



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.

We were delighted to welcome back Peter Wendland on 13 June to give a workshop on the music of Schütz, Praetorius and Kerll - a great way to finish our workshop series before the summer break. Fifty singers and instrumentalists came to the lovely St Martin's Chapel in the University of Cumbria, and it was a treat to see so many diverse instruments, including an alto curtal and a lever harp, as well as the more usual cornetts and sackbutts. Many thanks to everyone who came, and to those who brought delicious home-baking too – very much appreciated!



Upcoming Workshops

Now's a good time to add our last three workshops of 2026 to your diary - applications are open now [on our website](#). Book early to take advantage of the early bird discount.



12 September - All Saints Church Parish Centre, Hoole, Chester

Renaissance Back to School: Music for Learning and Scholarship
Music by Palestrina, Josquin, Calvisius, A Lobo & Hassler

Tutor: Stephanie Dyer

This workshop is a study of the art of polyphony from an educational viewpoint, exploring works by Palestrina, Josquin, Calvisius, Alonso Lobo and Hassler. In particular, we will look at compositional design techniques in an age when music was taught alongside geometry, astronomy and arithmetic.

VOICES & ALL INSTRUMENTS (A=440)

[Book online now](#)



17 October - Bolton Parish Church Hall

Music from The Odhecaton

Tutor: Lizzie Gutteridge

Published in Venice in 1501, the Harmonice Musices Odhecaton was the first printed collection of polyphonic secular songs by Ottaviano Petrucci. We will explore famous and overlooked pieces from this landmark anthology, featuring composers including Josquin des Pres, Obrecht, Okeghem and Busnois.

ALL INSTRUMENTS (A=440)

[Book online now](#)



21 November - St Agnes & St Pancras, Toxteth Park, Liverpool

1535: A Year in the Life of Pierre Attaignant Willaert, Manchicourt, Gombert, Janequin and others

Tutor: Peter Syrus

Peter Syrus takes a 'snapshot' of the year 1535, exploring the prolific output of music by Pierre Attaignant, Parisienne printer. Looking at various sacred and secular works, the day concludes with contrasting settings of the antiphon *Regina caeli laetare* by Willaert and Gombert.

VOICES & VIOLS, LOW RECORDERS, SACKBUTS & CURTALS (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

Summer is well and truly here, and with it comes the not-to-be-missed [York Early Music Festival](#) from **3-11 July**, now celebrating its 50th year. It is also the season of summer schools, and if you've never been to one, you might consider [HISS \(Historically Informed Summer School\)](#) in Beverley, which runs from **12-17 August**. HISS brings together expert musicians from the worlds of folk, medieval, renaissance and baroque music. Student bursaries are available, and applications close 12 July.

It's worth having a look at what's on around the UK and organise some weekend breaks - there are several forum workshops coming up across the country in July. And closer to home, there are two great concerts on **11 July** - at 1pm in Ruthin, Deborah Catterall is performing Handel's Nine German Arias, and at 7.30pm in Ormskirk, the Liverpool Renaissance Singers are performing music from the golden age of polyphony (and you can see this concert on **8 July** in Liverpool as well). Before that, the [William Byrd Singers'](#) annual Sing Joyfully workshop on **4 July** is focused on Spanish polyphony. Looking further ahead, the [Sounds Historical 2026 UK Tour](#) *What a Wonderful World* is coming up **3-6 September** in Huddersfield, Lancaster, Bolton Abbey and Barnard Castle.

3-5 July [International Festival of Town Pipers](#), York

3-11 July [York Early Music Festival](#)

4 July BMEMF Workshop for singers and instrumentalists *Misery* with David Hatcher, Bishopswood Village Hall, **Ross-on-Wye**, Herefordshire, HR9 5QT

4 July William Byrd Singers Singing Day *Sing Joyfully! Spanish Polyphony*, with conductor Keith Orrell Christ Church, West Didsbury, Darley Ave, **Manchester M20 2ZD**

4 July 7.30pm Skipton Choral Society *The Golden Age – An evening of Baroque choral music* Christ Church, Keighley Rd, **Skipton BD23 2NB**

4 July 7.30pm The Sixteen Choral Pilgrimage York Minster, Deangate, **York YO1 7HH**

5 July 9am Communion Service (CoE) Tallis *O nata lux*, Byrd *Mass for 5 Voices* St James Church, Stenner Lane, Didsbury, **Manchester M20 2RQ**

5 July 11am Communion Service (RC) *Victoria Missa O quam gloriosum*, Tallis *Salvator mundi*, Vaughan Williams *O taste and see*, Holy Name Church, 339 Oxford Rd, **Manchester M13 9PG**

5 July 7pm The Harewood Consort Summer Concert *J.S. Bach Cantata BWV 45 & Pergolesi Stabat Mater* Roman Catholic Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, 294 Harrogate Rd, Moortown, **Leeds LS17 6LE**

8 July 7.30pm Liverpool Renaissance Singers *O Taste and See – A journey through the golden age of polyphony from Arcadelt to Weelkes* Liverpool Parish Church (Our Lady and Saint Nicholas), Old Churchyard, **Liverpool L2 8TZ**

6 July 6pm The Dunedin Consort *Welcome to All the Pleasures: Music by Purcell, Blow, Croft & Hall* All Saints' Church, Helmsley, Church St, Helmsley, **York YO62 5AD**

10 July 7pm Voci Choir with members of the Academy of Ancient Music *Handel's Dixit Dominus* St Saeran's Church, Llanynys, **Ruthin LL16 4PA**

11 July 1pm Music, Nature, Spirit! *GF Handel's Nine German Arias, Deborah Catterall – mezzo, Gareth Glyn Roberts – tenor, Mark Baigant – baroque oboe, David Francis – harpsichord, Claudine Cassidy – baroque cello*, St Saeran's Church, Llanynys, **Ruthin LL16 4PA**

11 July 7.30pm Liverpool Renaissance Singers *O Taste and See – A journey through the golden age of polyphony from Arcadelt to Weelkes* St Cuthbert's Church, Halsall, Halsall Rd, Halsall, **Ormskirk L39 8RN**

12 July 11am Communion Service (RC) *Byrd Mass for 5 Voices*, Tallis *O nata lux*, Molinaro *O sacrum convivium*, Clemens non Papa *Ego flos campi* Holy Name Church, 339 Oxford Rd, **Manchester M13 9PG**

14 July 3pm The Gesualdo Six *Wishing Tree: A Choral Journey I* St Lawrence Parish Church, York, New, Lawrence St, **York YO10 3WP**

14 July 9.30pm The Gesualdo Six *Nachtmusick: A Choral Journey II* St Peters Church Norton, Langton Rd, Norton, **Malton YO17 9AE**

17 July 2pm The Lyons Mouth *Winged Spirit* Bettws Penpont Church, Penpont, **Brecon LD3 8EU**

18 July SWEMF Workshop for voices and instruments *Secular music by Tudor composers* with Clare Griffel, Wembury Village Hall, 19 Barton Close, Wembury, **Plymouth PL9 0L**

18 July NEEMF Workshop for voices and instruments *Praise and Prayer: Music by Palestrina, Hassler & Cipriano de Rore* led by Ali Kinder, St Francis Church Hall, **Newcastle NE7 7QH**

18 July EEMF Workshop for voices and plucked strings *15th century popular songs* with Leah Stuttard, Little St Mary's Church, Trumpington St, **Cambridge CB2 1QG**

18 July TVEMF Workshop for voices, lutes, viols and soft instruments *Dowland 400!* led by Lynda Sayce, Jubilee Hall, School Lane, Seer Green, **Beaconsfield HP9 2QJ**

18 July Singers of Note 25th Annual Workshop Director: Martin Westhorpe, St. Bartholomew, Church St, Westhoughton, **Bolton BL5 2BG**

18 July 11am NOVO Quartet Haydn String Quartet in G & Nielsen String Quartet no.3 in E-flat All Saints' Church, Church Ln, Slingsby, **York YO62 4AD**

18 July 3pm & 5pm The Lyra-Way 'Affections beyond Borders' Sancta Bookshop Cafe, First Floor, 8 Orchard Gate, **Otley LS21 3NX**

18 July 7.30pm Manchester Baroque 'Musick' in Manchester 1744/45 Hallé St Peter's, 40 Blossom St, Ancoats, **Manchester M4 6BF**

18 July 10pm Dowland's Foundry Unquiet Thoughts I – The First Book of Songs (1597) St Gregory's Minster : Kirkdale, **Kirkdale**, York YO62 7TZ

19 July 4pm Cantus Quintus 'What is our life?' English madrigals and consort music including works by Byrd, Gibbons, Jenkins and Purcell All Saints' Church, Otley, Kirkgate, **Otley LS21 3HW**

20 July 11am Dowland's Foundry Unquiet Thoughts II – The First Book of Songs (1597) All Saints' Parish Church, High Street, **Northallerton DL7 8DJ**

24 July 3pm In Echo with Gawain Glenton The Salt Road: Music by Bach, Buxtehude, Schütz and others Church of Christ the Consoler, Newby Hall, Skelton-on-Ure, **Ripon HG4 5AE**

25 July MEMF Workshop for Voices John Taverner Masses & Motets with Patrick Allies, St.Faith & St.Laurence Church Hall, Balden Road, **Harborne**, Birmingham, B32 2EL

25 July 7pm Northern Acapella Festival 2026 Concert with Neon Vokal, The Liverpool Singers and Subito MF Holy Trinity Church, Wavertree, Church Rd, **Liverpool L15 9EQ**

31 July 7.30pm Brecon Baroque with Rachel Podger The Four Seasons – Vivaldi's Four Seasons and Bach's Art of Fugue The Coro, County Square, **Ulverston LA12 7LZ** (part of the Lake District Music Summer Festival)

6 August 11am Flutes & Frets @ Brentwood 1 Instrumental music from the English Renaissance Brantwood, **Coniston LA21 8AD** (part of the Lake District Music Summer Festival)

7 August 2pm Flutes & Frets @ Brentwood 2 Instrumental Italian music by Piacenza, Milano, Palestrina, Monteverdi, Vivaldi, Matteis, Rossini, Paganini and others Brantwood, **Coniston LA21 8AD** (part of the Lake District Music Summer Festival)

7 August 7.30pm Lady Clare's Consort Songs of Turmoil – music by Tallis, Shepphard, Gombert and later Bolton Priory, Bolton Abbey, **Skipton BD23 6AL**

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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North West Early Music Forum
Blue Pit Mill, Castleton
Rochdale

Lancashire
OL11 2YW
United Kingdom



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