EASTERN EARLY MUSIC FORUM

Music of Celebration: Praetorius, Schütz and Gabrieli

Friday–Sunday 8–10 October 2021

Thaxted Parish Church of St John the Baptist

Directed by Patrick Craig

2021 marks the 400th Anniversary of the death of Michael Praetorius, who died, allegedly, on his 50th birthday. We shall revel in our release post-lockdown with a celebration of his life and influence featuring the spectacular 16-part setting of *In dulcl jubilo*. Michael Praetorius was greatly influenced by the development of polychoral music at San Marco in Venice led by Giovanni Gabrieli, and our programme will also include Gabrieli's *In ecclesiis*, a festival motet which thanks God, our help and hope. Later on Heinrich Schütz developed this style further in his own four-choir setting of Psalm 150 – *Alleluja, Lobet den Herren*, which lists specific instruments in both the text and the score. All three composers provide us with music of celebration, and opportunities for trumpets, trombones, oboes, sackbuts, cornets, strings and continuo as well as solo and choir singers.

The music will be rehearsed over the weekend, ideally in sessions open to the public. The weekend will finish with a workshop performance late Sunday afternoon.

Patrick Craig has enjoyed a varied career as a countertenor and conductor. A long-standing member of St Paul's Cathedral Choir and The Cardinall's Musick, he sang with the Tallis Scholars for 20 years and is increasingly in demand as a conductor. In 2018 he made his Proms debut conducting the Tallis Scholars, and has guest directed The Cardinall's Musick at festivals in Brighton, Lichfield, Brinkburn and Aldeburgh. In 1997 he founded Aurora Nova, this country's foremost professional all-female choir. He leads workshops for singers and instrumentalists focusing on early vocal repertoire, of which the Biber Missa Salisburgensis weekend in Thaxted for TV/EEMF in 2019 was perhaps the most spectacular.

Music will be provided. Pitch is A=440.

Coffee will be available Friday evening for anyone coming to the limited rehearsal and from 9.30 Saturday and Sunday morning, with work beginning promptly at 10. The 'workshop performance' will be held at 5.00pm on Sunday 10th October, in the Church of St John the Baptist, to which guests are invited. Admission is free, with a retiring collection.

The cost for the weekend will be around of £100 for members of EEMF or other Fora/£110 for non-members, including score, teas and coffees, and Sunday lunch. Full scores may be purchased in advance. Please ask Ellen Sarewitz for details.

Schedule:

Friday 8th October

7–9.30pm Soloists and continuo in the Guildhall (the church will be open in the afternoon for informal rehearsals)

Saturday 9th October

10am–4.45pm Instruments and voices in Thaxted Parish Church and Guildhall (coffee and tea in church)

Sunday 10th October

10am–1pm All instruments and voices, in Bolford Street Hall, followed by light lunch

2–4.15pm All instruments and voices in Thaxted Parish Church

5–6.00pm Performance in Thaxted Parish Church

Please complete the Jotform https://form.jotform.com/211937358387367 if you have not applied already. In September, once the music has been scored, and final costs confirmed, we will follow up with further details and a request for payment, preferably by bank transfer.