7 February 2026

Zelenka at the Dresden Court

A workshop for singers, oboes, sackbuts, bassoon, strings & continuo

Led by Chris Roberts

Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall, Westgate, Thirsk YO7 1QR

10 for 10.30 - 16.30   A=415

North East Early Music Forum
Registered Charity No: 326282



Jan Dismas Zelenka (1679–1745) was a Bohemian composer and double bass player at the Dresden court of Elector August the Strong and his son. He arrived in Dresden around 1710 and spent most of his life there, apart from a study period in Vienna between 1716 and 1719. Although never officially appointed Kapellmeister at Dresden, Zelenka often took over the duties of the ailing Johann David Heinichen, composing and directing liturgical works for the court's Catholic church. Zelenka's music was admired by Johann Sebastian Bach and is particularly striking for its harmonic inventiveness and rich counterpoint. This workshop, led by Dr Christopher Roberts, will explore Zelenka's Kyrie, Sanctus and Agnus Dei in D minor ZWV26 (c.1723) and Gloria in F major ZWV30 (1724), and is open to all singers, oboes, sackbuts, bassoon, strings (violins, violas, cellos, violone/double bass) and continuo players (theorbo, organ).

Chris is Operations Manager at the National Centre for Early Music in York and has previously held positions at Benslow Music, Cambridge Early Music, and the Historically Informed Summer School. His publications include essays on the Doncaster composer Edward Miller (1735-1807) in Music in North-East England 1500-1800, ed. by Stephanie Carter, Kirsten Gibson and Roz Southey (The Boydell Press, 2020) and The Music Trade in Regional Britain, 1650-1800, ed. by Stephanie Carter and Simon D.I. Fleming (The Boydell Press, 2025). Chris enjoys composing and playing the harpsichord and cello. His music has been performed by Fretwork on BBC Radio 3, The Clothworkers Consort of Leeds and Leeds Baroque Choir and Orchestra.

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 or use local facilities.
Please complete the booking form below and send with a cheque payable to 'North East Early Music Forum' to: **Alice Brunton, 13 Lily Crescent, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2SP** or book online via workshop diary on our website www.neemf.org.uk). **Closing date: 24 January**. If you cannot use your booked place, please inform us asap. For more info. please email alicesbrunton@gmail.com

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Zelenka at the Dresden Court 7 February 2026   **Application Form**
(Closing date for applications: 24 January 2026)
Completed form and cheque to: **Alice Brunton, 13 Lily Crescent, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2SP**

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

....

.... Postcode ....

Email ____   Tel: _________________________________

I wish to play:________________________ (*indicate instrument(s*) approx level (*eg starter, pro, student)* _________

or I wish to sing: ________________________ *(voice)* I prefer to Play / Sing   I would be able to sing solo (if required) ☐

Please also tell us if you have any special requirements (eg large print, transpositions or clefs preferred, **car parking space**):

We will email a receipt. If you prefer, we can post an acknowledgement/receipt for which I enclose a stamped SAE ☐

I enclose a cheque (*payable to `North East Early Music Forum'*) for £ _______   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** ____________________

Directions to Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall, Westgate, Thirsk YO7 1QR.

By Car - Just off the A19 / A1(M).
Car parking : a few spaces available at the Town Hall for those who really need them. Otherwise parking available at: Nursery Car Park, Nursery Gardens, Thirsk YO7 1FT £6.40 per day - 4 minutes walk away

By Train
The railway station is a 26 minute walk from the Town Hall so if arriving by train you might want to book a taxi in advance to meet you.
https://visitthirsk.uk/pages/taxis.php

Venue website:
https://thirskandsowerbytownhall.org.uk/



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.