

Thames Valley Early Music Forum

Christmas workshop

A Festive Palindrome



directed by Philip Thorby

Sunday 13th December 2026
at Amersham Community Centre in the Chilterns Lifestyle Centre,
Chiltern Avenue, Amersham HP6 5AH
10.30 for 11am until 5.30pm

It's time to book for TVEMF's annual festive workshop, and we are delighted to welcome our president, Philip Thorby, to lead us through some joyful music (including some seasonal works) by Lambert de Sayve, Hieronymus Praetorius, Melchior Vulpus, Andreas Hakenberger and Hans Leo Hassler. Where does the Palindrome come in? Well, we will begin and end with two magnificent 15-part settings of *Jubilate Deo*, and in the middle will be two 10-part seasonal motets - *Verbum Caro Factus est* and *Sancta et Immaculata*. In between will be two settings of *Angelus ad Pastores Ait*. Philip will be bringing all the music with him.

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.

The day will start with coffee at 10.30am and finish at about 5.30pm. Lunch is likely to be from about 1pm until 2.15 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 N and to the second if it starts with O to Z. There will be information about where to put your food in the final email. Please bring your own mug and something suitable for cold drinks, and if possible your own plates and cutlery (and a plastic bag to take them home to be washed up).

Amersham Community Centre is inside the Chilterns Lifestyle Centre. It's only a few minutes' walk from Amersham station (Metropolitan and Chiltern lines). Turn

right out of the station and follow the road round past the Health Centre. All-day parking at the Community Centre and other local council car parks now costs £1.30. There is space on the form to offer or ask for a lift and I 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 fee is £16 for Early Music Forum members and £20 for non-members (annual membership to December 2027 is £9, or £6 if you pay by standing order). Please apply online by December 5th at the latest, using the following link [BOOK HERE](#)

After that date, please email chair@tvemf.org.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, instrument(s), email address and phone number, and mentioning whether you can offer or would like a lift. Enquiries about payments to membershipsecretary@tvemf.org.uk please. Other enquiries to chair@tvemf.org.uk.

It's a big hall so there is room for the large forces needed by the music, but please book early to be sure of a place and reassure us that we will have all the necessary voices and instruments. 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 me 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.** I'd prefer you to email me at chair@tvemf.org.uk but you can phone me on 01494 721582 if necessary. Please leave a message if I don't answer the phone. You can also text 07758 211206. Please don't come if you have symptoms of flu, covid, a cold or any other bug that nobody wants to catch. We will refund anyone who has to cancel because of ill health.

Registered Charity No 900284

Christ's birth with the worship of the shepherds and angels. Oil on copper plate. Approx. 33.5 x 28. 5 cm.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gemäldepaar_Geburt_Christi_Deutschland_17_Jh_1_Anbetung_der_Hirten.jpg