*Interested in Early Music? Join us!*

EASTERN EARLY MUSIC FORUM

The Eastern Early Music Forum exists in the East Anglian area (1) to promote interest in Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque music, roughly from Hildegarde of Bingen to Bach and Handel; (2) to organize opportunities for Members to participate in music-making, (3) to enable musicians to contact musicians and (4) to allow musicians to work with leading experts in their specialist fields. EEMF has informal links with other Early Music Fora throughout the country and is affiliated to the National Early Music Association.

Our workshops are the main way in which we meet and make music together. We organize several workshops each year, tutored by leading specialists, in different parts of the region. During the pandemic, when live workshops could not be run, we enabled our Members to participate in online talks.

The Forum welcomes as members adult singers, instrumentalists, and those with more general or non-participatory interests in music. No minimum standard is required for most workshops: join in at whatever level you can.

Our website [www.eemf.org.uk](http://www.eemf.org.uk) provides a wide range of information about the Forum, such as EEMF workshops (past and future), news of concerts, contacts within the Forum, details of courses, Gallery of photos from past events, links to other Early Music organisations, plus a host of useful information on Early Music matters, plus joining information.

A newsletter is published at least three times a year. Each newsletter contains invitations to EEMF workshops; reviews of events organized by this Forum and other Early Music organisations; notices of forthcoming events, courses, and concerts by EEMF members.

The Eastern Early Music Forum does not set out to give public concerts. We are not a choir or a concert group: we do not rehearse on a regular basis as most choirs do. We are an association of like-minded enthusiasts.

Our workshops take place during the day, normally either a Saturday or Sunday (usually a Saturday because venues are booked up on Sundays). Typically, a workshop day starts at 10 for a 10.30 start to the session; lunch break around 1pm for an hour; restart at 2.00; then (after a mid-afternoon tea coffee break) finish around 5.00 or 5.30. Normally the day finishes with a run-through of the pieces we have worked on and the public are welcome to attend the run-throughs.

For the musicians, it is a working session, not an extended lecture. After Registration (with coffee and biscuits), the tutor sets out the theme of the workshop, then takes us through the music, if necessary rehearsing sections to get the notes or dynamics right. The programme for the day usually consists of pieces by different composers illustrating a theme or movements from larger works.

The music we work on is wonderful. Making music is uplifting and exhilarating. Our music is unique. Taking part can be a joyous experience.

There is a huge range of music available to us - around 650 years! Examples of composers and pieces we have worked on include the following:

Motets by Hildegarde of Bingen

Purcell theatre music

Pieces from the Sadler part books

Choral music by Dunstaple, Frye, John Tavener, Robert Parsons, Byrd and Tallis, Victoria, Praetorius, Melchior Frank, Machaut

Russian Orthodox hymns

Large-scale works by Biber, Monteverdi and Handel

Madrigals by Morely, Weelkes and Gibbons

Our tutors are all experts in their fields, as musicologists, singers and instrumentalists, performers at the Proms. We do not have a regular conductor as most choirs or orchestras do: we contract with individual tutors for the day’s session. We have had workshops tutored by Peter Holman, David Allinson, Philip Thorby, Patrick Craig, John Butt, John Milsom, Philip Cave, David Skinner, Peter Syrus, Ivan Moody, Bill Hunt …

We try to hold workshops around the East Anglia region, but this depends on the availability of local organisers. Organisers don’t have to be music experts: they just need to know of local musicians and suitable venues, and help is available to them from our current Organisers.

The Forum sends out information in advance for each workshop, with details of the programme, the tutor, the venue, travel and parking arrangements, together with a booking form. Members are not under any obligation to attend all the workshops – you can attend as many or as few as suits you. There is a fee for each workshop: we aim to break even, and we use profits from popular events to subsidise events of a more specialist nature.

There is a small annual subscription to cover general operating costs, payable by Standing Order or cheque. Subscription rates are:

Standing Order Cash or cheque

£ £

Individual member 6.00 8.00

Family membership 9.00 12.00

The membership subscription covers the calendar year, January to December. You can join us by completing the Application Form; please also let us know how you have paid by completing the Payment Advice Form. We look forward to welcoming you to the Forum.

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