North East
Early Music Forum
Registered Charity No: 326282

Saturday 11 October 2025
Centenary Year - Orlando Gibbons anthems

A workshop for all voices, viols of all sizes and soft wind (recorders, flutes) with a supporting role for well behaved curtals in the chorus sections. Organ and lute are also welcome



Led by Bill Hunt

Clements Hall, York YO23 1BW 10 for 10.30 - 16.30 **A=440**

In January 2023 I had the pleasure of leading a NEEMF workshop featuring consort verse anthems by William Byrd, who can justifiably be called the 'father' this musical form. This year we shall feature anthems by Orlando Gibbons to celebrate his centenary, in whose hands it arguably reached its finest expression.

The vocal scoring of sacred music from this period is not easy to replicate with modern voices - it is very clear that the voice ranges for which it was typically written are significantly different from the normal SATB ranges that we know today. To give you an idea, 'Cantus' or 'Mean' usually denotes what we would now call 'mezzo'; 'Contratenor' means a high tenor range (not a falsetto 'countertenor') and is sometimes best achieved by combining a normal tenor with an alto in a kind of pantomime horse arrangement; 'Tenor' was the name given to what we would recognise as baritone; and 'Bassus' means a 'real', i.e. low bass voice.

BIll Hunt was a founder member of the viol consort Fretwork and established its publishing operation 'Fretwork Editions', which he has directed and expanded since 1989. He has combined an initial focus on the great English viol consort repertory with an increasing interest in music for voices and viols, culminating most recently in doctoral research into performance of the Pre-Restoration consort anthem. At the same time he has pursued a performing career specialising in contrabass members of the viol family with leading ensembles such as London Baroque, Taverner Consort and the Dunedin Consort.

FREE of CHARGE. Refreshments at breaks included. Bring a packed lunch or use local facilities.
NB AGM to be held at lunchtime.

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: 27/09/ 2025***
If you cannot use your booked place, please inform us asap. For more info: please email alicesbrunton@gmail.com

✂ .....

Bill Hunt Gibbons (*closing date 27 September 2025)* **Application Form**
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, 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

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.