North East
Early Music Forum
Registered Charity No: 326282

Saturday 23 May 2026
La Fèsta de ła Sènsa:
Venetian Music for Ascension



A workshop **for singers and instrumentalists — strings, soft winds, recorders, brass eg sackbuts and continuo. A=440**

led by Andrew Griffiths

Clements Hall, Nunthorpe Road, York YO23 1BS

Time 10 for 10.30 - 16.30

The Feast of the Ascension (Fèsta de ła Sènsa) was, and remains (at least for tourists), a major public celebration of Venice's glory. It culminates in the renewal of the ritual marriage between the city and the sea, as a symbolic gold ring is thrown into the lagoon. Andrew Griffiths returns to NEEMF to lead a workshop for singers and instrumentalists on repertoire appropriate for this glittering occasion: works which could have been performed at a grand Vespers to mark the Feast, or appropriate to the secular festivities. Likely programme: **Andrea Gabrieli – *Vieni Imeneo*, Monteverdi – *Dixit dominus II*, Croce - *Percussit Saule*, Giovanni Gabrieli - *Omni gentes a 16*, Grifoni/Vecchi – *Salutis humanae Sator*, Monteverdi – *Magnificat a 8*** (from Selva Morale).

Andrew Griffiths enjoys a busy and varied career in the worlds of choral music, early music and opera. A graduate of the Royal Opera's Jette Parker Young Artists Programme, his many productions include conducting for The Royal Opera, The Royal Ballet, WNO, Opera North and Early Opera Company. He is currently Head Coach at the National Opera Studio. He regularly broadcasts and performs with the BBC Singers, serves as musical director of Londinium and Kingston Choral Society, and has worked extensively with the choirs at Dartington and Gresham's Summer Schools. He also sings as a founder member of renowned vocal consort Stile Antico, and is also a sought-after continuo player, having assisted and played for such conductors as John Eliot Gardiner, Laurence Cummings, Christian Curnyn, Thomas Hengelbrock, Charles Mackerras, Maxim Emelyanychev and Harry Bicket.

£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 it to 'North East Early Music Forum' to:
Alice Brunton, 13 Lily Crescent, Newcastle NE2 2SP (or book online www.neemf.org.uk). ***Closing date: 09/05/2026***
If you cannot use your booked place, please inform us asap. For more info: please email alicesbrunton@gmail.com

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Ascension Vespers with Andrew Griffiths (*closing date 9 May 2026)* **Application Form**

Completed form and cheque to: Alice Brunton NEEMF 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, intermediate)* .....

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, etc):

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 will not be shared with anyone. Yes / No

Cheque enclosed for £ _____Signed_____ Date _____

Clements Hall, Nunthorpe Road, York, is easily reached by public transport or by car: SatNav use YO23 1BP or YO23 1BS. There is free parking in the school playground opposite and car access is via Scarcroft Rd and Upper Price St (or directly onto Nunthorpe Rd if coming from the east).

Park and Ride: White route from Askham Bar and Turquoise route from Poppleton Bar will drop you off at Blossom Street or the railway station, and Red route from the Designer Outlet on the A64 will deliver you to the railway station. Approx. 12 minutes' walk from York Railway Station via Nunnery Lane.

The building has disabled access.



COVID precautions: to help to protect everyone, we ask you to:

-read and abide by our Covid policy. This can be found on our website https://neemf.weebly.com/covid-policy.html

-whether vaccinated or not, take a lateral flow test the day before the workshop

-do not attend if you feel at all unwell

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.