

Super flumina Babylonis - How shall we sing the Lord's song?

Settings by Philippe de Monte and Palestrina

With tutor David Allinson

An on-line workshop for singers,

Thursday 22nd October, 7.30–9.00pm



In recent months our music has necessarily been muted and we are all yearning to sing again. For this, our first live online BMEMF event, David Allinson will bring us together, virtually, to study and sing two utterly ravishing settings of Ps.137, which speaks of exile and the suspension of song.

Palestrina's *Super flumina Babylonis* a4 is perfect classical polyphony, with lyrical, balanced phrases, while **Philippe de Monte**'s setting of the same words for double choir is a triumph of drama and expressivity.

David will introduce each motet — talking briefly about its context, technical challenges and artistic rewards — before exploring how singers might shape and their lines. We will hear sections of each motet in real time, with scores, before a run through of each piece. You are encouraged to have the scores printed and a pencil at the ready, so that you can sing at home if you wish (though your microphone will be muted, since the latency and lag of Zoom does not yet permit the coordination of real-time large-group singing, alas!). However, this is a chance to experience something of the *in-the-moment* pleasure of singing polyphony again.

David is a highly experienced workshop leader and lecturer, an expert in the cultural and technical history of Renaissance music. Expect this session to mix theory and practice, with humane and humorous touches.

We will use these editions:

de Monte: <https://www3.cpdl.org/wiki/images/1/1e/Mont-sup.pdf>

Palestrina: http://www1.cpdl.org/wiki/images/e/eb/Palestrina-Super_flumina_Babylonis.pdf

This event will be in the nature of an experiment, as we're aiming to give participants as much opportunity as possible to sing (albeit muted). This format differs from other on-line workshops David has held, as well as those sponsored by other EMFs or organised by other groups dedicated to early music.

As this is our first run at this type of workshop, there will be no charge for those attending – it will be funded by BMEMF.

BMEMF members will have priority booking until **30 September**. After that, booking will open to all others who would like to take part. Prior booking is essential: book directly on line with Jotform at www.bmemf.org.uk. Acknowledgement of your applications will be sent by return, and instructions for logging on and participating will be sent nearer the time.

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