

Eastern Early Music Forum



Sebastianist Music from Renaissance Portugal

**Saturday 9th March
2024**

A workshop for singers
tutored by **Rory McCleery**

Horningsea Village Hall,
Cambridge, CB25 9JG

'Veni Domine, et noli tardare'

Musical settings of disconsolate devotional and biblical passages often presented Renaissance musicians with an effective and potentially covert vehicle for political commentary, and such is the case with works by many of the Portuguese composers living under the rule of the Spanish Habsburgs. These musicians expressed through their compositions both the sadness of the people at being governed by a foreign power, and also the longing for the restoration of the Portuguese monarchy. This sentiment found expression in the cult of 'Sebastianism', a belief that the young King Sebastian, who vanished in 1578 during an ill-advised military campaign in Morocco, might one day return to reclaim his throne. This was not to be, and it would not be until the accession of the music-loving John, Duke of Braganza as John (João) IV in December 1640, that the throne would be reclaimed from Spain.

Join award-winning conductor Rory McCleery, in his second visit to EEMF, for an exploration of this fascinating and beautiful repertoire, including plangently expressive motets and mass movements by Duarte Lobo (plus the Palestrina motet upon which Lobo's mass was based), Manuel Cardoso and Estêvão Lopes Morago. Music will be provided.

Rory McCleery is an internationally-renowned and award-winning choral director, countertenor & musicologist. He is particularly associated with the choral music of the Renaissance and Baroque, and is also increasingly known for his affinity with the music of contemporary British composers. Rory has appeared at prestigious venues including the Wigmore Hall and BBC Proms and has directed choirs and led masterclasses and workshops in the USA and Europe. He features regularly on radio and television, including the recent BBC2 series 'Art That Made Us'. Rory is Artistic Director of chamber vocal ensemble The Marian Consort, which has an extensive discography on both Delphian and LINN Records, including many first recordings which have garnered a variety of accolades and awards. His most recent CD is 'A Winged Woman' on LINN Records. Rory is also active as a countertenor, performing as a soloist with ensembles including The Dunedin Consort, English Consort and Ensemble 1604.

Practical information: The workshop will begin with coffee or tea at 10.00 am, with the music starting at 10.30; we will finish at 5.00pm. Lunch is not provided but there are two pubs in the village and Scotsdales Garden Centre, all at close walking distance. Or, of course, you may bring your own.

Venue: Horningsea is just off the A14 to the north of Cambridge. The venue is easy to find: it is on the main road going through the village. Scotsdales Garden Centre is on the right-hand side of the road, and the village hall is shortly after it on the same side of the road. There is parking at the venue. The full address of the hall is Horningsea Pavilion, Millennium Green, High Street, Horningsea, Cambridge, CB25 9JG and it can be viewed on the website <http://www.hallsforhire.org.uk/halls/horningsea-pavilion-3/>

Transport:

If you are driving:

- from the west there is a junction from the A14 to Horningsea just after the major junction to the A10 and Ely.
- from the M11 take the A14 east (signposted Newmarket and Ely) and then just exit the A14 at Horningsea as above.
- from the east please note there is no exit for Horningsea from the A14. Either exit at the A1303 and navigate through Fen Ditton, or go to the A10 Milton/Ely turnoff and do a u-turn and come back along the A14 – it really is a short distance between A10 turn off and the Horningsea turn off.

At the time of writing there are roadworks in Fen Ditton which may cause a short delay.

Unfortunately, there is no public transport to Horningsea. If you will be travelling by public transport we will try and arrange lifts for you from Cambridge (ideally Cambridge North railway station, which is not far away, but other pick-up points will be possible). If you need help with transport please indicate this on the booking form.

Car drivers, if you would be willing to help anyone using public transport, please indicate this on the booking form and we will try to match people up with lifts.

Health precautions:

Covid seems now to be just one of several respiratory viruses circulating, but there has been no shortage of viruses over the winter so far. We are still keen to protect people's health so:

- There will be some ventilation, so please dress accordingly.
- You should not attend if you have symptoms that could indicate Covid, flu, or indeed other illnesses (e.g. fever, coughing, loss or change to your sense of smell, taste or appetite, shortness of breath, feeling tired or exhausted, aching body or headache, sore throat, runny nose, diarrhoea, feeling sick).
- It would be deemed a courtesy if you would take a lateral flow test before attending. This is with a view to avoiding passing on asymptomatic Covid.

If you are unable to attend as a result of ill-health your fees will be refunded to you.

Cost: £20 for members of EEMF or of other Fora, or £22 for non-members.

Please apply by the end of February to enable the correct number of scores to be printed. To apply please complete and return the attached Word document in any way you prefer (or just put the essential information in an email) and send it to Janet at janetmtanburn@gmail.com or send it by post to Janet Tanburn, 5 Meadow Rise, Bourn, Cambridge, CB23 2TG (tel 01954 718842).

Payment by bank transfer should be made to

A/c name: Eastern Early Music Forum (business account with HSBC bank)

A/c No: 33888401 Sort code: 40-16-08

Reference: McCleery [your name].

Cheques will, of course, continue to be accepted.