



NWEMF

North West Early Music Forum

Registered Charity 508218

Welcome to our monthly NWEMF Digest with a short roundup of workshop news and other Early Music events and concerts for the coming month in and around the North West.



Something a little different this month - this illustration (perfect for a caption competition) comes from the wonderful *Chansonnier de Zeghere van Male*, a handwritten collection of about 80 sacred and secular songs compiled in 1542 by the eponymous wealthy merchant from Bruges. The collection includes a wide range of genres from 25 different composers (including Willaert, Josquin, Mouton, Sermisy, Apenzeller, Gombert and Lupi), and is also lavishly illustrated, often rather irreverently. If you'd like to find out more, there is an article on (French) [Wikipedia](#), all four volumes can be found on [IMSLP](#), and there's a [YouTube video](#) of an online concert performed by Ars Cantus. Fascinating!

Upcoming Workshops

Our next workshop for singers is in Preston on **18 April** with Rory Wainwright Johnston - there's just 1 week left to benefit from our early bird discount. This will take place at The Harris Museum and Library, a wonderful building which boasts the largest Foucault's pendulum in the UK. We'll be based in the first floor Reading Room, and you can pre-order a sandwich lunch when booking. Rory will take us through the seven-part *Missa Ave Virgo Sanctissima* by Géry de Ghersem (1573-1630), and also works by Carlos Patiño, Mateo Romero and Juan Bautista Comes.

This promises to be an excellent day in a wonderful venue - in the short video below, Rory talks more about the music and his inspiration for the day (clicking on the link will open the video in YouTube). [Book now](#) to reserve a place.



Applications are open for all our workshops up to June 2026 - [visit our website](#) for full details.



18 April - The Harris, Preston

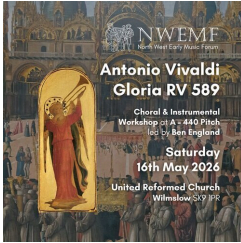
Tutor: Rory Wainwright Johnston

***Missa Ave Virgo Sanctissima* by Géry de Ghersem**

Virtually all works by prolific Franco-Flemish composer, Géry de Ghersem (1573-1630), were destroyed in the 1755 Lisbon earthquake, with the exception of this beautiful 7 part mass. Rory will take us through this, along with some other pieces by lesser-known Iberian composers.

VOICES

[Book online now](#)



16 May - Wilmslow United Reformed Church

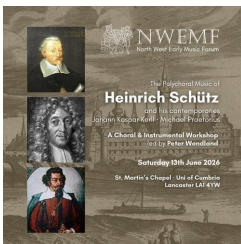
Tutor: Ben England

Vivaldi's Gloria

Ben England BEM, a new tutor for NWEMF, will lead a day on Vivaldi's Gloria, giving us a chance (in chorus or semi-chorus) to try out the lovely soprano and alto solos and duos. We will use library copies of the Ricordi edition for both scores and parts. One or two oboes and trumpets would also be welcome.

VOICES, STRINGS & CONTINUO (A=440)

[Book online now](#)



13 June - St Martin's Chapel, University of Cumbria, Lancaster

Tutor: Peter Wendland

The Polychoral Music of Heinrich Schütz and his contemporaries

Peter will take us through the music of Heinrich Schütz, Michael Praetorius and Johann Caspar Kerll in works of between 8 and 16 parts. This workshop is for singers and all instruments (cornetti, sackbutts, curtals, viols, low recorders (ATB), etc including modern strings, trombones, bassoons).

