



# NWEMF

North West Early Music Forum

Charity registration number 508218

NEWSLETTER

**JUNE 2025**

## **From the editor**

The Radio 3 breakfast programme recently asked listeners to share their memories of how they were introduced to music as children and especially who had inspired them. It was good to hear of the many who had experienced inspirational music teachers, youth orchestras, school choirs and the like but poignant to think of the generation of school pupils at the moment for whom there is no music service to provide the instrumental lessons, orchestras and jazz bands.

However, this got me thinking about how we all got into early music. With the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of NWEMF coming up in 2027 it seemed a good moment to share our experiences. If you would like to do this, please send me an account of your journey into early music, how you discovered NWEMF or anything else of interest. I would like to run this from September through every issue up to the start of the anniversary year (or even beyond). With the numbers on our membership list at the moment it shouldn't be too hard to fill a page or two each time. I hope to avoid the arm-twist if I can, so don't be shy - get writing.

With thanks to those who have written workshop reports.

Elizabeth Dodd

## THE COMMITTEE

### **PRESIDENTS**

Roger Wilkes  
David Allen

**VICE-PRESIDENT** Andrew Mayes

**CHAIRMAN** Kirsten Flores

**SECRETARY** John Huthnance

**TREASURER** Anna Wright

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** Elizabeth Dodd

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY** Vacant

**WEBMASTER** Kirsten Flores

**COMMITTEE** Peter Syrus, Phil Parkinson, Peter Syrus and Tim Gannicliffe,

Student representatives: Bryan Au Yeung, Amber Moeller

**Websites:** [www.nwemf.org](http://www.nwemf.org) <https://www.facebook.com/NWEMF>  
**Committee members' contact details can now be found in the password protected area of the website.**

**Copy date:** For all issues, the copy date is usually the start of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the preceding month. Next date: August 18<sup>th</sup> – **HOWEVER**, as I shall probably be on holiday shortly afterwards the September issue is likely to be late. ED.

## **Membership news**

### **Ailie Kerrane**

Anyone who knew Ailie will be shocked and deeply saddened to learn of her recent death. Although I was fortunate enough latterly to sing with her in various enterprises in south Manchester, my most enduring and endearing memories go way back to NWEMF summer schools in Ambleside. Ailie was at the heart of a dedicated cluster of regulars from the Hebden Bridge and Todmorden area. For one session I picked a quintet from their number for a one-voice-per-part exploration of Monteverdi madrigals. I forget which we sang. If 'Quel augellin' wasn't one of them it should have been. On a hot afternoon in the Beehive (ah, how evocative is that?) we flung the windows and doors open, inviting participation from the 'real' birds. Ailie was one of the two sopranos weaving their way deliciously through this little masterpiece, and I can still recall her sunny face and bubbling enthusiasm. Ambleside was like that. Ailie was like that. Both were special, and both are sorely missed.

Peter Syrus

Like Peter I knew Ailie from the Ambleside Summer School. But also, in 2014 I took over the role of tutor organiser on the Norvis summer school in Durham and was surprised and delighted to find Ailie's name on the list as a harpsichord student. Part of the job was to organise groups for the second session of the day and to assign students to different ensembles. It was good to know that whichever trio-sonata group I put Ailie with she would be an asset. She continued for a further two years and added her lovely personality to the course.

Elizabeth Dodd

### **Roger Gibson**

We are sorry to report the passing, in hospital, of our friend & staunch supporter, Roger. He has joined the bass voices &/or instrumentalists (with bass & alto curtals) at numerous NWEMF workshops over very many years. His principal EMF, however, was the Midland group. He is also known to have played bassoon & contrabassoon with the Chester Philharmonic Orchestra.

Other courses that he patronised were Beauchamp Early Music week at Malvern College and its successor Gloucestershire Academy of Music Adult Early Music Course. A local instrumental group that he has enriched with his unfailing support is Sale Cornetts & Sackbuts. He leaves his wife, Marie, a soprano and loyal NWEMF member, and fond memories of his music making, good conversation and humour.

Bob Foster

### **Membership Matters**

- a A hearty welcome to our new members:- Alicja Chawluk, Rebecca Dixon, Robert Frost, Helen Jackson, Timothy Morris.
- b Resignations:- none since April.
- c We currently have 151 members, two of whom are Life Members.
- d By the way, when renewing your membership (£10) you do not need to fill in a form, just make the payment clearly associated with your name.
- e If any of the 33% of members who does not currently pay by **standing order** would like to complete a standing order mandate, message me to ask for a form. This would make the administration so much easier (avoiding the need for (possibly repeated) e-mail & telephone reminders). The next easiest method of making payments is to remit by BACS to the **N W E M F** (note spaces) bank using **Sort code 09-01-56 & Account number 79658106**, with **your Surname & Initial(s)** as the **Reference**. This method can be used for workshop fees as well as membership dues. **The aim is to minimise the use of cheques & postage.**
- f If you have not noted the **password** for the Members area of the web-site, just message me.

The web-site is in the process of being redesigned, do take a look.

Bob Foster, Membership Secretary ([nwemf.membership@gmail.com](mailto:nwemf.membership@gmail.com))

### **From the Chair**

As we approach the mid-point of the year, now is a good time to look back on the workshops we've had so far, as well as the four to come. Our March workshop with Philip Thorby saw our largest attendance rate for some years with nearly 60 joining us in Didsbury. We have been to two new venues in Wilmslow and Bolton, and we've enjoyed a lot of home-baked cakes – thanks to everyone for making these workshops so enjoyable, and for writing the reviews which form an

invaluable part of NWEMF's history, four of which you can read in this newsletter.

