

Thames Valley Early Music Forum

‘O sing unto the Lord a new song’: sacred music by Johann Hermann Schein (1586-1630)

A day for singers and instrumentalists
directed by Peter Syrus

Saturday 28 June 2014 10 am for 10:30 until 5pm
United Reformed Church, Ickenham

Since Peter’s first TVEMF workshop in 2005, devoted to the music of Heinrich Schütz, his immaculate editions have introduced us to a wide range of mostly unfamiliar music by well-known figures such as Praetorius and Guerrero and the less well-known, such as Thomas Stoltzer, Costanzo Festa, Cipriano de Rore and the Eton Choirbook composers. This year he will return to seventeenth-century Germany to focus on Johann Hermann Schein.

Peter writes: “Schein was an illustrious predecessor of J.S. Bach as Thomaskantor in Leipzig, and amongst the first to unite elements of the most up-to-date Italian madrigal with time-honoured Lutheran ones. Technically some of the items in the workshop are indeed sacred madrigals, including the stunning ‘Die mit Tränen säen’. The German chorale will be represented by ‘Christum wir sollen loben schon’, comparing the four-part setting by Schein with Osiander’s penned some forty years earlier. Easily the most spectacular music is that for two or three choirs. ‘Quem vidistis, pastores?’ and ‘Quem quaeritis, Magdalena?’ are from his major publication of 1615, ‘Cymbalum Sionium’. From later and less easily accessed sources, long assumed lost, come ‘Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied’ and ‘Da pacem Domine’. We know that Schütz admired Schein (there may be time for the motet Schütz composed on Schein’s premature death) and also, of course, Giovanni Gabrieli. With luck there will be spine-tingling moments putting you in mind of any of these figures, but I promise you too that Schein is his own man.”

The music will be suitable for singers (all ranges) and for cornetts, sackbuts and curtals. A volunteer to play organ continuo (reading from figured bass parts) would also be warmly welcomed. Pitch A = 440.

The day will begin with coffee at 10.00 for a 10.30 start and run till 5.00. Ickenham URC is in Swakeleys Road, on the corner of Eleanor Grove (postcode UB10 8BE), half a mile from Ickenham station (Metropolitan and Piccadilly lines) and about three quarters of a mile from West Ruislip (Chiltern and Central). There is some parking for cars in the streets by the church. Pubs and cafes are close by.

Please send this form by 13 June to Jeff Gill, 12 Dorset Road, London SW8 1EJ (020 7735 9002, jeffgill9160@waitrose.com). The fee is £12 for Early Music Forum members and £14 for non-members, cheques payable to TVEMF. You should assume that your application has been accepted unless you hear to the contrary. Registered charity no. 900284

TVEMF, Ickenham United Reformed Church, 28 June 2014

Name Voice/instrument

I enclose a cheque for £

Address, telephone number, e-mail address: