North East
Early Music Forum
Registered Charity No: 326282

7 November 2026

Heavenly Harmonies

Exploring the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis from William Byrd's 'Great' Service, along with motets by Byrd, Blitheman, Tomkins and Philips

*A workshop for singers led by **Alex Woodrow***

Summerhill Bowling Club, Winchester Ter, Newcastle NE4 6EH

Time: 10.00 for 10:30–16:30   Pitch: A=440



This workshop takes a look at the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis from Byrd's Great Service, moving seamlessly from between 4 and 10 voices with sophistication and poise, representing the zenith of the English High Renaissance polyphonic style.

> *For just as in the art of construction it would be base to fashion a rough work out of a very precious material, so too nothing surely will be fitting for the Sacred sentences [of the Divine liturgy] in which are sung the praises of God himself and the citizens of heaven except some heavenly harmony, or the extent that we can attain it.* [William Byrd]

Alongside this masterpiece, we will explore a range of motets from 16th century English composers: John Blitheman's setting of the night time prayer 'In pace'; Byrd's own 'Justorum Animae', appropriate for the Feast of All Souls which will just have been marked on November 2nd, a little-performed verse anthem by Thomas Tomkins, 'Behold the Hour Cometh', and the madrigalian 'Cantantibus Organis' by Peter Philips.

Alexander Woodrow has been the Organist and Director of Music at Leeds Minster since 2020, following positions at Guildford Cathedral, St Albans Cathedral, Hexham Abbey and Bradford Cathedral. He is the Director of Music of two chamber choirs Growing up in York, he read Music at Magdalene College, Cambridge, as Organ Scholar and Academic Exhibitioner. He also performs solo organ recitals.

COST £18; concessions £9 (people aged ≤26 or on a very low income e.g. solely dependent on state benefits). **STUDENTS FREE.**

Refreshments at breaks included. Bring a packed lunch, as very limited local facilities.

Booking: (preferably) online via workshop diary on www.neemf.org.uk, OR complete the booking form below and send with a cheque payable to 'North East Early Music Forum' to:

Dow Smith, 9 Swinburne Place, Newcastle NE4 6EA.

Closing date: 24 Oct 26.

If you cannot use your booked place, please inform us asap. For more info, please email dows@aol.com

PTO for venue details and for the NEEMF half-price pensioner concession

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APPLICATION FORM – 7 Nov 26 (Closing date for applications: 24 Oct 26)

Completed form and cheque to: **Dow Smith, 9 Swinburne Place, Newcastle NE4 6EA**

Name and address (with postcode please) ....

....

Postcode ....Email...Tel: ....

I wish to sing: ________________ (voice) • I would sing solo (if required) [ ]

I enclose a cheque (payable to *North East Early Music Forum*) for £ ……. (we will email you a receipt.)