And although there has been sad news as we say goodbye to a couple of old friends and NWEMF supporters, there are many things to look forward to. Our next workshop in Chester on 14 June sees the welcome return of George Parris exploring the music of Guiseppe Corsi da Celano, a composer with a chequered past to rival Gesualdo's. Then after the summer break, Rory McCleery of The Marian Consort is leading a workshop for singers on Portuguese polyphony in Liverpool on 13 September – this will be a very popular workshop, so it's best to book early. We're back in Manchester on 11 October for a strings and recorders workshop with Ali Kinder, and we're finishing off the year in grand style in Sale with Gawain Glenton on 8 November with the music of Johann Stadlmayr written for the Habsburg Courts. Applications for the last three workshops of the year will be up on the website next month, so keep an eye out and apply early to secure your place.

And last but by no means least, we are delighted to welcome two student representatives to the committee – Bryan Au Yeung (RNCM) and Amber Moeller (University of Manchester) who are getting in touch with students interested in finding out about early music. One of their initiatives has been to set up an Instagram account (@northwest.emf), which will be another important way to reach new people keen to explore this wonderful repertoire.

There's a lot to be positive about – see you at the next workshop!  
Kirsten Flores [nwemf.chair@gmail.com](mailto:nwemf.chair@gmail.com)

### **Forthcoming workshops**

13 September Liverpool Rory McCleery The music of Lusitano and other Renaissance composers. Voices

1 October Stretford, Manchester. Ali Kinder Renaissance Italian canzonas. Bowed strings and recorders.

8 November Sale, Manchester. Gawain Glenton The Sound of Power - Johann Stadlmayr's Polychoral Music for the Habsburg Courts

## **Workshop reports**

**22 March 2025 Didsbury**

**Valentini's Missa Diligam te Domine a 12 with Philip Thorby**

Nearly sixty singers and instrumentalists gathered at Didsbury Baptist Church for another round of early music fun, welcoming Philip Thorby to guide us through the musical genius behind Missa Diligam te, Domine a 12 by Venetian Renaissance composer Giovanni Valentini (ca. 1582 – 1649). The piece got its name for being a parody of the motet Diligam te Domine a 8 composed by his teacher, Giovanni Gabrieli (1554 / 1557? – 1612).

We first began working on the Gloria - Philip decoded the text with us and guided us through on creating musical shape and directions by introducing the different vocal qualities of singing Renaissance music:

- Soave – sweet and gentle; elegant
- Mediocre – moderate, neutral; not too loud in volume
- Vivacemente – very lively; joyous
- Appassionato – passionate; with intensity
- Solennità – solemn declamation; with grandeur
- Esclamazione – exclamation; with excitement, energetic

With much exploration of transitioning between different qualities, the tone and colour that we delivered were evidently richer than adopting the usual approach of dynamic contrast.

The Credo is the part of the liturgy where the fundamental articles of beliefs of Christianity is stated. Nowadays, it is a rarity to have the opportunity to sing the Credo from Renaissance mass settings because of its length; However, we were very lucky to have time to sing the

Credo with beautiful accompaniment of viols, recorders, sackbuts and the dulcian.



Philip Thorby

After lunch we returned continuing to the Crucifixus section of the Credo. The texture of the Crucifixus, compared to other sections and movements was thin as Valentini wrote this for one choir only. The second and third choirs joined in later, singing in imitation and reiterating the thematic incipits of the original motet. Finally, after working much on making musical entries energetically and accurately for the Et iterum section and the remainder of the Credo, we examined the final Amen, a recapitulation of the Amen from the Gloria where we looked out for the transitions between tactus aequalis and tactus inaequalis.

We closed this wonderful day by singing through the Sanctus and Kyrie. A Vote of Thanks: A big thank you to Philip for his energetic and expert direction, and the NWEMF Committee for all the hard efforts behind the scenes. Finally, we are very grateful to members who shared their baking talents with attendees by letting us indulge in delicious lemon drizzle cakes and ginger fruity flapjacks.

## For Your Interest: Music Recommendations

If you are thirsting for more Giovanni Valentini, you certainly be delighted to know mainstream music streaming platforms do provide albums featuring his music!

Valentini: Motets and Madrigals for 2 Sopranos Ilaria Geroldi, Marina Morelli, Stefano Molardi & La Moderna Prattica

Valentini: Secondo libro de madrigali Les Canards Chantants & A. C. R. O. N. Y. M.

Valentini: Musiche Concertate 1619 Markus Brutscher, Harry van der Kamp, Capella Ducale, Cologne Musica Fiata & Roland Wilson.

Bryan AU YEUNG

## **5 April 2025 Bolton**

### **Music for the Chapel Royal with Christopher Roberts**

This is my second event with the group and, being the first to arrive my head was above the parapet, leading me to volunteer to write an account.

I thought initially we would never get through all the music. The conductor pulled us through without too many scrapes. No shouting or bad temper. It is very complex music and sometimes split into three bass parts (5 basses being present) bottom d's were required and delivered. Everyone was most pleasant. Of course time changes are always an issue but after a few goes it was fine. It was good to have a string band, it's a rarity to sing with instruments, a great treat.

I dread the 'an AGM will be part of the day' plan, but this was honestly so swift I barely had time to eat the buns on offer.

I enjoyed a walk into the town in the sunshine and also looked into the church which is imposing. The event was so well-run congratulations to those involved. So tired after the day and a sing through at the end I

was offered a lift home by one of my section, I was driven home and discovered a recorder playing opportunity as well as having some interesting chat, a perfect ending for me.

Martin Godden

### **And here is another take**

I had the pleasure of participating in a NWEMF (North West Early Music Forum) workshop on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April. I had never heard of this organisation before 12<sup>th</sup> March when an email sent by Chair, Kirsten Flores, to Preston Symphony Orchestra landed in my mailbox.

It was advertised as Music for the Royal Chapel for strings and voices and was an invitation for string players to attend. Well, if its music fit for a king, got to be good, right?

I did a quick google search for more information from the links in the email and then asked a friend who is a cellist if he fancied it, and we promptly booked our places.

I had no idea what to expect. I let my imagination run a bit wild and had visions of eccentric hardcore re-enactors complete with period dress and matching instruments. I was only slightly disappointed but also relieved to find nothing of the sort; just a very friendly, welcoming and enthusiastic group of musicians.

I had not been there for very long before agreeing to the request to write a review for the newsletter. So, in addition to being part of the band of players for the singers, I paid a little bit more attention to the finer details so that I could give a fair account of the day and my experience.

There was a mix of ages, young and old-er, particularly as they have recently consolidated their collaboration with RNCM by electing a student representative to their committee and some college students - string players and singers were at the workshop.



*Chris Roberts*

The day followed the same format that I have come to expect from similar workshops although some groups like to call them playdays, but with the notable addition of a short warm up lead by Dr Chris Roberts from the National Centre for Early Music in York – I think I need to share that with Preston Symphony for their rehearsals. And then a brief background to the pieces by way of introduction.

We were expertly guided by Chris through 3 pieces from the coronation of King James II by Purcell & John Blow. The pieces were well chosen with lovely harmonies and beautifully sung by the choir.

We ended the day with a “performance” of the pieces, and it was wonderfully uplifting on a sunny spring day in Bolton as the music resonated and filled the hall.

The day flew by. It was professional and well-organised but at the same time relaxed and friendly. The information provided in advance was detailed including full programme, links to free downloads of the pieces for practice in advance, advice that instruments would be tuned

to A=440, and a very helpful photograph of the entrance to the car park.

It was straightforward to book and pay and I received a prompt acknowledgement. At £25 it was good value for money.

Refreshments, music, and name badges were provided on the day. I also did get to see a stunning bass viol and baroque bow.

Dorret Conway

## **17 May 2025 Lancaster**

### **The secret spirituality of Prioris, Pomponio and Palestrina**

#### **Tutor: Deborah Catterall**

An intriguing title. Difficult to demonstrate really and impossible to prove without written evidence concerning the meditations of their hearts as they wrote their music. Nevertheless, given that all these composers would have learnt much of their trade in the choir stalls and organ lofts of the great catholic cathedrals of the Netherlands and Italy, it is a distinct possibility that the spiritual atmospheres of these institutions would have rubbed off on them to a greater or lesser degree.

Deborah Catterall, without trying to prove that their personal spirituality directly inspired their individual setting of the texts, very effectively demonstrated in some of the pieces that the spiritual inspiration of the sacred texts was beautifully and deliberately reflected in the music.

This was very clear in Pomponio Nenna's (1556-1608) setting of *Tenebrae factae sunt*, a responsory for Good Friday and describing Jesus's crucifixion and death. The intensity of the opening emotional darkness, his loud and repeated despairing exclamations, the collapse of his spirit, the bowing of his head - they were musically all there. So too a wonderful hint of the resurrection at the last. No bare fifth,

nothing minor, but surprisingly, a delicious major third.



Palestrina's (1525-1594) *Missa Papae Marcelli*, similarly can be understood as reflecting a profound understanding of the words. Deborah very movingly described the *Kyrie* and the *Agnus Dei* as having "The quality of mercy [that] is not strained; It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven." (Portia, *Merchant of Venice*). Just right for God's mercy, and beautifully described in Palestrina's soaring and interweaving lines.

However, I found that the other pieces we sang, *Dei genitrix virgo semper Maria* and *Quam pulchra es*, (Johannes Prioris, 1460-1514), as well as *Oime mi scacci* (Pomponio) were both more difficult to deduce a spirituality from. Mary had nearly a page, I admit, but otherwise the music, for me at any rate, failed to reveal a convincing spiritual genesis although Pomponio's frequent use of Gesualdo-like harmonies painted love, yearning and death in intense colours. I am not saying there was no such thing as a spiritual genesis in these texts. There may well have been, it just wasn't obvious to me. I'm not saying either that we shouldn't try to find our own spiritual meanings within the music - we most certainly should. This was a surprising lesson and insight that I was able to take away from the workshop; it is actually important to

look for the spiritual runes in all sacred music of this period, whenever we sing it or listen to it.

Enough of that serious stuff! The setting was lovely - a modern and acoustically sound chapel in the depths of the University of Cumbria's peaceful campus, a glorious sunny day, enough singers and instrumentalists to make a harmonious sound, if not a 'joyful noise', and from our esteemed leader, excellent tips for singing legato and breathing and producing good strong tone, and very importantly, reliable ways of avoiding a multitude of different pitches in response to 'can I have an F'. Delicious cakes (thanks to Christine), comfortable seats (perhaps too comfortable!), and the sight of a wonderful-looking baroque organ all added to the experience of a good day. Maybe the organ can be factored in to the next NWEMF day there?

Chris Martin

## DIARY OF EVENTS

*NB. listing is no guarantee that the workshop or concert will take place. Please check before committing.*

### NWEMF Workshops

#### June

14 George Parris, *Celano Mass in luna* for voices and instruments, All Saints, Hoole, Chester

#### September

13 or 20 Rory McCleery, Lusitano/Portuguese composers, for voices, St Agnes Church, Ullet Road, Liverpool

#### October

11 Alison Kinder, Renaissance Italian canzonas, viols and recorders, St Matthews Stretford

#### November

8 Gawain Glenton, Palestrina 500, voices and instruments, St. Mary's Church Hall, Sale, Manchester

## February 2026

14 Lisa Colton

## March 2026

21 David Allinson

## April 2026

11 Rory Johnson

## June 2026

13 Peter Wendland, Polychoral music in 8, 12 and 13 parts for voices and instruments

## September 2026

12 or 19 Stephanie Dyer

## October 2026

17 Lizzie Gutteridge, Medieval music

## November 2026

14 or 21 Peter Syrus

## Non-NWEMF Workshops.

Please send information to: [jmh@noc.ac.uk](mailto:jmh@noc.ac.uk). I actively research workshops of contiguous EMFs (**BMEMF**, **EMFScotland**, **MEMF**, **NEEMF**), **Benslow**, **Jackdaws**, **Lacock**, **Rondo & West Dean**. For other Summer Schools and workshops see the **Contacts** section and <https://earlymusicdiary.org.uk/>.

## June

1-7 **Lacock** for invited singers with repertoire from the Eton Choirbook and Gesualdo's Tenebrae Responsories, with JanJoost van Elburg. <https://www.lacock.org/courses/monteconero-music-party-2025>

- 1-8 **Run by Singers.** *Portuguese Polyphony*, Braga, with David Ogden.  
<https://www.runbysingers.org/braga-singing-holiday>
- 2-5 **Benslow.** Gregorian Chant: The Joys of Singing with John Rowlands-Pritchard.  
<http://benslowmusic.org/index.asp?PageID=2544>
- 6-8 Country Choral Weekend Workshop- An Elizabethan Songbook with Rory Johnston, High Trenhouse, Malham Moor, Settle BD24 9PR <https://tinyurl.com/Country-Choral>
- 7 **NEEMF**, for voices and instruments (A=440); *Misa en Grenada*, sacred and secular works by Pedro de Escobar, with Richard MacKenzie, Calcutt and Forest Moor Village Hall, Calcutt, Knaresborough HG5 8JF. <https://neemf.weebly.com/neemf-workshop-diary.html>
- 8-14 **Lacock**, Music at Monteconero centred on the music of Guerrero, Lobo and Victoria, with Rory McCleery.  
<https://www.lacock.org/courses/music-at-monteconero-2025>
- 14 Choral day with Martin Lightowler at St Mark's Church, Sheffield S10 2SE. For experienced singers who can confidently sight read on the day or can prepare in advance.  
[martinlightowler@gmail.com](mailto:martinlightowler@gmail.com) or text 07948 407 209. Music provided.
- 16-19 **Benslow.** Baroque Orchestra: A European Odyssey with Theresa Caudle, Mark Caudle, Claire Williams.  
<http://benslowmusic.org/index.asp?PageID=2565>
- 19/20-23 **Benslow.** Summer Viols with Alison Crum, Alison Kinder, Ibi Aziz, Peter Wendland.  
<http://benslowmusic.org/index.asp?PageID=2597>
- 21 **MEMF.** Thomas Morley – workshop for voices with Will Dawes and Katie Bank. <https://memf.org.uk/event/thomas-morley-workshop-for-voices-with-will-dawes-and-katie-bank/>
- 22-26 Cambridge Woodwind Makers, *Natural Trumpet making*,  
<https://www.cambridgemakers.org/home/other-cambridge-makers-events/>
- 28 **BMEMF.** For singers and instrumentalists with Patrick Craig.  
<https://www.bmemf.org.uk/>

## July

- 6-11 **Lacock**, Skipton: The Baldwin Partbooks, Tudor music with Bill Carslake. <https://www.lacock.org/courses/skipton-2025-the-baldwin-partbooks>
- 13-18 Cambridge Woodwind Makers, *Baroque Oboe making* with Paul van der Linden, <https://www.cambridgemakers.org/home/other-cambridge-makers-events/>
- 19 **MEMF**, *Schein's Banchetto Musicale* with Alison Kinder. <http://memf.org.uk/events/>
- 20-25 Beauchamp Early Music Week, Malvern College, residential course for singers and players of Renaissance instruments. <https://earlymusicdiary.org.uk/event/4246/>
- 20-27 Cambridge Early Music Baroque course, voices and viols. <https://www.cambridgeearlymusic.org/>
- 27-31 **Run by Singers**. *Lincoln Summer Schools* with Patrick Craig & Matt Finch. <https://www.runbysingers.org/lincoln-singing-holiday>
- 27 – 3 Aug Cambridge Early Music Renaissance course, voices and viols. <https://www.cambridgeearlymusic.org/>

