

# Thames Valley Early Music Forum

**Plainsong into polyphony : three settings of *Alma redemptoris mater*,  
and how they were composed**

*A workshop for singers directed by*  
**John Milsom**

**Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup> 2012 10.00 a.m. for 10.30 until 5 p.m.**  
**Headington Community Centre, 39 Gladstone Road**  
**Headington, Oxford OX3 8LL**

**John Milsom** is well known to TVEMF members as an excellent and inspiring tutor who combines practical music-making with scholarly insights. He is one of the world's leading authorities on the musical culture of 16<sup>th</sup> century England; his performing editions of Tudor church music are used by choirs around the world. Another major interest is the craft of polyphony: how 16<sup>th</sup> century composers went about the task of creating new pieces.

John's idea for this workshop is to study three polyphonic settings of "Alma redemptoris mater", all based on the same plainsong melody and all set for 5 or 6 voices (SSATTB). The day will begin with the chant melody itself. We will then sing and discuss two settings composed around 1520, by Costanzo Festa and Andreas de Silva, then leap ahead to the 5-voice setting by Victoria (1570s). Among other things this will allow the singers to sense just how things have changed (or not changed) over the intervening half-century.

**Music:** Numbers for this workshop will be limited so please book up early (particularly tenors). There will be a strict waiting list for over-subscribed voice parts.

Headington Community Centre lies just inside the Oxford ring road, close to the junction of the A40, A4142 and A420. At that roundabout follow City Centre and Headington signs along London Road (A420), then take the first left into Gladstone Road. The hall is 100 yards on the right, opposite a pillar box and corner shop. The car park is small so please park considerately; if full, part in the road, beyond the hall. Buses (numbers 8,9,7c and U1) from the city centre stop on London Road near the Gladstone Road turning, as do the frequent Oxford Tube and Oxford Express coaches from various part of London.

Coffee & tea will be available from 10 a.m. and lunch will be from about 12.30 until 1.30. Bring your own lunch or buy a sandwich at the shop opposite, or walk to the Six Bells pub. No alcohol is allowed in the hall.

The fee for the day is £12 for members of TVEMF and other Fora and £14 for non-forum members. Please make cheques payable to TVEMF and send as soon as possible to Nicola Wilson-Smith, 86 Canterbury Road, North Harrow HA1 4PB (tel: 0208 933 7908 or e-mail: [n.wilson-smith@ntlworld.com](mailto:n.wilson-smith@ntlworld.com)). If you are unable to attend, please let Nicola know as soon as possible so your place can be offered to someone else. Late cancellations received after **20<sup>th</sup> February** may forfeit the course fee if they cannot be replaced from the waiting list. **ALL 'NO SHOWS' WILL FORFEIT THE COURSE FEE.** If you would like an acknowledgement of receipt, map, or further public transport information, please specify and send a s.a.e..

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**TVEMF Workshop 25<sup>th</sup> February 2012 - John Milsom**

Name: .....

Address:.....

Voice .....

..... Amount enclosed £ .....  
(payable to TVEMF)

Tel:.....

e-mail: .....