

# THAMES VALLEY EARLY MUSIC FORUM



Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 10.30 for 11-5.30pm

at St Andrew's Church

Linton Road, Oxford OX2 6UG

**Ave Maria – from Parsons to Palestrina**

a workshop for voices

with David Crown

'Come and sing' for a day several Renaissance Masters, including Victoria, Arcadelt, Parsons, Fux, Palestrina and Willaert, and immerse yourself in their settings of the wonderful words of the Ave Maria. Explore their musical worlds and enjoy working on your own singing alongside. This will be a fun and illuminating day with sublime music in a friendly, focussed and relaxed setting.

David Crown is a hugely experienced conductor and choir trainer with a background in singing and vocal pedagogy. He is greatly in demand for days such as this, combining skill and humour to bring the best out of the singers and ensure a valuable musical experience. He was founding Musical Director of Opus 48, a new virtuoso choral society for Oxfordshire, and he is Musical Director of Cheltenham Bach Choir. Leading the choir through its 70th Anniversary season, he directed Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* with the Musical and Amicable Society Baroque Orchestra and founded the Cheltenham Bach Choir Spring Festival of the Baroque. He is also founder and Music Director of vOx Chamber Choir.

The church is on the corner of Northmoor Road. Those coming by train from London should take the Marylebone line via High Wycombe and alight at Oxford Parkway. Drivers should park at Water Eaton Park & Ride which shares the same site. Both should get bus 2 or 2A from outside the station (frequent combined service) towards Oxford (not Kidlington) and alight at Linton Road. Anyone from Slough/Reading etc. who goes to Oxford main station can either use bus 14 (half-hourly service) to Linton Road or will need two buses via the city centre. Local parking is difficult as it is a residential area.

The day will start with coffee and registration at 10.30 and finish at about 5.30. You are advised to bring your own lunch as there are no local cafés or shops within walking distance. Please bring your own mug for tea and coffee.

The fee is £16 for Early Music Forum members, £20 for non-members and £5 for full-time students (annual membership to December 2025 is half price: £4.50, or £3 if you set up a standing order for £6 starting 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026). Please apply online by 29<sup>th</sup> September using the following link: **[BOOK HERE](#)**. After that date, please email Michael Bloom [michaelfbloom@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:michaelfbloom@yahoo.co.uk) 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, email address and phone number, and mentioning whether you can offer or would like a lift

to the Park and Ride and if you would like your choir scores printed for you. Enquiries about payments to [membershipsecretary@tvemf.org.uk](mailto:membershipsecretary@tvemf.org.uk) please. Other enquiries to [michaelfbloom@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:michaelfbloom@yahoo.co.uk).

The music for the workshop will be here as soon as it is available:

<https://www.tvemf.org.uk/tvemf-events/music/avemaria-2025>. Please indicate on the booking form if you will download and print it yourself or read it from a tablet. We can print it for you if you prefer. Please do not wait until the last minute to book! You can assume that 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 Michael Bloom 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. There will still be some Covid precautions, including taking a lateral flow test before you come. These will be outlined in the online booking form and in the final email.

Registered charity no. 900284

*Albrecht Dürer: The Bagnacavallo Madonna in the Fondazione Magnani-Rocca*  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Albrecht\\_D%C3%BCrer -  
Virgin and Child before an Archway - WGA06913.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Albrecht_D%C3%BCrer_-_Virgin_and_Child_before_an_Archway_-_WGA06913.jpg)