## August

- 2-9 NORVIS Early Music Summer School, Barnard Castle School, <https://norvis.org.uk/>
- 2-9 Music Summer School & Festival, Gresham's School, Holt, Norfolk, with Stile Antico courses *Vocal Ensembles* and *Sing with Stile*. <https://www.stileantico.co.uk/events/2025/08/02/music-summer-school-festival-2>
- 3-10 **Run by Singers**. *Assisi Summer School* with Rory McCleery. <https://www.runbysingers.org/assisi-singing-holiday>
- 4-9 The Great Malvern Festival of Singing, Malvern College, WR14 3DF <https://earlymusicdiary.org.uk/event/4459/>
- 4-11 Recorder summer school, Bishop Burton College. <https://recordersummerschool.org.uk/>

- 8-11 **Benslow.** *Baroque Buffet* with Julia Bishop, Sophie Middleditch, David Pollock.  
<https://benslowmusic.org/index.asp?PageID=3528>
- 10-16 **Higham Hall.** With Deborah Catterall (head tutor, voice), Elizabeth Dodd (viol, Renaissance dance), Philip Guar (recorder), Richard MacKenzie (lute), Michael Piraner (recorder).  
<https://highamhall.com/course/early-music-summer-school-2025/>
- 10-17 Baroque Week Summer School, Queen Anne's School Caversham, Berkshire; *Visiting Vienna: Exploring Music at the Habsburg Court*; <https://earlymusicdiary.org.uk/event/4210/>
- 11-15 Cambridge Woodwind Makers, *Recorder making* with Jacqueline Sorel, 1 place left,  
<https://www.cambridgemakers.org/home/other-cambridge-makers-events/>
- 16-23 Irish recorder and viol course, Termonfechin, county Louth,  
<https://irishrecorderandviolcourse.org>
- 18-21 **Benslow.** Baroque Trios with Zarek Trio: OJ Ruthven, Rebecca Harris, Jan Zahourek.  
<https://benslowmusic.org/index.asp?PageID=3581>
- 18-22 Historically Informed Summer School, Bishop Burton College.  
<https://www.hiss.org.uk/>
- 19-24 Cambridge Woodwind Makers, *Baroque Oboe making* with Paul van der Linden, <https://www.cambridgemakers.org/home/other-cambridge-makers-events/>
- 31 – 5 Sept. **Lacock.** *Woodbridge Music Party*, by invitation: Tye, Parsons, Sheppard, Clemens and Manchicourt in a historic Suffolk town, with Eamonn Dougan.  
<https://www.lacock.org/courses/woodbridge-music-party-2025>
- 31 – 7 Sept. **Run by Singers.** *Parma and the Court of Mantua* with David Skinner. <https://www.runbysingers.org/parma-singing-holiday>

## September

- 5-7 **Jackdaws.** *Stylish Baroque* with Theresa Caudle & Alastair Ross.  
<https://www.jackdaws.org.uk/events/3693/27> cancelled?
- 9-11 Recorders at Rydal Hall, Cumbria; Intermediate.  
<https://www.marytyers.co.uk/>
- 11-14 **Benslow.** Madrigal and Partsongs with James Oldfield, Simon Gregory.
- 21-26 **Lacock.** Gourdon Spem in alium, for invited singers in a historic town in SW France; the central work will be the 40-part motet by Thomas Tallis, *Spem in alium*.  
<https://www.lacock.org/courses/gourdon-music-party-2025>
- 27 **NEEMF,** *Ludus Danielis - The Play of Daniel*, for singers and instrumentalists, led by Trouvere (Gill Page, Paul Leigh) and Richard de Winter. Burley-in-Wharfedale Methodist Church.  
<https://neemf.weebly.com/neemf-workshop-diary.html>
- 27 **MEMF.** For Voices and Instruments with Philip Thorby. Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Blossomfield Road, Solihull, B91 1LG.  
<http://memf.org.uk/events/>
- \_29 – 2 Oct. **Benslow.** Purcell for Singers & Continuo with Emily Owen, Satoko Doi-Luck.  
<https://benslowmusic.org/index.asp?PageID=3549>

## October

- 5-12 **Run by Singers.** *Ghent Early Music Week* with Patrick Craig.  
<https://www.runbysingers.org/ghent-singing-holiday>
- 8-12 **Run by Singers.** *The Glory of Venice* with Andrea Brown.  
<https://www.runbysingers.org/venice-singing-holiday>
- 13-15/16 **Rondo Viol Academy.** Intermediate and Upper Intermediate, St Katharine's Parmoor, Henley-on-Thames.  
[www.rondoviolacademy.co.uk](http://www.rondoviolacademy.co.uk)
- 18 MEMF. Vivaldi *Gloria* with Ben England.  
<http://memf.org.uk/events/>

- 19-24 **Lacock.** *The Music of Florence*: Verdelot, Corteccia, Du Fay: a course exploring the music of renaissance Florence, directed by Rory Wainwright Johnston.  
<https://www.lacock.org/courses/the-music-of-florence-2025>
- 21-23 Recorders at Rydal Hall, Cumbria; Advanced.  
<https://www.marytyers.co.uk/courses-workshops--playing-days.html>
- 24-27 **Benslow**; Flute, Lute and Cello Baroque Weekend with Sam Brown, Julian Metzger, Lisa Nelsen.
- 25 **BMEMF.** *Female composers of 17th Century Italy* with Emily White, for singers and instrumentalists. The Drill Hall, Lower Church Street, Chepstow NP16 5HJ. <https://www.bmemf.org.uk/>
- 27-31 Cambridge Woodwind Makers, *Recorder making* with Tim Cranmore, <https://www.cambridgemakers.org/home/other-cambridge-makers-events/>

