

THAMES VALLEY EARLY MUSIC FORUM



Saturday 5th September 2026, 10.30 for 11-5.30pm

at St Michael & All Angels Church

Lonsdale Road, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7ES

Benevoli's 4-choir Missa Dum Complerentur

A workshop for voices and instruments (A=440)

directed by **Robert Hollingworth**

Maestro of the Cappella Giulia in the middle of the 17th century, Orazio Benevoli wrote his flamboyant multi-choir masses for the finest churches in Rome. The most splendid occasions required doubling or even tripling the four choirs along the nave of a cathedral, each extra ensemble on a specially-built platform (carpenter payment records still survive!) The four choirs are equally-voiced (SATB - unlike Venetian music of the Gabrieli) and gentle instrumental doubling at the time seems to have been permitted despite it being in Rome.

This one is based on Palestrina's sublime Pentecost motet and features a sublime 'Et incarnatus est' as well as a rhythmically intriguing Amen to the Credo which participants may want to look at before the day! I Fagiolini's premiere recording of this mass was recently released and was both Gramophone and BBC Music Magazine choral choice. We hope to do the Palestrina motet too, but that depends on being able to get instrumental parts for it.

The workshop is for singers, and players of appropriate instruments such as cornetts, sackbuts, curtals, recorders, violin family, viols, plucked and keyboard continuo (from score or unfigured bass). Pitch will be A=440 and instrumental parts will be in standard treble and bass clefs.

As they are copyright, only people who sign up for the workshop will be able to look at the scores on the website and you will be sent a link when you book. Singers – please indicate on the booking form if you will download your music and print it yourself or read it from a tablet. We can print it for you if you prefer. Instrumental music will be provided on the day.

Robert Hollingworth founded I Fagiolini in 1986 and has since spent much of his life thinking about how audiences receive music, instead of just how performers want to deliver it. Aside from his work with I Fagiolini, he is a conductor, broadcaster, educator, editor and festival director. He has conducted orchestras including the English Concert, Academy of Ancient Music, BBC Concert Orchestra, Irish Baroque Orchestra and directed some of the world's finest chamber choirs including Accentus, NDR Chor, RIAS Kammerchor (Berlin), Netherlands Chamber Choir, National Chamber Choir of Ireland, BBC Singers, Danish National Vocal Ensemble and Capella Cracoviensis. He is Artistic Director for Stour Music Festival and the new 'Fairest Isle Festival' on the Isle of Wight.

At the University of York, Robert directs two choirs and the UK's only MA in Solo-Voice Ensemble Singing, now in its 14th year. He has written and presented programmes on BBC Radio 3 and more recently created over 30 episodes of the YouTube choral series SingTheScore as well as co-founding and presenting the UK's top choral podcast series, Choral Chihuahua, with Eamonn Dougan and Nicholas Mulroy, now in its twelfth season. Both are made by Polyphonic Films (Greg Browning). Robert Hollingworth is managed worldwide by Percius. www.percius.co.uk

The church is only a short bus ride from Oxford Parkway station and Park and Ride car park. It has outside space and a modern extension which have made it an attractive venue for concerts and recordings.

There is room on the form to offer or ask for a lift to the Park and Ride and we will assume if you fill this in that you are happy for your email address/phone number to be given to other people on the list.

The day will start with coffee and registration at 10.30am and finish at about 5.30pm. There are cafés and pubs within walking distance but you may prefer to bring your own lunch. Please bring your own mug.

The fee is £16 for Early Music Forum members, £20 for non-members (annual membership to December 2026 is £9, or £6 if you pay by standing order) and £5 for full-time students. Please apply online by 31st August using the following link [BOOK HERE](#). After that date, please email to check if there are still places before applying. If you are unable to do Stripe or online booking, you can book by post to 43 Inchwood, Birch Hill, Bracknell RG12 7ZX, enclosing a cheque payable to Thames Valley Early Music Forum (not TVEMF), giving your name, address, voice, instrument(s), email address and phone number, and mentioning whether you can offer or would like a lift and if you would like your choir scores printed for you. Enquiries about payments to membershipsecretary@tvemf.org.uk please. Other enquiries to chair@tvemf.org.uk.

The church is quite big so there is room for the large forces needed by the music, but please book early to be sure of a place. You can assume you have been accepted unless you have to join a waiting list when you book online. If you have booked and cannot come, please let chair@tvemf.org.uk know at once because otherwise you will not only lose your booking fee but you will very likely deprive someone on the waiting list of a place. If you have any questions before you book, please get in touch.

Registered charity no. 900284

Exterior of St. Peter's, Rome (c.1630) by Viviano Codazzi (1604-1670) Prado, Madrid
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:St-peter%27s-viviano-codazzi-prado-1630.jpg>