North East
Early Music Forum
Registered Charity No: 326282

25 Jan 2025

Queen of Heaven: Polychoral music for Mary

A workshop for singers and instruments

Led by David Allinson

St Francis Church Hall, Newcastle NE7 7QH

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



What better antidote to the gloom of late January than a day of lavish motets for the Virgin Mary? With this day of music for voices and instruments, David Allinson explores some of the sunniest music of the Renaissance: settings of texts such as *Regina Cæli* and *Ave Maria*.

The final programme is dependent upon the forces signing up, but we expect to include motets and antiphons by composers including **Victoria**, **Guerrero**, **Alonso Lobo** – and the criminally underrated **Giovanni Croce**. Many of these motets are richly scored for double choir: some of their texts draw upon the romantic poetry of the Song of Songs, inspiring composers to mystical heights as they honour the Mother of God.

Dr David Allinson is a freelance conductor, singer and musicologist. He has directed the Renaissance Singers in London since 2009 along with numerous other choirs, including his own ensemble, Cantores. Having held teaching positions at universities in Oxford, Bristol and Canterbury, he maintains his research interests in the spiritual experiences of singers, and recently appeared as an expert on Radio 4's *Sunday Worship* speaking about William Byrd. David has led hundreds of workshop days and residential courses and brings to them a unique mixture of scholarship, technical know-how and humour.

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: 11 Jan 2025

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 – **25 Jan 2025**: (Closing date for applications: 11 Jan 2025)

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

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

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

I wish to play: ________________ (indicate instrument(s); approx level (eg starter, pro, student) ________

AND/OR: I wish to sing: _________________________ (voice) 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, etc).

We will email a receipt. If you prefer, we can post an acknowledgement 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 ....

Venue details. Address:

St Francis Church Hall, Cleveland Gardens, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7QH - close to Freeman Hospital.

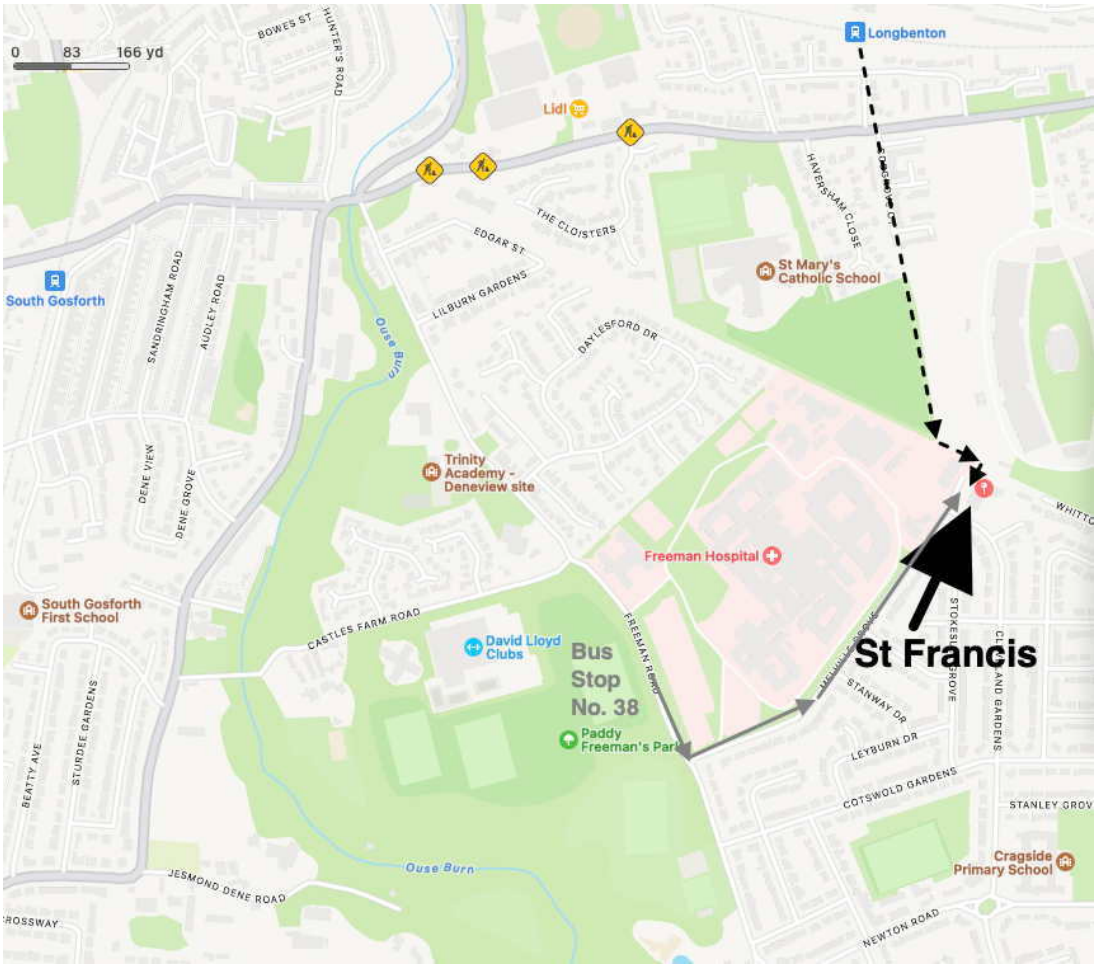
Directions:

Public transport: journey-time from Central Station via **Metro** (yellow line, destination St James, get off at Longbenton): 30 minutes in total, with a 13 minute walk from the station – shown as a black dotted line on the map. **Bus**: The number 38 runs from the city-centre to Freeman Hospital, which is a 9 min walk away - shown as grey line.

Parking: limited at venue itself; plenty within 100m (more details on the info-sheet)

NEEMF info-sheet on the venue:

b.link/stfrancis



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.