

David Hatcher is known to many of us through the excellent music he creates in the Border Marches. Based in Leominster, he is director of the Border Voices chamber choir, plays with the Marches Baroque orchestra and conducts The New Tittley Phil and The Lion Choir.

But this is only a fraction of David's work. In the UK, he has appeared with Fretwork, The Royal Shakespeare Theatre, The Globe Theatre, Musica Antiqua of London, Glyndebourne Opera and many other period orchestras and ensembles. He has performed in Damon Albarn's opera 'Dr Dee' and with I Fagiolini in their interpretation of Striggio's 40-voice mass. As a founder member of Philomel and The Intrepid Academy, he explores the rich heritage of early 16th century Venetian music.

David is much in demand as a tutor at summer schools and workshops such as the Cambridge Early Music Summer School and the Easter Early Music Course at Ascot; and, a little closer to home, at the annual weekend of Early Music at Discoed.

His international profile is equally extensive and impressive. From 1987, he lived for nine years in Japan, taking an active part in its flourishing early music scene, and performing and recording with groups such as Chelys and the Bach Collegium of Japan. He has toured America, Israel, France, Germany and the Netherlands, and tutored at the Sastamala Gregoriana summer school in Finland.

Not surprising, then, that David should have been attracted by the idea of the West's polyphonic music travelling the globe to Mexico in the 17th century. He came to know of the repertoire through work on the settings of the Lamentations by the composers De Mata and Sumaya, both active at that time. Looking around at various manuscripts, one containing masses by Francisco López Capillas caught his eye, so he transcribed and edited the *Missa Aufer a Nobis*. This is the piece we shall study in our workshop.

I asked David where he had worked on the manuscript, imagining a tranquil fishing village on the Mexican coast or the splendour of a Spanish Baroque city. But he said he'd done it all in Leominster, which he thinks is a much nicer place!

Marna Gowan