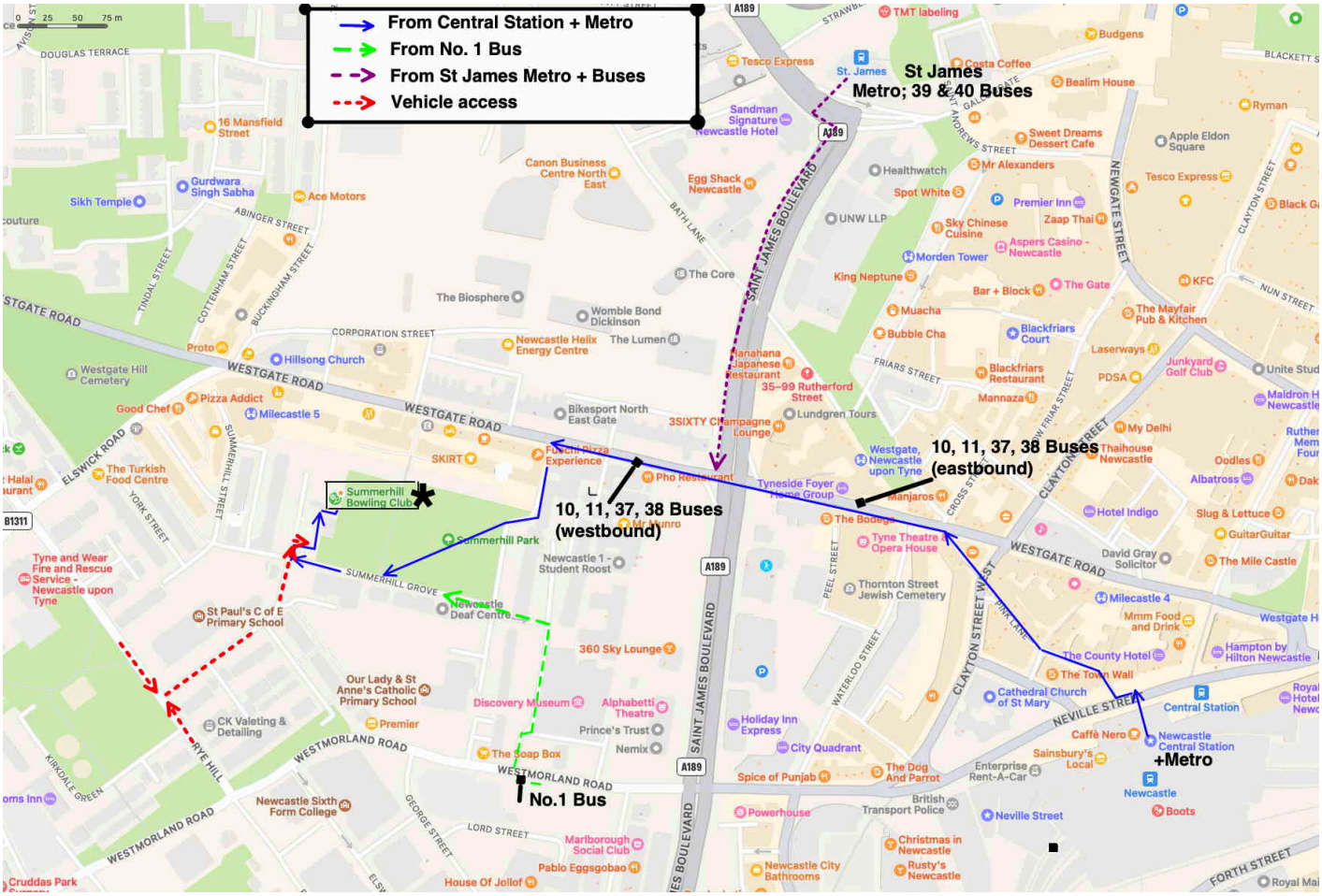
Do you belong to NEEMF? Yes / No

Is this your first workshop? If so, we will try to arrange a welcomer to meet you. Yes / No

For non-members of NEEMF: may we email you occasionally? Your email address will not be shared with anyone. Yes / No

Signed .... Date ....

Venue: Summerhill Bowling Club, Winchester Ter, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6EH



By public transport – Metro:
A 12-minute walk from either Central Station or St James's stops

By public transport – Bus:
Well-served by buses: the map above shows walking routes from:
No. 1 – 5 minute walk; Nos 10, 11, 37, 38 – 6 minute walk; Nos 39, 40 – 12 minute walk

By car:
Via Rye Hill. Turn into Houston St (which has a direction sign pointing to 'Summerhill Square').
If being dropped off (eg if coming by taxi), it may be quicker to walk in from Westgate Rd: come in via Swinburne Place (with Fuochi Pizza on the corner).

Parking
There is likely to be sufficient (free) parking in the Bowling Club's car park.
There is paid parking within walking distance. More details available at b.link/summerhill.

Please note: The NEEMF half-price pensioner concession is only for pensioners whose SOLE source of income is the state pension. Pensioners who live on a combination of occupational and state pensions pay the full workshop rate.