



# NWEMF

North West Early Music Forum

Registered Charity 508218

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*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.*

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Our last workshop on 18 April was in the imposing Harris Museum and Library in Preston led by Rory Wainwright Johnston. The main work of the day was the challengingly sublime 7-part *Missa Ave virgo sanctissima* by Géry de Ghersem, along with a few other pieces from 17th century Iberia. You can read a short report with photos of the day [here](#), and see the video below of our end-of-day impromptu performance of *Domine, quando veneris* around the central atrium. Thanks to everyone who came and made the day so enjoyable.



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## Upcoming Workshops

Our next workshop on **Saturday 16 May** explores Vivaldi's *Gloria* RV589 and takes place in Wilmslow. Learn about the fascinating history of this work, and how it was lost for centuries before being rediscovered in the mid 20th century.

Ben England BEM, acclaimed conductor and music educator is a new tutor for NWEMF. In this short video, he introduces the day.



As well as singers (particularly tenors), applications are welcome from violins, violas, cellos, double bass/violone, theorbos and bassoons (please book by **2 May**).



## 16 May - Wilmslow United Reformed Church

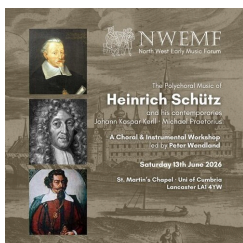
**Tutor: Ben England BEM**

### *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.

VOICES & STRINGS (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](#)

For details of our full 2026 workshop programme, [visit our website](#).

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**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](#).**

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## Other Events and Concerts

Particular highlights this month include Silverdale Renaissance's next concert on **15 May** with The Mancunium Consort. There's also The Telling's *Purcell the Musical* on **23 May** in Manchester, and two chances to see Edward Foster give Renaissance lute concerts in Rochdale (**23 May**) and Clitheroe (**31 May**).

We're also heading into Festival season, with the Beverley Early Music Festival running from **22-24 May**. The [York Early Music Festival](#) runs from **3-11 July**, and more details will be included in the next Digest, but it's worth checking what's on now and start planning your trip(s) to York.

Our tutors are some of the best in their field, and they often lead events elsewhere. Ben England is doing a one-day workshop in Warrington on **28 May**, and Rory Johnston is leading a [Country Choral](#) weekend workshop near Settle from **10-12 July** (there are still spaces for basses and tenors).

**25 April 3pm [Organ Recital with John LeGrove](#)** (RCO International Organ Day), St Thomas' Church, Mellor, 21-23 Church Rd, Mellor, Stockport SK6 5LY

**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

**25 April 7.30pm [Cumbria Singers](#)** *Mozart Great Mass in C and Exsultate, Jubilate; Haydn's Te deum* Carlisle Cathedral, The Abbey, **Carlisle** CA3 8TZ

**25 April 7.30pm [Halifax Chamber Choir](#)** *Palestrina Missa Brevis, and sacred motets by Lassus, Bruckner, Brahms & Chilcott* Holy Trinity & St Jude's Church,

Free School Lane, **Halifax** HX1 2XE

**26 April 11am Communion Service (RC)** Henri du Mont *Messe Royale Premier Ton*, Hassler *Deus, Deus, meus*, Trabaci *Regina caeli* Holy Name Church, 339 Oxford Rd, **Manchester** M13 9PG

**26 April 6.30pm Liverpool Bach Collective** *Cantata 104: Du Hirte, 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

**3 May 9am Communion Service (CoE)** Trabaci *O sacrum convivium*, Victoria *Missa Alma redemptoris mater*, & *Missa O quam gloriosum* St James Church, Stenner Ln, **Didsbury**, Manchester M20 2RQ

**10 May 11am Communion Service (RC)** Carlos Patiño Mass *In Devotione*, J G de Padilla *Deus in adiutorium meum intende*, Byrd *Non vos relinquam orphanos*, Christoph Straus *O sacrum convivium* Holy Name Church, 339 Oxford Rd, **Manchester** M13 9PG

**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

**16 May 7.30pm Cappella Newcastle** *A Spring Garland of Loves, Losses & Laments – with works by Cornysh, Dowland, Farmer, Gesualdo, Hilton, Morley, Monteverdi, Palestrina, Vautor, Vecchi and Weelkes* Jesmond United Reformed Church, Burdon Terrace, Jesmond, **Newcastle upon Tyne** NE2 3AE

**16 May 7.30pm Kendal South Choir** *Haydn: The Seasons (Die Jahreszeiten)* Holy Trinity Kendal Parish Church, Kirkland, **Kendal** LA9 5AF

