

Eastern Early Music Forum



Monteverdi *Selva Morale e Spirituale*: '1640 Vespers'

Tutored by Philip Thorby

Friday–Sunday 6–8 October 2017
Church of St John the Baptist,
Thaxted, Essex

Monteverdi's compendium of sacred music, the *Selva Morale e Spirituale*, or 'Moral and Spiritual Forest', of 1640 represents more than 30 years' work while he was Music Director of St Mark's, Venice. In content and style the collection of some 37 works represents the composer's magisterial command of composition in liturgical and devotional music of many genres, including homophonic choral, elaborate polyphonic, virtuoso solo motets, the 'moral' madrigals and the canzonettas, settings of the poetry of the divine Petrarca at the beginning. In contrast to Dante's dark forest whose tortuous path took him on his fearful journey, this wood leads us to the glories of salvation. There is a polyphonic *Messa Di Capella* with several concertante movements, followed by the devotional *Ab eterno* for bass and continuo. The 'Vespers' actually comprise numerous settings of seven psalms, six hymns for saints' days including the birth of John the Baptist, two settings of the Magnificat, three of the Marian antiphon, *Salve Regina*, and psalm 150. The finale, the *Lamento della Madonna*, is a sacred rendering of the dramatic *Lamento d'Arianna*.

Philip Thorby will direct the weekend's oeuvre. Our programme will include a selection of movements across the range of Monteverdi's compositional genius. Experienced solo singers and players of Renaissance and Baroque instruments are invited to apply for solo parts. Places in the ripieno choruses are open to all singers with a good standard of sight reading. All sessions are open to the public; the performance will be free with a retiring collection.

Rehearsal sessions and the performance will take place in Thaxted church. Described as the most beautiful parish church in the country, it is a masterpiece of 14–16th-century English Perpendicular architecture that dominates the landscape from its hilltop situation. We are grateful to the vicar and churchwardens for the privilege of being able to perform in this building. In addition, some rehearsals will be held in the grade 1 listed Guildhall in the village centre.

As well as SSAATTBB voices, the following experienced instrumentalists are required: cornetts, sackbuts, violins, viols, theorbo and organ/harpsichord. Pitch will be A=440. Places are strictly limited, so please apply as early as possible: the deadline for applications for solo parts is Tuesday 29 August; parts will be assigned thereafter and music sent out in advance of the workshop. Applications for choral singers and places in the band can be received up to 22 September. Scores for chorus parts will be available for purchase, or for hire on the day. Vocal scores and full scores will also be available for purchase.

The first workshop, for soloists and instruments, will be late Friday afternoon 6 October. On Saturday 7 October, part rehearsals will begin at 9.30 and continue throughout the day; and on Sunday rehearsals will be held in the morning and early afternoon, with the performance in a liturgical style at 5.00 pm. Further details, including rehearsal times and venues, will be provided. A list of accommodation is on page 3 and will also be posted on the EEMF website; you will be responsible for making your own bookings.

For EEMF Forum members, the price for the entire weekend Friday—Sunday will be £80, including teas & coffees, and lunch on Sunday; Saturday—Sunday will be £60; and for Sunday only, £30. A supplement of £10 will be payable by non-Forum members, refundable if you join (annual membership is only £6 payable by standing order). To apply as an instrumentalist or soloist please contact Ellen Sarewitz directly at ellen.sarewitz@cantab.net or tel 07771 758637. Payment will be required once you have been accepted and may be either by cheque, made out to EEMF, or by BACS transfer (details below)*. Ellen will let you know if your application is successful: then you will need to fill in the application form below and send it to Janet Tanburn (details on the application form).

Application

Please complete this page CAREFULLY and send AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to:
Janet Tanburn, 5 Meadow Rise, Bourn, Cambridge, CB23 2TG (janet@tanburn.com)

Delete as applicable:

I have been accepted as a soloist/instrumentalist (state voice/instrument) _____

OR

I wish to apply to participate in the chorus (voice) _____
for EEMF Monteverdi 1640 Vespers workshop, Thaxted, 6—8 October 2017

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Post code _____

E-mail _____

Phone/mobile _____

Access requirements if applicable _____

I am a member of _____ Early Music Forum / Please send EEMF membership details

Delete as applicable:

I enclose cheque/I have made payment by BACS (please reference Monteverdi 1640)

for whole weekend £80/£90 non-members

Sat and Sun £60/£70 non-members

Sun only £30/£40 non-members

I am able/need to share a ride to Thaxted from _____

* Please pay to the account of the Eastern Early Music Forum, A/c no. 33888401, Sort Code 40 - 16 - 08, HSBC Bank plc, 63-64, St Andrew's Street Cambridge CB2 3BZ

Accommodation near Thaxted

Totman's Farm, Dunmow Road, Thaxted, Essex CM6 2LU 01371 830233. stay@thaxtedandstanstedbandb.co.uk

Steepleview, 66 Newbiggin Street, Thaxted CM6 2QS 01371 831263. steepleviewthaxted.co.uk

Little Willows, Watling Lane, Thaxted CM6 2RA 01371 832874

The Swan Hotel, The Bull Ring, Thaxted CM6 2PL 0845 6086040. theswan.thaxted@greeneking.co.uk

Farmhouse Inn, Monk Street, Thaxted CM6 2NR 01371 830864 info@farmhouseinn.org

Warner's Farm B&B, Top Road, Wimbish, Saffron Walden CB10 2XJ 01799 599525 <http://via.eviivo.com/en-GB/mywebsite/WarnersFrmCB10>

Saffron Coach House, 44 Newport Road, Saffron Walden CB11 4BS 01799 526595 Valtreadwell@hotmail.com

Saffron Hotel, 8—12 High Street, Saffron Walden CB10 1AZ 01799 522 676 reservations@saffron-hotel.co.uk

Field View, Hewlett End, Wimbish, Saffron Walden CB10 2XW 01799 599616 lindymulhall@gmail.com

Bush Farm, Bush Road, Little Sampford, Saffron Walden CB10 2 RY 01799 586636

The Dairy, Sibley's Green, Thaxted 01371 830401

The Stables, Cowels Farm Lane, Lindsell CM6 3QG 01371 870175 info@cowelsfarmstables.co.uk

Cross Keys Hotel, 32 High Street, Saffron Walden CB10 1AX 01799 522207. info@theoldcrosskeys.co.uk

Acorn B&B Saffron Walden, 40 Audley Road, Saffron Walden CB11 3HD 01799 516733 sleepwell@theacornsaffronwalden.co.uk

Church Hall Farm, Church End, Broxted, nr Stansted CB6 2 BZ 01279 850858 bnb@church-hall-farm.co.uk