

Thames Valley Early Music Forum

BAROQUE CHAMBER MUSIC PLAYING DAY

with Victoria Helby

Burnham Grammar School

Hogfair Lane, Burnham, Buckinghamshire SL1 7HG

Saturday 8th November 2008 from 10am to 5.30pm

Yet another in our series of one-to-a-part days for baroque wind (including recorders) and string players - violin family and (mainly bass) viol, and keyboard or plucked continuo. Solo singers are also welcome - I have some music for voice with obbligato instruments but you may prefer to bring your own. Keyboard players are welcome even if they do not own and bring their own instrument (but please do if you can so that we can minimise the number of electric keyboards we have to use). If you do bring a keyboard instrument the cost of the day will be refunded provided that you arrive by 10am. (This offer does not include electric keyboards which do not need tuning!) You do need to be a good sight-reader to enjoy this event, so contact me if you are not sure if it is for you.

We will be playing chamber music in various combinations, mainly trio sonatas and quartets or quintets with continuo, but I can also arrange larger orchestral sessions, Brandenburg concertos etc if enough string players come. A large supply of music will be available but it is very helpful if people bring their own as well so that we can have a good selection. Do let me know in advance if you are bringing anything with unusual instrumentation. Requests for particular groups or music will be accommodated as far as possible. I provide organisation and, if requested, ensemble coaching and help with the choice of music. Please indicate on the form if you would like this.

The day will start with coffee at 10am followed by playing at 10.30. Sessions will be organised in advance, with different combinations for each of the four sessions, so it is ESSENTIAL for you to let me know if you are not likely to arrive at the beginning or cannot stay all day, or find that you cannot come at all. If you haven't been to one of these events before please provide as much information as possible about yourself, such as your approximate standard of playing, whether you play on modern or baroque instruments and whether you only play at 440 or 415 or (to make organisation easier) both. I do try to avoid asking string players to retune but tell me if this is really impossible for you. Harpsichords or spinets and small organs will be available at 440 and 415.

Burnham Grammar School (near Slough) is less than two miles from junction 7 on the M4 and less than a mile from Burnham station on the Paddington to Reading line. Please park in the tennis court area and enter through the back door nearby. Coffee and tea will be provided. There is a small Co-op within walking distance, and a real-ale pub called the Red Squirrel, but most people bring their own lunch as there is not really time to eat at the pub and be back in an hour. Please note that the school has a no smoking rule and dogs are not allowed on the premises.

The cost will be £8 for members of TVEMF and other forums and £9 for non-members if booked by November 3rd. Late bookings cost £10 and £11 respectively and if you want to make a late booking you need to e-mail or phone me first on 01494 721582 (not between 3.30 and 7.30 weekdays) to check that you can be fitted in. Don't just turn up on the day! Please return the form to: Victoria Helby, 50 Sheepfold Lane, Amersham, Bucks HP7 9EJ, enclosing a SAE (self-adhesive if possible) if you would like an acknowledgement or map. Maps are available on www.streetmap.co.uk and the Forum web site. My e-mail address is secretary@tvemf.org but don't use e-mail for very late alterations to your booking. And please don't back out at the last minute after I have done all the planning - it's a nightmare having to rearrange it all on the day!

I would like to come to the baroque chamber music day on 8th November 2008 and enclose £

(Cheque payable to TVEMF)

Name and address:

telephone number:

e-mail:

Please specify the instrument(s) you intend to bring and their pitch, your approximate playing standard and any other information that might be helpful (see above). Can you bring a keyboard instrument or offer any music? Do you want ensemble coaching? Is there any piece of music or combination of instruments or people you would particularly like? (Or prefer to avoid!)