

BORDER MARCHES EARLY MUSIC FORUM



The Spy's Choirbook

REDISCOVERED MOTETS ORIGINALLY
PRESENTED TO HENRY VIII

A workshop for singers with tutor
DAVID SKINNER

Saturday 7 February 2015 at the
BISHOP'S PALACE HEREFORD HR4 9BL

REGISTRATION FROM 09.30
SESSIONS 10.00 - 16.30

Space available for eating packed lunches

David Skinner, Praelector and Director of Music at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, has originated a distinguished array of early music publications and CDs. Recently, with his consort choir, **Alamire**, he made a unique CD of 34 motets entitled **The Spy's Choirbook**. Their source is a sumptuously-scripted parchment that has lain, in mint condition, unused and almost untouched, for nearly five centuries.

The choirbook was given to Henry VIII around 1516. It was produced in the Antwerp workshop of Petrus Alamire (aka Peter Imhoff or van den Hove), a man of great versatility: as well as a musician, he was also a merchant, a mining engineer, a diplomat and a spy. A number of surviving letters show that Alamire acted as a spy for Henry VIII against Richard de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk and Yorkist pretender to the throne. David Skinner believes that the choirbook was not conceived initially for Henry, but for Louis XII of France when his queen was failing to produce an heir. The first layer of the book includes works that invoke the desire for childbearing. On that queen's untimely death before the book was finished, the dedication was - very appropriately! - changed to Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon.

For the workshop David Skinner will be bringing us a selection from the 34 motets. None of them is attributed to a named composer, although a few (by Mouton, Fevin, Josquin and de la Rue) are known from other manuscripts or early printed editions.

Fee: £18 for members of BMEMF or other Early Music Forum; £5 for students; £20 for others
Enquiries and cancellations to: john.wren1@homecall.co.uk (01544 350636)

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Post this application form with cheque to: John Wren (BMEMF)
Stockenny New Radnor Powys LD8 2RE

Please circle: Member of BMEMF? Or other Forum? Non-Member?

Name(s) IN CAPS ...

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Email ...

Please circle voice(s): Soprano Alto Tenor Bass

(If no email please enclose s.a.e.)

I enclose a cheque dated 7 February 2015 for £

payable to **BMEMF**