

**BORDER MARCHES EARLY MUSIC FORUM**

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**Saturday 6 May 2017: Bishop's Palace, Hereford, HR4 9BL**

**PRINCELY SPLENDOUR**

Exquisite vocal music from the opulent court of Cardinal Henry Benedict Stuart

**A workshop for singers, with keyboard continuo**

**Tutor: PETER LEECH**

**Registration 09.30, Workshop 10.00 - 16.30**

It is good to welcome back Peter Leech as our tutor on 6 May. Peter, whose workshops are highly popular, is an acclaimed conductor and musicologist. He has recently concentrated on the music of 18th century Rome. Many earlier commentators viewed it as hidebound and over-reliant on the legacy of Palestrina, but Peter argues strongly against this. With a landmark article in *The Consort* (2015) and CD recordings with Harmonia Sacra and Cappella Fede, he has revealed a rich and substantial musical culture, particularly around the princely court of Cardinal Henry Benedict Stuart.

The leading composers in Rome regarded appointments in the household or titular church of a prominent Cardinal as being essential to their careers. Cardinal Henry (1725-1807), grandson of James II of England and brother of Bonnie Prince Charlie, was a royal prince among the exiled Jacobites. A devout and dedicated priest, made Cardinal at the age of twenty-two, he had the taste and the means to attract and support composers and musicians of quality.

In our workshop, Peter will share his most recent discoveries from the period, which reinforce the stature of Cardinal Henry as one of the great patrons of music of the time. He will introduce us to the superb music of composers such as Giovanni Battista Costanzi, Niccolò Jommelli, Giovanni Zamboni and particularly Sebastiano Bolis. Peter has transcribed a great many of Bolis' works; ours will be the first workshop to feature a number of them.

As a foretaste, follow the link below to Cappella Fede's "The Cardinal King". To quote the sleeve notes: "Sitting on the cusp of the Baroque and the Classical, these pieces tread a delicate path between innocence and grandeur, between charm and formality." They are a delight.  
<https://toccataclassics.com/product/cardinal-king-henry-benedict>

Our venue is the fine Great Hall of the Bishop's Palace in Hereford, which stands to the south of the Cathedral Cloister. The present Hall, appropriately for our workshop, was constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but embedded in the walls are the substantial remains of the timber framing of a 12<sup>th</sup> century hall. It is a fine room in which to sing – and it is at present being redecorated, so we shall have truly princely splendour for our surroundings on 6 May!