**22-24 May Beverley Early Music Festival**

**23 May NEEMF Workshop for Voices & Instruments** *La Festa de la Sènsa: Venetian Music for Ascension* led by Andrew Griffiths, Clements Hall, Nunthorpe Road, **York** YO23 1BS

**23 May 3pm Edward Foster Renaissance Lute Concert** *Music of Dowland & da Milano* St Edmund's Church, Edmund St, **Rochdale** OL12 6QN

**23 May 7.30pm The Telling** *Purcell The Musical* Hallé St Peter's, 40 Blossom St, Ancoats, **Manchester** M4 6BF

**23 May 7.30pm The Tallis Scholars** *Music by Gabrieli, Victoria, Tallis, Guerrero and Pärt* Beverley Minster, 38 Highgate, **Beverley** HU17 0DN

**23 May 7.30pm Chester Music Society *Favourite Sacred Choruses (with music by Handel, Bach, Purcell, Lotti, Vivaldi, Haydn, etc)* Chester Cathedral, St Werburgh St, **Chester** CH1 2DY**

**28 May 9am-4.30pm Choir of the Earth *Come and Sing A Cappella Wonders (including Allegri's Misereri, Tallis If ye love me)* The Church of the Ascension, Warren Ln, Woolston, **Warrington** WA1 4ES**

**29-31 May Saltaire Recorder Weekend 2026 (The Early Music Shop) Titus Salt School, Higher Coach Road, Baildon, **Shipley** BD17 5RH**

**30 May BMEMF Workshop for Singers *Faith as Treason – music by Byrd, Richard Dering, Philippe de Monte, John Dowland* with Emma Gibbons, The Great House, Clytha, near **Abergavenny** NP7 9BW**

**30 May SWEMF Workshop for voices and instruments led by Peter Wendland, Seavington Millennium Hall, near **Iminster**, Somerset TA19 0QH**

**31 May 4pm Edward Foster Renaissance Lute Concert *Music from 16th and early 17th century Europe* The Pavilion, Sawley Rd, Grindleton, **Clitheroe** BB7 4QS**

**31 May 5pm Leeds Baroque Choir & Viol Consort *For Voyces and Viols: Orlando Gibbons, John Dowland and their Contemporaries* St. Andrew's Church, Kirkgate, Kildwick, **Keighley** BD20 9BB**

**31 May 6.30pm Liverpool Bach Collective *Cantata 129: Gelobet sei der Herr, mein Gott* Saint Philip Neri Church, 30 Catharine St, **Liverpool** L8 7NL**

**6 June NEEMF Workshop for Voices & Instruments *Missa Laetatus Sum by Tomás Luis de Victoria* led by Deborah Catterall, Calcutt & Forest Moor Village Hall, Calcutt, **Knaresborough** HG5 8JF**

**6 June Come and Sing Vivaldi's Gloria with Preston Orpheus Choir St Leonards C Of E Church, Marshalls Brow, Penwortham, **Preston** PR1 9JA**

**6 June The Clifford Consort (Part of the Lady Anne Clifford 350 Festival); *Lady Anne 350 – A Musical Picture, a theatrical concert fusing dramatic scenes from Lady Anne's life with music of the period.* Abbot Hall, Kirkland, **Kendal** LA9 5AL**

**6 June 7pm Lancaster Singers *From Baroque to Bebop* St Oswald's Church, Church Stile, Grasmere, **Ambleside** LA22 9SW**

**6 June 7.30pm Manchester Baroque *Intimate Notes – solo and ensemble pieces for oboe, flute, violin, cello and harpsichord* Saint Ann's Church, St Ann St, **Manchester** M2 7LF**

**6 June 7.30pm Manchester Chamber Choir *Sounds of Heaven – A journey through sacred soundscapes with music by Wood, Dove, Hildegard von Bingen, Guerrero, Lauridsen and Britten* Bolton Parish Church, Silverwell Street, **Bolton** BL1 1PS**

**7 June 3pm Lancaster Singers *From Baroque to Bebop*** St Paul's Church, Scotforth, Scotforth Rd, **Lancaster** LA1 4ST

**8 June 6pm Talk by Guy James of The Gesualdo Six** Free to attend, book online. The National Centre for Early Music, St Margaret's Church, 88-96 Walmgate, **York** YO1 9TL

**13 June 7.30pm Pro Nobis Singers with the English Cornett & Sackbut Ensemble, *Treasures of the Spanish Renaissance*** The Parish Church of Saint George, Castle St, **Kendal** LA9 7AS

**13 June 7.30pm Liverpool Welsh Choral Society, *Gloria! (Vivaldi's Gloria and music by Stainer, Parry, Handel and Pergolesi)*** St Andrews West Kirby, **West Kirby**, Wirral CH48 5DN

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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.

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*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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