

## BMEMF Workshop Day for Voices Saturday 1 March 2025

Venue: Holy Trinity Church Hall, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY3 9HF  
Musical Director David Allinson Organiser: Julie Greenacre

### Palestrina, Prince of Music

In 2025 the choral world will celebrate 500 years since the birth of Italy's greatest native polyphonist, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina. Perhaps uniquely among composers of the Renaissance period, Palestrina's music has been continuously sung in the centuries since his lifetime – yet his reputation as the 'ideal Catholic composer' who perfectly reconciled style, function and beauty in sacred music rests upon a remarkably narrow sample of works.

Join David Allinson for a day exploring Palestrina's music, in a programme which moves from the majestic to the intimate, from the contemplative to the joyful, and which avoids well-worn and obvious pieces. From the intimacy of the chant-based compline hymn, *Salva nos*, to the exuberance of Marian antiphons for double choir, this has the potential to be an uplifting and even revelatory workshop, showing new aspects of Palestrina's genius.

As ever, the music list is subject to change according to forces signing up, and we especially need a strong contingent of Tenors and Basses in order to do justice to the double choir pieces. So please sign up early!

Intended repertoire includes:

- Palestrina, *Ego sum panis vivus* a4
- Palestrina, *Salva nos* a4 and *Nunc dimittis* a4
- Palestrina, *O magnum mysterium* a6
- Palestrina, *Nunc dimittis* a8
- G.P da Palestrina, *Regina caeli* a8
- Palestrina, *Alma redemptoris Mater* a8 (two settings)

Tutor: **Dr David Allinson** is a freelance conductor, singer and academic with wide experience as a leader of choral workshops. His special love is Renaissance polyphony, and he has led countless workshops and singing holidays in the UK and Europe, working for every UK Early Music Forum, for organisations such as Run by Singers and for numerous private groups. He is known for his combination of scholarship, technical know-how and humorous positivity.

David has been the musical director of the Renaissance Singers (London) since 2010 and has conducted numerous other choirs including his own ensemble, Cantores. He is Honorary Vice-President of the Southern Early Music Forum. [More at [www.davidallinson.com](http://www.davidallinson.com)]

Directions to the venue and instructions for the day will be sent to attendees in advance. **Prior booking is essential.** Please contact Julie Greenacre if you have any questions at 07950 465489 or [workshop25@btinternet.com](mailto:workshop25@btinternet.com). Book online at [www.bmemf.org.uk](http://www.bmemf.org.uk) or print out the form below and return it to: Sue Weber, Old Bakehouse, Bishops Cannings, Wilts SN10 2LD.

**Fee:** £22 for Early Music Fora members, £26 for non-members, £5 for students, under 18s free but they must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

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