

A Feast of Polyphony

Music by

Victoria · Josquin · Padovano Zielenski · de la Hèle · Castileti

Tutors: David Allinson and Gawain Glenton

In 2027, the North West Early Music Forum celebrates **50 years of bringing people together to explore, enjoy and perform early music**. To mark this remarkable milestone, we are inviting singers and instrumentalists to join us for a special **two-day workshop** at the **National Centre for Early Music in York**. Most of the weekend will be spent in the beautifully restored St Margaret's Church, which has been home to the NCEM since 2000.

This is a chance to experience **multi-part and polychoral works** under the guidance of two outstanding tutors and long-standing friends of NWEMF, **David Allinson and Gawain Glenton**.

The Music

Over the course of the weekend, we will broadly follow the structure of an Ordinary Mass, but with movements by different composers:

- George de La Hèle – *Kyrie, Missa Praeter rerum* a 7
- Tomás Luis de Victoria – *Gloria, Mass Laetatus sum* a 12
- Josquin des Prez – *Benedicta es* a 6
- Plainchant setting from the Sarum rite – *Sanctus*
- Annibale Padovano – *Credo* and *Agnus Dei*, Mass a 24
- Josquin / Jean Castileti – *Benedicta es* a 12
- Mikołaj Zieleński – *Magnificat* a 12

There will be opportunities for singers and instrumentalists to work separately in some sessions as well as coming together for the larger tutti rehearsals. The weekend will culminate in a **final run-through of the repertoire on Sunday afternoon**.

Printed music and individual music folders will be provided for participants.

A Weekend to celebrate

This isn't just another NWEMF workshop. It's the start of our **50th anniversary celebration** – an opportunity to look back at what we have achieved over the past half-century and also look forward to the next 50 years.

On Saturday evening, there will be a celebratory 2 course meal followed by a special Q&A with our tutors, **Gawain and David**, who will be joined by **John Bryan** (Rose Consort of Viols and long-time NEEMF member) and early music academic **Lisa Colton** from the University of Liverpool.

Expect stories, ideas, reflections on workshops, and a conversation about what makes music-making in the community thrive – and where early music might go next. This session will be live-streamed and recorded for those who can't attend.

We're also delighted to announce that **The Early Music Shop** will have a pop-up shop over the weekend, bringing a selection of sheet music, instruments and accessories from their main Saltaire premises.

The Weekend at a glance

These are approximate timings, and may be subject to change. Comfort breaks will be incorporated in each session.

Saturday 27 February

09.30 Registration, tea and coffee (St Margaret's)
10.00 First session (tutti) (St Margaret's)
13.00 Buffet lunch (St Margaret's)
13.45 Second session (Singers St Lawrence's, instrumentalists St Margaret's)
16.00 Free time
19.00 Celebratory 2 course dinner (St Margaret's)
20.30 Q&A session with tutors and special guests
22.00 Close

Sunday 28 February

09.30 Tea and coffee (St Margaret's)
10.00 Third session (Singers St Lawrence's, instrumentalists St Margaret's)
12.30 Buffet lunch (St Margaret's)
13.15 Fourth session (tutti) (St Margaret's)
15.00 Tea and coffee break
15.30 Final run through (St Margaret's)
16.00 Thanks and closing remarks
16.15 Close

The Venue

The **National Centre for Early Music** is based in the medieval, Grade I listed, converted church of St Margaret's which stands in the heart of the City of York in an attractive and spacious church garden. It was converted in 2000 thanks to a National Lottery grant, which transformed the building into a stunning setting for concerts. St Margaret's is an accessible, flexible and intimate music venue that seats audiences of up to 180. Chris Roberts, Operations Director, is also one of our tutors (he led a brilliant workshop in April 2025) and he and the team at NCEM have been very supportive of our plan to hold our 50th anniversary weekend workshop at St Margaret's. Whilst York is not in NWEMF's geographical catchment area, it was the natural choice for the location for our special weekend celebration. The singers will also rehearse at **St Lawrence's Community Hall** just beyond the city walls, and about 7 minutes' walk from the NCEM.

Who can apply

Because this is a large-scale project, there needs to be a good balance of voices and instruments. Places will therefore be offered following the application period, with the tutors selecting the final participants according to the musical requirements of the repertoire. We are aiming for a total of **90 participants**.

For this weekend, you will be asked to either sing or play. If you are a singer, please give your usual range (soprano, alto, tenor, baritone, bass), and if you are an instrumentalist, give details of which instrument you would play. If you can offer more than one, please add a note for the tutors to consider.

Instrumental places will include strings, recorders, cornetts, sackbuts, curtals and continuo (A=440)

What does it cost?

NWEMF is subsidising the ticket cost to help make this special anniversary weekend affordable for our members.

NWEMF members: £115

Non-members: £130

For those students wishing to attend, we are hoping to provide some financial help towards the ticket cost. And if you would like to make a donation to sponsor a student place for this event, please add a note in the form below with our thanks.

The price includes:

- two full days of tuition with Gawain Glenton and David Allinson
- printed music and music folders
- all daytime refreshments
- sandwich lunch on both days
- a celebratory two-course evening meal with a glass of wine or soft drink (the NCEM bar will be open throughout the evening)
- Q&A session with the tutors and special guests John Bryan and Lisa Colton
- a final performance to mark the end of the weekend

Accommodation and travel are not included, but we'll provide information and suggestions to help you plan your visit to York.

Invitation to apply

Applications open: 1 September 2026

Closing date: 30 September 2026

Places will be allocated after the closing date to ensure a well-balanced ensemble. We expect to confirm offers of places by mid-October.

Whether you've been part of NWEMF for decades or are discovering us for the first time, we'd love you to join us for this historic weekend.

***27–28 February 2027
50 years of NWEMF
One extraordinary weekend of music***

27-28 February, 2027, NCEM, York

Please complete the following form if you would like to apply to take part in our anniversary weekend in February 2027. Our tutors will consider all applications and then extend an invitation to those accepted, taking into account the required balance for the music. We will confirm if your application has been successful by mid-October 2026, and you will then be asked to pay a deposit of £50 to secure your place. The balance due must be paid no later than 31 January 2027.

There are a limited number of spaces available for **additional guests for the Saturday evening meal** – the cost for attending the meal alone is £45, which includes a glass of wine or soft drink (the NCEM bar will be open throughout the evening). If you would like to invite someone to join you for the evening meal, please complete the relevant part of the form. Places will be given on a first-come-first-served basis.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Voice _____

Instrument(s) _____

NWEMF member ☐

Non-member ☐

Full-time student ☐

If you would like to consider making a donation to help fund a student place for this workshop, please add a note below.

If you would like to invite a guest for the Saturday evening meal, please give details below.

☐ Yes, I would like to invite a guest for the Saturday evening meal (additional cost of £45)

☐ No, it would just be me for dinner

Any other information

☐ If my application is successful, I confirm I will pay a deposit of £50 to secure my place at this weekend event

Date of application _____

Please complete and return to Kirsten Flores, 30 Gordon Street, Shaw, Oldham, OL2 8EU