyboard player with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, and performs and records regularly both as a soloist and with many early music groups. He also conducts, including Handel's Orlando and Purcell's Dido and Aeneas for the Dartington Festival, and is Curator of Early Music for the Norwegian Wind Ensemble. Kate Semmens (soprano) has sung with many of the premier consorts including the Monteverdi Choir, the Taverner Consort and the Dunedin Consort. Her opera credentials include solo roles with the New Chamber Opera, Stanley Hall Opera, Benslow Baroque Opera and Opera Restor'd. Kate has recorded with many groups and ensembles, and her greatest love is to perform in concert as a soloist with instrumentalists. Kate and Steven have worked extensively together giving recitals across the country, including the London Bach Festival, St John's Smith Square and on Radio 3, and came to Baroque Week in 2017 at very short notice to direct selections from Les Indes Galantes and provide vocal coaching.

The day will begin with coffee and registration at 10.00 for a 10.30 start and run till 5.00. Benslow Music is 5-10 minutes walk from Hitchin Rail Station and has plenty of parking spaces. Benslow can provide a two-course lunch that we highly recommend at £11 a head, if at least 35 participants go for this option. Alternatively you can bring a packed lunch. The town centre has cafés and restaurants but is about 15 minutes' walk. This workshop follows straight after the Benslow Baroque Opera course, which ends after breakfast on the same day.

The fee is £25 for Early Music Forum members and £27 for non-members (£14/16 if you are not having the lunch). Please apply by **Friday 23rd March**. After that date, please email or text to check if there are still places before sending a form. You may pay by electronic transfer to TVEMF a/c no. 00691902, s/c 30-94-28 giving your name as the reference, and emailing the details requested on the slip to jennyfrost@waitrose.com with a copy to treasurer@tvemf.org. Alternatively post the completed form with a cheque payable to TVEMF, to Jenny Frost, 109 Kent Rd, Halling, Rochester, Kent ME2 1AT. Applications will be acknowledged by email. If you do not have an email address and want an acknowledgement you should enclose a SAE. If you are unable to attend, please let Jenny know as soon as possible by email or text (07740 951253) so your place can be offered to someone else. Late cancellations received after 6th April may forfeit the course fee if they cannot be replaced from the waiting list.

Registered charity no. 900284

TVEMF/EEMF 'Pleasures of the plains' 15th April 2018

PLEASE USE CAPITALS

Name:
Address:

Voice/instrument:

E-mail address:

Telephone number:

I enclose a cheque payable to 'TVEMF' for £

Any dietary requirements if having lunch: