



6th May 2017

St Faith & St Laurence Church
Harborne, Birmingham B17 8RE

The Catholic Kings - Music of the Spanish renaissance

A workshop for voices



Tutor:

Richard Wilberforce

The music

The *villancico* originated as a poetic form in the 13th century, often setting words on a pastoral or amorous theme, then developing into musical dance-song form. By the time of the Catholic monarchs King Ferdinand II of Aragon and Queen Isabella I of Castille, whose marriage in 1469 united their respective kingdoms under a single crown into what we would now recognise as Spain, *villancicos* were an extremely popular form, often polychoral and setting sacred words as often as secular..

In this workshop we shall be exploring choral works from three great collections of *villancicos* dating from the time of the Catholic monarchs. The earliest of these collections is the *Cancionero de la Colombina*, which was probably copied between the 1460s and 1480s. The works in the more famous *Cancionero de Palacio* were compiled between the mid 1470s to the beginning of the 16th century; this collection originally contained 548 works of which 458 still survive. The *Cancionero de Upsala* was published in Venice in 1556 and is famous for its Christmas settings or *villancicos de navidad*.

The music varies hugely in style and scale and the workshop promises to be great fun - as well as providing a fascinating study of rarely performed music from a pivotal period of European history.

Richard Wilberforce

Richard Wilberforce trained at St John's College, Cambridge and the Royal College of Music, where he was the recipient of a number of awards.

His career as a countertenor led him to sing solo roles in many of Europe's principal opera houses, such as the Staatsoper unter den Linden, the Tiroler Landestheater Innsbruck, the Théâtre du Capitole and the Grand Théâtre de Provence.

He was for five years Director of the Hallé Youth Choir, and continues to work with many of the country's leading choirs, including, the Leeds Philharmonic Chorus as Chorus Master, the Exon Singers as Conductor and Artistic Director, and English Voices as Associate Artistic Director, as well as make guest appearances with the London Philharmonic Choir, the BBC Symphony Chorus, the National Youth Choir of Great Britain and the Hallé Choir.

Richard Wilberforce has conducted at the Royal Albert Hall, the Bridgewater Hall and the Royal Festival Hall, and has also conducted the Hallé Orchestra, the Bristol Ensemble, the Zeitgeist Chamber Orchestra and the National Festival Orchestra.

Timetable

10.00 Registration – hot drinks available

10.30 Morning Session

13.00 Lunch (please bring sandwiches) & MEMF AGM c 13:30

14.00 Afternoon session

15.45 Tea

16.15 Final session

17.00 Finish

Directions

St Faith & St Laurence Church (B17 8RD) is on the corner of Court Oak Road and Croftdown Road in Harborne, Birmingham.

There is limited car parking at the church, but plenty of free on-street parking is available on Croftdown Road.

Booking

Please complete the enclosed booking form and send it, **at least 2 weeks before the event to enable us to obtain sufficient scores**, with your cheque payable to "MEMF" – to: Jonathan Spencer 32 Birley Grove Halesowen B63 1EP

Please let Jonathan know if you are unable to attend having booked.

Email: jonathan-spencer@blueyonder.co.uk; Tel: 0121 602 6058.

On the day of the workshop please call Jonathan on 07784 657563

Future MEMF events

3rd June 2017

Emmanuel Church Loughborough

Hieronymus Praetorius - brilliant music from Hamburg at the
turn of the 17th century

Vocal workshop

Tutor - Andrew Carwood

22nd July 2017

St Nicholas Church Warwick

Baroque Band

A workshop for instruments

Tutor – Steven Devine

16th September 2017

Venue TBC

Purcell – King Arthur

Voices & instruments

Tutor – John Hancorn

MEMF (www.memf.org.uk) members get regular mailings which include listings of Early Music events in the wider Midlands area, and reviews of events etc.

Members are also entitled to a reduction in Workshop fees. Further information can be obtained from chairman@memf.org.uk

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