

Saturday 18 May 2024
Christ lag in Todes Banden
Led by Stephen Muir

A workshop for singers and instruments

(Violins I&II, Viola, Cello, Double bass, Organ and Harpsichord)

The Church of All Souls, Blackman Lane, Leeds, LS7 1LW

10 for 10.30am, finish 4.30pm, Pitch A=440



Johann Sebastian Bach's Cantata BWV 4, 'Christ lag in Todes Banden' (Christ lay in death's bonds) was composed when Bach was 22 or 23 years old, in Mühlhausen, most likely as part of a job application for an organist position. It is a prime example of his masterful integration of theology and musical expression. It is in seven movements, opening with a jubilant sinfonia, followed by alternating choral and recitative sections. Each movement unfolds with a rich tapestry of contrapuntal intricacies, showcasing Bach's profound understanding of both sacred text and musical craftsmanship. The text, based on Martin Luther's Easter hymn, reflects on the theological significance of Christ's resurrection. From the initial acknowledgment of Christ's victory over death to the exploration of the believer's liberation from sin, Bach weaves a narrative that resonates with both intellectual and emotional depth.

Stephen Muir was Associate Professor in Music at the University of Leeds for 25 years, his research focusing on 19th-century Russian music and Jewish liturgical music. From 2014 to 2018 he was Principal Investigator for the £1.8m AHRC-funded international project Performing the Jewish Archive (ptja.leeds.ac.uk), resulting in performances in Sydney, Cape Town and Prague, at London's Wigmore Hall, and at the UK Parliament's Holocaust Memorial Day Annual Commemoration. He has worked extensively in the UK as a singer, percussionist, and conductor, including recordings and broadcasts for BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM. With Leeds Baroque Choir and Orchestra he has sung the J. S. Bach Evangelist roles on several occasions, and recently appeared as timpanist for the debut of Leeds Baroque's new hand-crafted kettle drums, alongside trumpeter Crispian Steele-Perkins. He is Assistant Director of The Clothworkers Consort of Leeds and a founder member of Leodis Consort. **Scores and MIDI resources will be made available in advance.**

PLEASE NOTE: The church has only one toilet so breaks may take longer than usual.

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 (plenty nearby).

Please complete the booking form below and send with a cheque payable to 'North East Early Music Forum' to: **Osman Hamed-Fontanilla, 41b Cemetery Road, Leeds LS11 8SU** (or book online via workshop diary on our website www.neemf.org.uk). Closing date: 4th May 2024. If you cannot use your booked place, please inform us asap. For more info., please email osman@leodisconsort.co.uk



Christ lag in Todes Banden, Saturday 18 May 2024 (Closing date for applications: **04.05.2024**) **Application Form**
Completed form and cheque to: **Osman Hamed-Fontanilla, 41b Cemetery Road, Leeds LS11 8SU**

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 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/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 All Souls' Church, 31 Blackman Lane, Woodhouse, Leeds LS7 1LW, which is near the University:

By car from the North, take the A660 towards Leeds University but do not take the right fork which would take you towards the Parkinson Building and Main Entrance; keep straight on and look for Blackman Lane on your left.

By car from central Leeds, take the A660 towards the University and Otley. When you pass the Main Entrance to the University, on Woodhouse Lane, take a hard right turn at the traffic lights to bring you back on the parallel, one-way A660. Look for Blackman Lane on your left.

By public transport from central Leeds, take a bus to the main entrance to Leeds University on Woodhouse Lane; you will pass Blackman Lane on your right. Walk back to Blackman Lane (on your left) and walk on it, staying on it as it crosses the main A660. The church is 0.4 miles from the University entrance.

Venue website: <https://www.allsoulschurchleeds.co.uk/> **Parking for 20 cars, plus unregulated offsite parking.**



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.