

Thames Valley Early Music Forum

A Latin-American Christmas

A workshop for singers and instrumentalists

with Jeffrey Skidmore

Sunday 6th December 2009, 10am for 10.30 until 5.30pm
at the Drake Hall, Amersham Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham, Bucks HP6 5AH

You are invited to our annual Christmas workshop which this time is for singers, and players of viols, violin family, cornett, sackbut, curtal, a limited number of recorders and as much plucked and keyboard continuo as possible. Pitch will be A=440. Jeffrey writes that the day will be "an exploration of the extraordinary Baroque music of Latin American with its fusion of Amero-Indian, European and African elements. We will perform in Inca and Aztec languages as well as Spanish and Latin and look at music from Mexico, Peru and Bolivia."

Jeffrey Skidmore is well-known for exciting programming which is often challenging but always accessible. He read music at Magdalen College, Oxford, before returning to Birmingham to develop Ex Cathedra into the internationally-acclaimed choral group it has become today. He is a pioneer in the research and performance of neglected choral works of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, and has won wide acclaim in particular for his recordings of French and Latin American Baroque music with Ex Cathedra for Hyperion. He is artistic director of the Early Music Programme at the Birmingham Conservatoire and a regular conductor at Dartington International Summer School as well as many workshops around the Country.

The day will start with coffee at 10.00 am and finish by 5.30 pm. Lunch is likely to be from about 12.30 until 1.45 and, as usual at our Christmas event, will be communal. **You are asked to bring a contribution** - to the first course if your surname starts with A to M and to the second if it starts with N to Z. You may choose to be inspired by our Latin-American theme but that isn't essential. Please put perishable contributions in the fridge when you arrive, and leave anything that would be better kept cool in your car (if you came in one), assuming that the weather is cold. A glass of wine or juice will be provided, as will bread and butter. Please be prepared to volunteer on the catering front at some time during the day, as there will be lots to do (though the Centre has an excellent dishwasher).

Amersham Community Centre is only a few minutes walk from Amersham station. Turn right out of the station and follow the road round past the Health Centre and the library. The Community Centre is on the right almost immediately after the pedestrian crossing, and the hall is in the building on the right at the back of the car park, almost opposite the entrance. There is work on the line so those coming by train will need to catch the 9.15 to Beaconsfield from Marylebone followed by a bus, arriving at Amersham station at 10.05. **Don't forget to book to Amersham**, not Beaconsfield. The return connecting bus leaves Amersham station at 5.40 pm and we will stop in time for you to catch it. Please check these times on the Chiltern Railways web site nearer the time. There is space on the form to offer or ask for a lift. Parking is free at the Community Centre and in the library car park. If you search www.streetmap.co.uk for the post code HP6 5AH you will see the Centre just underneath the arrow.

The cost will be £10 for Early Music Forum members, £12 for others. The hall is a large one, but this is likely to be a popular course so please book early to be sure of a place. Maps, receipts and acknowledgements will not be sent out unless requested with a SAE or email address. You can assume you have been accepted unless you hear to the contrary. Please send the attached form before November 21st to: Victoria Helby, 50 Sheepfold Lane, Amersham HP7 9EJ (01494 721582 not between 4 & 7 on weekdays) secretary@tvemf.org. (Please use a separate cheque if you are also applying to the baroque chamber music day.)

I would like to come to the Christmas workshop and enclose a cheque (payable to TVEMF) for £

Name:
Address:

Telephone:
e-mail:

Voice/instrument(s):

I can offer/would like a lift from