Southern Early Music Forum

Missa ad imitationem

A Journey through Renaissance Mass settings

Choral Day in Challock, Kent, tutored by David Allinson

Saturday 20th February 2010 – 10.00 am to 5.00 pm

During the second half of the sixteenth century, the commonest method of composing a polyphonic Mass was to base it on a pre-existing piece of choral music – a motet, madrigal or chanson. We inelegantly call such works 'parody Masses', but contemporary church musicians knew this borrowing technique as 'imitation'. In the hands of the greatest composers, the *Missa ad imitationem* became sublime art: the new Mass music exploring and amplifying every technical and expressive possibility presented by the source composition.

In this workshop we will sing several Mass 'movements' by diverse Renaissance composers from Morales, de Monte and Eccard to Palestrina and Lassus. In each case we will also sing the work on which the Mass is based. The exact repertoire is dependent upon the forces signing up, but it is hoped to include Morales' sublime *Missa Mille regrets* (based on Josquin's chanson) and de Monte's darkly sensual *Missa ultima miei sospiri*, based on Verdelot's madrigal. As ever, men are especially needed for this repertoire.

Please sign up early – men especially – so that we can plan to tackle the more ambitious pieces.

Venue: The workshop will take place in the Village (Memorial) Hall, Challock, near Ashford. Challock is on the A252 between Charing (A20) and Chilham (A28). At Challock, go down Church Lane and take the first left (just past the Chequers Pub) into Blind Lane; the Memorial Hall is on the right. There is plenty of car-parking space at the Hall.

Lunch: There are two pubs in the village which serve lunch, or you can bring your own lunch to eat in the Hall – as last year we will ask someone from one of the pubs to come and take orders at the start of the day. The cost of coffee and tea is included in the fee for the day.

Tutor: This is **David Allinson's** *eighth* visit to Challock, tribute enough to the popularity of these events. David is an experienced workshop leader, and has directed numerous workshops in the UK and Europe. A freelance performer, scholar and teacher, he specialises in the history and performance of Renaissance choral music. David studied music at St Peter's College, Oxford and University College, Durham; he completed a PhD (on the devotional and intellectual context of early Tudor church music) at Exeter University in 1998. He worked on the revised *Grove Dictionary of Music* and then became assistant editor of several music periodicals. Now freelance and based in London, he sings, conducts and teaches singing. David has lectured in music at Bristol and Oxford Brookes, and at many Oxford colleges; he currently works at City University, London, running the undergraduate choral module. In January 2010 he became conductor of the Renaissance Singers, and he is founding director of the early music ensemble, Cantores.

Timetable:	**10.00** Arrival and Coffee	10.30 Session 1	11.45 Break	12.00 Session 2
	13.00 Lunch	14.15 Session 3	15.30 Tea	15.45 Session 4 (end by 17.00)
Fee:	SEMF or other forum members: £9-00		Others: £11-00	

Contact: *Richard Whitehouse, 31 Woodlands Avenue, Redhill, Surrey RH1 6EX Tel: 01737 765725*
e-mail: richard.j.whitehouse@btopenworld.com

SEMF on the World-Wide Web: www.semf.org.uk

You can assume the event will take place unless you hear otherwise, but please send a stamped addressed envelope if you want positive confirmation.

Southern Early Music Forum

NAME ……

ADDRESS ……

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TELEPHONE …….. E-mail …….

I would like to come to the SEMF Day at Challock on **Saturday 20th February 2010** and I enclose payment of £ ……. (cheques payable to **Southern Early Music Forum**)

Voice (give range if possible)……

Please return the form together with payment **no later than Saturday 13th February** to:
Richard Whitehouse, 31 Woodlands Avenue, Redhill, Surrey RH1 6EX Tel: 01737 765725
e-mail: richard.j.whitehouse@btopenworld.com