## November

- 1-7 Cambridge Woodwind Makers, *Chalumeau making* with Guy Cowley and Daniel Bingham,  
<https://www.cambridgemakers.org/home/other-cambridge-makers-events/>
- 17- 19/20 **Rondo Viol Academy.** Pre-formed consorts, Foxhill Retreat House, WA6 6XB. [www.rondoviolacademy.co.uk](http://www.rondoviolacademy.co.uk)
- 17-21 Halsway. *Page to Performance: Medieval Music*,  
<https://halswaymanor.org.uk/event/page-to-performance-medieval-music-2025/>
- 20 – 22/23. **Benslow.** Consorted Viols with Alison Crum, Ibi Aziz, Peter Wendland, John Bryan.  
<https://benslowmusic.org/index.asp?PageID=3568>
- 24-26 **Benslow** Recorder Festival with Alyson Lewin, Caroline Jones, Miriam Monaghan.  
<https://benslowmusic.org/index.asp?PageID=3569>
- 29 **BMEMF.** *The life and music of Thomas Morley* for singers with Will Dawes and Katie Bank. Burton Court, Eardisland, Nr Leominster, HR6 9DN <https://www.bmemf.org.uk/>

## February 2026

28 **BMEMF.** *El Parnasso Hispano*, indigenous Latin American music workshop for singers and continuo.  
<https://www.bmemf.org.uk/>

### Contacts for workshops

**Accord.** [www.moulindecajarc.com](http://www.moulindecajarc.com).

**Baroque Week.** Queen Anne's School, Caversham, Berks. 01747 830625,  
[info@baroque-week.org.uk](mailto:info@baroque-week.org.uk), [www.baroque-week.org.uk](http://www.baroque-week.org.uk)

**Benslow Music Trust**, Little Benslow Hills, Ibberson Way, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 9RB. 01462 459446, [info@benslow.org](mailto:info@benslow.org),  
[www.benslow.org](http://www.benslow.org)

**BMEMF**, [jjrothery1@gmail.com](mailto:jjrothery1@gmail.com)

**BREMFBrighton Early Music Festival**, [www.bremf.org.uk](http://www.bremf.org.uk)

**Cambridge Early Music**, <https://www.CambridgeEarlyMusic.org>

**Cambridge Woodwind Makers.** [www.cambridgewoodwindmakers.org](http://www.cambridgewoodwindmakers.org)

**Chalemie**, [www.chalemie.co.uk](http://www.chalemie.co.uk)

**Consort de Danse.** <http://www.ukbaroquedance.com> Philippa Waite,  
07976 374482.

**Dartington Summer School.** <https://www.dartington.org/whats-on/programme/summer-school/priority-booking/>

**Dillington House**, Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 9DT 01460 258648,  
[info@dillington.com](mailto:info@dillington.com)[www.dillington.com](http://www.dillington.com)

**Dorset Bach Cantata Club**, Sturminster Newton High School, Bath Road, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 1DT.  
<http://www.dorsetbach.org.uk/>, 01935 425383.

**Easter Early Music Course** for recorder & viol players.  
[admin@easterearlymusiccourse.org.uk](mailto:admin@easterearlymusiccourse.org.uk)  
[easterearlymusiccourse.org.uk](http://easterearlymusiccourse.org.uk)

**EEMF**, [committee@eemf.org.uk](mailto:committee@eemf.org.uk), [www.eemf.org.uk](http://www.eemf.org.uk)

**EMFScotland**, [www.emfscotland.org.uk](http://www.emfscotland.org.uk)

**Halsway Manor**, Halsway Lane, Crowcombe, Somerset, TA4 4BD 01984 618274 [office@halswaymanor.org.uk](mailto:office@halswaymanor.org.uk) ,  
[www.halswaymanor.org.uk](http://www.halswaymanor.org.uk)

**Hawkwood College**, Painswick Old Road, Stroud, GL6 7QW. 01453  
759034,  
[info@hawkwoodcollege.co.uk](mailto:info@hawkwoodcollege.co.uk), [www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk](http://www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk)

**Higham Hall College**, Bassenthwaite Lake, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13  
9SH. Details from 017687 76276, [admin@highamhall.com](mailto:admin@highamhall.com),  
[www.highamhall.com](http://www.highamhall.com)

**HISS** (Historically Informed Summer School),  
<http://www.hiss.org.uk/welcome>,  
[hissenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:hissenquiries@gmail.com) 07942 264305

**Historical Dance and Music Summer School**;  
<https://historicaldance.org.uk/summer-school>

**Irish Recorder & Viol Course**. An Grianán Adult Education College,  
Termonfechin, Co. Louth, [info@irishrecorderandviolcourse.org](mailto:info@irishrecorderandviolcourse.org),  
[www.irishrecorderandviolcourse.org](http://www.irishrecorderandviolcourse.org)

**Jackdaws Music Education Trust**, Great Elm, Frome, Somerset BA11 3NY.  
01373 812 383, [music@jackdaws.org](mailto:music@jackdaws.org), [www.jackdaws.org.uk](http://www.jackdaws.org.uk)

**Knuston Hall**, Irchester, Wellingborough, Northants, NN29 7EU. 01604  
362 200 [enquiries@knustonhall.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@knustonhall.org.uk), [www.knustonhall.org.uk](http://www.knustonhall.org.uk)

