**Border Marches Early Music Forum**

Sunday 18th October 2015

**Choruses from Handel’s ‘Belshazzar’**

**A workshop for singers with tutor Libby Burgess**

Venue: Bedstone College, Bucknell, Shropshire, SY7 0BG

Registration from 9.30am. Workshop 10.00am – 4.30pm

*Belshazzar* is Handel’s neglected masterpiece. *Belshazzar* was written two years after *Messiah* and premiered in 1745. Afterwards a member of the audience wrote: “I was I own highly delighted the other night at his last oratorio. ’Tis called Belshazzar, the story the taking of Babylon by Cyrus; and the music, in spite of all that very bad performers could do to spoil it, equal to any thing I ever heard.” Despite the drama and beauty of the score, it has long been eclipsed by the better-known work. This workshop offers a rare opportunity to discover the power of this wonderful oratorio.

Our tutor, Libby Burgess, is ideally placed to guide us through the delights of *Belshazzar*, having performed the piece with the King’s Consort. She has conducted Britten and Mendelssohn operas for Ryedale Festival Opera and is highly regarded as a chorusmaster, in which role she collaborated with Sir Peter Maxwell Davies in the premiere of his Kommilitonen!. She is regularly asked to give choral workshops and be a guest conductor for choirs throughout the country, and is in demand as a vocal coach.

Our venue is Bedstone College, Bucknell. The Head of Music at the College, BMEMF member Emma Bryden, is developing her students’ knowledge of early music by working on *Belshazzar* with the College Choir. We hope that some of the choir members will join us for the day.

Cost of workshop: £18 for Fora members, £20 non-members. To enrol, please complete and return the attached slip with a cheque, dated 18th October 2015, payable to BMEMF to: Sue Russell, Byecroft, Bircher, Leominster HR6 0BP. peterandsuerussell@btinternet.com, 01568 780559.

Please enclose a SAE if you have no e-mail address for receipt of acknowledgement and directions.

I would like \_\_\_\_ place(s) at the workshop on Sunday 18th October.

I enclose a cheque payable to BMEMF for £\_\_\_\_\_\_.   
[If you are a member of an EMF other than BMEMF, please indicate which\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_]

Name(s)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Voice (please circle) S A T B