

EASTERN EARLY MUSIC FORUM

Music fit for an Emperor

by Heinrich Isaac

A polychoral day for voices and instruments

Tutored by Bill Carslake

Saturday, 2 March 2019 10 am for 10.30

Emmanuel United Reform Church

Trumpington Road, Cambridge CB2 1QY



In 1507 Maximilian convened a Reichstag at Konstanz to plan his coronation as Maximilian I, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. For this occasion his court composer, Heinrich Isaac (c.1450-1517) wrote the glorious motets *Sancti Spiritus* and *Virgo Prudentissima* in which, respectively, the assembly is exhorted to follow new emperor and, in a text by Maximilian's favourite, Joachim Vadian, the impending ceremony is likened to Mary's assumption and coronation as queen of heaven. Indeed the end of *Virgo Prudentissima* extols Maximilian as a kind of sun king. Our day will focus on these masterworks and include other pieces connected to Maximilian, as well as short works such as *A la bataglia* and *Insbruch, ich muss dich lassen* which show the astonishing versatility of this Flemish master. Isaac, the most famous of Josquin's contemporaries, was considered so important to the history of German music that in the 20th century Webern wrote a thesis on his counterpoint, and the music of the 'Great Man' was politicized in the 1930s. Isaac was also astonishingly prolific in all genres, sacred and secular. His works include 17 mass cycles, an anthology of over 450 chant-based polyphonic motets (*Choralis Constantinus*) much instrumental music, over 50 motets and more. All of the music on 2 March will be for voices and instruments.

Bill Carslake studied singing with David Lowe and Peter Alexander Wilson, and orchestral conducting with Martyn Brabbins, Jorma Panula and Ilya Musin. He composes music inspired by the outdoors, often on ecological themes, and is a 2018/19 Finzi Scholar for his current composition project. He is Artistic Director of Farnborough Symphony Orchestra and was Music Director for the Royal Ballet's *Elizabeth* in 2018. He is passionate about Renaissance and Baroque music and directs programmes for EMF forums, Lacock Choral Courses and Benslow Music. Bill is a Trustee of the Elgar Foundation.

The workshop will begin with coffee at 10.00, singing/playing at 10:30 and end with a run through at 17.00.

Parking in central Cambridge is expensive, but bus services are convenient and the Trumpington Road Park & Ride stops nearby. The cost for the day, including use of copies, will be £18 for members of EEMF and other Fora, or £20 for non-members. NB the annual subscription for EEMF is only £6 by standing order!

Please assume that your application is successful unless you hear from me. Participants will receive an e-mail with final instructions and directions to the venue as long as an e-mail address is provided.

To apply please complete this slip carefully and send it either with your cheque payable to EEMF to:

Frank Hopkirk, 4 Eyehall Farm Cottages, Clayhithe Road, Horningsea, Cambridge, CB25 9JD or by BACS as below

I wish to participate in the Music fit for an Emperor workshop, Saturday, 2 March 2019

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ E-mail _____

Telephone/Mobile _____ Voice/Instrument: _____

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

If you prefer to pay by bank transfer you must still return the form to Frank Hopkirk by post or by sending the above details in the body of an email to: frank.hopkirk.eemf@btinternet.com) Please also confirm payment.

Bank: HSBC Bank plc
Account name: Eastern Early Music Forum
Sort code: 40 – 16 – 08

Address: 63-64 St. Andrew's Street Cambridge CB2 3BZ
A/c No: 33888401
Reference: Isaac19- *your name*