**Lacock**, [avdb@lacock.org](mailto:avdb@lacock.org), [www.lacock.org](http://www.lacock.org)

**Leicester Early Music Festival**. 0116 270 9984, Festival Office: 126  
Shanklin Drive, Leicester, LE2 3QB,  
[mail@earlymusicleicester.co.uk](mailto:mail@earlymusicleicester.co.uk), [www.earlymusicleicester.co.uk](http://www.earlymusicleicester.co.uk)

**Lute Society**, 01483 202159, 07510 254106, [secretary@lutesociety.org](mailto:secretary@lutesociety.org)  
, [lutesoc@aol.com](mailto:lutesoc@aol.com), [www.lutesoc.co.uk](http://www.lutesoc.co.uk)

**Lyme Recorder Courses** will no longer be at Victoria House, Lyme Regis.  
[07711-307105](tel:07711-307105),  
[www.recordercourseslyme.com](http://www.recordercourseslyme.com) [enquiries@recordercourseslyme.com](mailto:enquiries@recordercourseslyme.com)

**Medieval Music in the Dales**, [www.medievalmusicinthedales.co.uk](http://www.medievalmusicinthedales.co.uk)

**MEMF**, [chairman@memf.org.uk](mailto:chairman@memf.org.uk), [www.memf.org.uk](http://www.memf.org.uk)

**NCEM**, National Centre for Early Music, St Margaret's Church,  
Walmgate, Percy's Lane, York, YO1 9TL. 01904 632220,  
[boxoffice@ncem.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@ncem.co.uk), [www.ncem.co.uk](http://www.ncem.co.uk)

**NEEMF**, [secretary@neemf.org.uk](mailto:secretary@neemf.org.uk), [www.neemf.org.uk](http://www.neemf.org.uk)

**NEMA**, <http://www.earlymusic.info/>

**NORVIS**, Northumbrian Recorder & Viol Summer School,

<https://www.norvis.org.uk>

**Orpheon Foundation**, [orpheon@gmx.at](mailto:orpheon@gmx.at)<https://orpheon.org/>

**Recorders For All** [www.recordersforall.org.uk](http://www.recordersforall.org.uk)

**Recorder Summer School**, <http://recorderssummerschool.org.uk/>

**Rondo Viol Academy**. [www.rondoviolacademy.co.uk](http://www.rondoviolacademy.co.uk)

**Run by Singers**. [www.runbysingers.org](http://www.runbysingers.org) 01462 893972, Suite 2, Coach House Cloisters, 10 Hitchin Street, Baldock, Herts, SG7 6AE.

**Salts Mill, Saltaire**, 01274 288100, [sales@earlymusicshop.com](mailto:sales@earlymusicshop.com), [www.earlymusicshop.com](http://www.earlymusicshop.com)

**Schola Gregoriana**, 47 Western Park Road, Leicester, LE3 6HQ, [www.scholagregoriana.org](http://www.scholagregoriana.org)-Mail: [info@scholagregoriana.org](mailto:info@scholagregoriana.org)

**Scottish Recorder Course**.

<https://scottishrecordercourse.wordpress.com/>

**SEMF**, [www.semf.org.uk](http://www.semf.org.uk), [secretary@semf.org.uk](mailto:secretary@semf.org.uk), or write to the Hon. Secretary, SEMF, 31 Woodlands Avenue, Redhill, Surrey RH1 6EX

**Sherborne Summer School of Music**, Sherborne School, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 3AP.

<http://www.sherbornesummerschoolofmusic.org/courses.html>

**Society of Recorder Players**, Manchester branch normally meets 1<sup>st</sup>

Friday & 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month. [manchester@srp.org.uk](mailto:manchester@srp.org.uk), [www.srp.org.uk/manchester/index.php](http://www.srp.org.uk/manchester/index.php)

**SWEMF**, [secretary@swemf.org.uk](mailto:secretary@swemf.org.uk), [www.swemf.org.uk](http://www.swemf.org.uk)

**The Sixteen**, <https://thesixteen.com/events>

**The Telling**, <https://www.thetelling.co.uk/diary>

**TVEMF**, [www.tvemf.org](http://www.tvemf.org), [secretary@tvemf.org](mailto:secretary@tvemf.org)

**VdGS** (Viola de Gamba Society), [www.vdgs.org.uk](http://www.vdgs.org.uk)

**West Dean College**, Chichester, PO18 0QZ, 01243 811300,

[bookingsoffice@westdean.ac.uk](mailto:bookingsoffice@westdean.ac.uk), [www.westdean.ac.uk](http://www.westdean.ac.uk)

**William Byrd Singers**. <https://www.williambyrdsingers.org.uk/>

**Concerts**

*NB. listing is no guarantee that the concert will take place. Please check*

Please send information to: [jmh@noc.ac.uk](mailto:jmh@noc.ac.uk). I do not actively research concerts, relying on members or organisers to submit details for inclusion.