VOICES & INSTRUMENTS (A=440)

[Book online now](#)

Join NWEMF for only £10 a year (full-time students join for free) and get reduced rates for all our workshops, and those run by most other Early Music Forums. [Apply online today.](#)

Other Events and Concerts

Easter is fast approaching, and that usually means lots of glorious early music concerts - this year is no exception, and highlights include Manchester Baroque's Bach St Matthew Passion on Good Friday, **3 April**, and on the same day, Lancaster Priory Choir is performing music by Handel and Buxtehude in a meditation on Christ's Passion. On **18 April**, the Phoenix Consort are giving a concert in Manchester which includes Allegri's *Miserere mei*, and the following

week, The Sixteen are back with their annual Choral Pilgrimage in Liverpool (**24 April**) and Blackburn (**25 April**). Looking ahead to May, the Mancunium Consort are performing at Carnforth for Silverdale Renaissance on **15 May** - they are definitely worth making the trip for. And if you're in need of inspiration for a last minute concert this weekend, you really are spoiled for choice!

21 March 11am Renaissance Lute Concert by Edward Foster, Whalley Library, Abbey Road, Whalley, Blackburn, BB7 9RP

21 March 3pm Vale of Clywd Singers *The Glories of Easter – music by Lotti, Palestrina, Purcell, Stainer, Bairstow, Gjeilo, Stopford and Wesley and more* St. Margaret's Church, The Village, Bodelwyddan, **Rhyl** LL18 5UR

21 March 7pm Liverpool Bach Collective *JS Bach: St Matthew Passion* Liverpool Parish Church (Our Lady and Saint Nicholas), **Liverpool** L2 8TZ

21 March 7.30pm Manchester Chamber Choir with Manchester Baroque *Handel: Dixit Dominus and Jesu Meine Freude* St Edmund's Church Edmund Street, Falinge Road, **Rochdale**, OL12 6QF

21 March 7.30pm Levens Choir *Handel's Messiah* Holy Trinity Kendal Parish Church, Kirkland, **Kendal** LA9 5AF

21 March 7.30pm Bradford Festival Choral Society *Haydn's Creation* with Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra, St George's Hall, **Bradford** BD1 1JT

21 March 7.30pm Orion Chamber Choir *Masterworks: Vivaldi, Handel, Whitacre and Shaw* Holy Trinity & St Jude's Church, **Halifax** HX1 2XE

22 March 11am Communion Service (RC) *Haydn Little Organ Mass, Palestrina Confitebur tibi, Bruckner Locus iste, Elgar Ave verum corpus* Holy Name Church, 339 Oxford Road, **Manchester** M13 9PG

22 March 3pm Levens Choir *Handel's Messiah* St Oswald's Church, Church Stile, Grasmere, **Ambleside** LA22 9SW

22 March 7.30pm Manchester Chamber Choir with Manchester Baroque *Handel: Dixit Dominus and Jesu Meine Freude* Christ Church, West Didsbury, **Manchester** M20 2ZD

25 March 7pm Voci Choir *Medieval Eucharist (communion) service from the 600 AD Stowe Missal* St Grwst Church, **Llanrwst** LL26 0LE

29 March 11am Communion Service (RC) *Palm Sunday Music by Orlando Gibbons, Giovanni Matteo Asola, Paolo Ferrarese, Francesco Soriano & Ivo de Vento*, Holy Name Church, 339 Oxford Road, **Manchester** M13 9PG

29 March 7pm Bradford Cathedral Choir *Handel's Messiah* Bradford Cathedral, 1 Stott Hill, **Bradford** BD1 4EH

1 April 7-8pm Deep Dive Online Recorder Workshop Series 2025/26:

Interpretation for Beginners Part 5, Instructor Michael Piraner

3 April 4.30pm Manchester Baroque *J.S. Bach St Matthew Passion BWV 244*

Manchester Cathedral, **Manchester** M3 1SX

3 April 5pm Lancaster Priory Choir *A Good Friday Meditation on Christ's*

Passion with music by Handel and Buxtehude Lancaster Priory Church of Saint Mary, Priory Close, **Lancaster** LA1 1YZ

4 April 10.30am-4.30pm SRP Birmingham Play Day with Anna Stegmann,

Cotteridge Quaker Meeting House, 23A Watford Road, Cotteridge, **Birmingham**, B30 1JB

