**Saturday 7 May**

**Workshop for Singers: The Music of the English Chapel Royal**

**Tutor: Huw Williams, Director of the Chapel Royal at St James’s Palace**

**Venue: Grange Court, Leominster**

The English Chapel Royal initially performed a peripatetic function similar to the Grande Chapelle of Philip I, clergy and musicians accompanying the monarch around the country and beyond, serving his spiritual needs. It went with Henry V to Agincourt, singing Mass before the battle, and with Henry VIII to the Field of the Cloth of Gold. Henry additionally defined the Chapel Royal as an institution located at Whitehall, St James's and Hampton Court Palaces and the Tower of London.

For our May workshop, Huw Williams has selected music by composers who served the Chapel during its richest periods. Under Elizabeth I and James I, Thomas Tallis, William Byrd, Orlando Gibbons and Thomas Tomkins were its Gentlemen and organists, and brought about a magnificent development of church music, madrigals and keyboard music. Our repertoire will include Tallis’s five-part motet for the Feast of Corpus Christi, *O Salutaris Hostia*; the Kyrie from Byrd’s *Mass for 4 voices* and the Magnificat from his *2nd Service*; and Tomkins’ setting of the text from Revelation, *I Heard a Voice*.

Elaborate church music was banned during the Commonwealth and the singers and instrumentalists who had served Charles I were scattered through England and Europe. With the return of Charles II, a new generation of musicians was recruited and trained, including Pelham Humfrey (who received a royal grant to study in Italy and France) and, most notably, Henry Purcell. We shall look at some of Humfrey’s music and Purcell’s joyful coronation anthem for James II, *I Was Glad*.

Our repertoire will cover numerous changes of style - and plenty of interesting history.

**Huw Williams**

As the present Director of the Chapel Royal at St James’s Palace, Huw is perfectly placed to extend our knowledge of its function and music, up to and after the high point of Restoration days.

Huw has previously worked extensively as a conductor, organ soloist and accompanist in the UK, USA, Africa and Europe, and has performed with many of the finest British orchestras. In the mid-1990s he was Assistant Organist at Hereford Cathedral, then, after ten years as Principal Organist at St Paul’s Cathedral, he became Director of Music at the Church of the Redeemer near Philadelphia.

Now, as well as directing the Chapel Royal, Huw conducts the Cantemus Chamber Choir and Stroud Choral Society. He teaches at Eton College and Cardiff University, and regularly conducts major orchestral and choral works. Recent performances have included directing His Majesty’s Sagbutts and Cornetts and the Bristol Baroque Band.