## June

- 20 **The Sixteen**, The Choral Pilgrimage, Derby Cathedral, 7 pm.  
<https://thesixteen.com/event/>
- 22 **Liverpool Bach Collective**, St Mary's Church (Prescot Parish Church), Church Street, Prescot, L34 3LA, 6:30pm. Cantata 137: *Lobe den Herrn, den ächtigen König der Ehren* (Praise to the Lord),  
<https://www.liverpoolbach.com/July>
- 4-11 **York Early Music Festival**; <https://ncem.co.uk/yemf-brochure/>

## September

- 26 **The Sixteen**, The Choral Pilgrimage, Hexham Abbey, 7 pm.  
<https://thesixteen.com/event/>

## October

- 10-26 **Brighton Early Music Festival**; <https://www.bremf.org.uk>

## Contacts for concerts

**Armonico.** <http://www.armonico.org.uk>

**Birmingham Barber Institute.** <http://barber.org.uk/> 0121 414 7333

**Birmingham Town Hall.** [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk) 0121 289 6333.

The **Bridgewater Hall**, Manchester. 0161 907 9000, [www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk](http://www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk)

**BREMF Brighton Early Music Festival,** [www.bremf.org.uk](http://www.bremf.org.uk)

**Buxton Festival.** 01298 72190, [www.buxtonfestival.co.uk](http://www.buxtonfestival.co.uk)

**Buxton Opera House** 01298 72190, [boxoffice@boh.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@boh.org.uk) ,  
[www.buxtonoperahouse.org.uk](http://www.buxtonoperahouse.org.uk) & [www.buxtonfestival.co.uk](http://www.buxtonfestival.co.uk)

**Chandos Choir.** [www.solihullchandoschoir.org](http://www.solihullchandoschoir.org)

**Chetham's School of Music,** [www.chethams.com](http://www.chethams.com) , Stoller hall 0333 130 0967

**Early Dance Circle Festival,** <http://www.earlydancecircle.co.uk/>

**Ex Cathedra.** [www.excathedra.co.uk](http://www.excathedra.co.uk)

**Fiori Musicali** [www.fiori-musicali.com](http://www.fiori-musicali.com)

<https://www.thegesualdosix.co.uk/concerts/>

**Higham Hall** Bassenthwaite Lake, Cockermouth, CA13 9HS, 017687  
76276, [admin@highamhall.com](mailto:admin@highamhall.com) , [www.highamhall.com](http://www.highamhall.com)

**Kempley Village Hall**, <http://www.kempleyvillagehall.org.uk/>,  
[kempleyvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:kempleyvillagehall@gmail.com)

**Leeds University**, <http://concerts.leeds.ac.uk>

**Leeds Waits**. <http://www.leedswaits.org.uk/waits.htm> ,  
[alan.radford@btinternet.com](mailto:alan.radford@btinternet.com)

**Leicester**, Castle House. [www.earlymusicleicester.co.uk](http://www.earlymusicleicester.co.uk)

**Lichfield Festival**. [www.lichfieldfestival.org](http://www.lichfieldfestival.org)

**Liverpool Bach Collective**, [https://www.liverpoolbach.com/future-  
events](https://www.liverpoolbach.com/future-events)

**Liverpool Renaissance Singers**.

<https://www.liverpoolrenaissancesingers.org/calendar/>

**London Festival of Baroque Music**, [www.lfbm.org.uk](http://www.lfbm.org.uk)

**The Magic of Medieval Music**<https://www.ipmusic.org.uk/medievalmusic>

**Manchester Baroque** <https://www.manchesterbaroque.co.uk/whatson>

**NCEM**, National Centre for Early Music, St Margaret's Church,  
Walmgate, Percy's Lane, York, YO1 9TI. 01904 632220,  
[boxoffice@ncem.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@ncem.co.uk), [www.ncem.co.uk](http://www.ncem.co.uk)

**Newcastle University** <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/events/live-music/>

**Opus Anglicanum**. <https://www.opusanglicanum.org/>

**Ripon**. 01765 605508, [www.riponinternationalfestival.com](http://www.riponinternationalfestival.com)

**Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM)**, [info@rncm.ac.uk](mailto:info@rncm.ac.uk),  
[www.rncm.ac.uk](http://www.rncm.ac.uk)

**Edinburgh, Queen's Hall**, [https://www.thequeenshall.net/your-  
visit/booking-tickets](https://www.thequeenshall.net/your-visit/booking-tickets), 0131-668 2019

**St. George's Singers**. [www.st-georges-singers.org.uk](http://www.st-georges-singers.org.uk), 01663 764012.

**St Martin's Church, Worcester**. [www.stmartinsworcester.org.uk](http://www.stmartinsworcester.org.uk)

**Salts Mill, Saltaire**, 01274 288100, [sales@earlymusicshop.com](mailto:sales@earlymusicshop.com),  
[www.earlymusicshop.com](http://www.earlymusicshop.com)

**Stile Antico**, <https://www.stileantico.co.uk/concerts>

**Stratford**, <http://www.stratfordearlymusic.com>

**The Sixteen**, [www.thesixteen.com](http://www.thesixteen.com)

**The Telling**, <https://www.thetelling.co.uk/diary>

**William Byrd Singers**.

<http://www.williambyrdsingers.org.uk/concerts.shtml>

**Worcester Cathedral.** [https://www.worcestercathedral.co.uk/whats-on#filter=\\*](https://www.worcestercathedral.co.uk/whats-on#filter=*)

**Worcester Huntingdon Hall / Concert Club,**  
<https://www.worcserenade.co.uk/> 01905 611427

**Worcester Early Music Festival.** [www.earlymusicworcs.org](http://www.earlymusicworcs.org)

**Wordsworth Singers** [www.wordsworthsingers.org.uk](http://www.wordsworthsingers.org.uk).

**York, Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall,** [www.york.ac.uk/concerts](http://www.york.ac.uk/concerts)

**York Waits,** <http://theyorkwaits.org.uk>