4 April 8.30pm Communion Service (RC) – Easter Vigil *Music to be*

announced Holy Name Church, 339 Oxford Road, **Manchester** M13 9PG

5 April 9am Communion Service (CoE) – Easter Sunday *Ivo de Vento Haec*

dies, Lassus Missa Veni in hortum meum, St James Church, Stenner Lane, **Didsbury**, M20 2RQ

5 April 11am Communion Service (RC) – Easter Sunday *Ivo de Vento Haec*

dies, Lassus Missa Veni in hortum meum, Byrd Christ rising again, Sweelinck Ionian Toccata for organ Holy Name Church, 339 Oxford Road, **Manchester**, M13 9PG

11 April BMEMF Workshop for instruments *Très Élégant, The music of Marc-*

Antoine Charpentier with Ali Kinder (A=440), St John's Church, 32 Poyner Road, **Ludlow** SY8 1QT

11 April 5pm Leodis Consort Singers *Victoria Requiem 1605* All Souls'

Church, 31 Blackman Lane, Woodhouse, **Leeds** LS2 9EY

11 April 7.30pm A Concert of Mostly Baroque *with music by Purcell, JS*

Bach, Poulenc & Eccles, St Thomas' Church, Mellor, **Stockport** SK6 5LY

15 April 7-8pm Recorder Fundamentals (online): *Trills in the Baroque for*

Recorder Players: Part 2 Instructor: Michael Piraner

18 April 5.30pm Phoenix Consort *Renewal: Choral Music of Light and*

Resurrection with music by Byrd, Allegri, Durufle and Ešenvalds Holy Name Church, 339 Oxford Rd, **Manchester** M13 9PG

24 April 7.30pm The Sixteen Choral Pilgrimage *Music from the Spanish*

Renaissance alongside works from James MacMillan and Kerensa Briggs Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, Mt Pleasant, **Liverpool** L3 5TQ

25 April 3pm The Sixteen Choral Pilgrimage *Music from the Spanish*

Renaissance alongside works from James MacMillan and Kerensa Briggs Blackburn Cathedral, Cathedral Close, **Blackburn** BB1 5AA

25 April 7pm Ex Cathedra Scholars Ensemble *The Garden of Love* – music by Le Jeune, G Gabrieli, Palestrina and others St Peter's Collegiate Church, Lich Gates, **Wolverhampton WV1 1TY**

25 April 7.30pm Manchester Baroque *Phantasticus* – Music for violins and theorbo from 17th century Italy Saint Ann's Church, **Manchester M2 7LF**

26 April 6.30pm Liverpool Bach Collective *Cantata 104: Du Hurte, Israel, Höre* Saint Agnes & Saint Pancras, 1 Buckingham Ave, **Liverpool L17 3BA**

2 May MEMF Workshop for voices and instruments *!A la Batalla!* with a Victoria Mass, led by Greg Skidmore and Sue Addison, Swallowbeck Methodist Church, 472 Newark Rd, North Hykeham, Lincoln, LN6 8RZ

8-10 May Country Choral Weekend with Rory Wainwright Johnston for upper voices (SSA/SSAA) limited to 18 singers (a few soprano places left), High Trenhouse, Malham Moor, **Settle BD24 9PR**

10 May 2pm Vale of Clywd Singers *Mostly Mozart* St. Michaels Church, Caerwys, Mold CH7 5BH

15 May 7.30pm The Mancunium Consort *A New Light* based on their debut album with some of the finest Renaissance treasures (Silverdale Renaissance) St Johns Church, Silverdale, Carnforth LA5 0RN

The [Other Events](#) page on our website has a regularly updated calendar of events with early music workshops, courses, festivals and concerts in and around the North West. Please let us know of any events you'd like us to add to this, including any church services where early music is performed. It's also worth checking the [Early Music Diary](#), [Continuo Connect](#) and [NEMA](#).


For details of course providers and other useful links, visit our [Links](#) page. Again, please get in touch if there are any organisations or groups you would like us to add to this directory.

The next NWEMF Digest will be sent out next month. Keep up to date with the latest news on our [website](#), on [Facebook](#) and on [Instagram](#).



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