

Constanzo Porta – Missa Ducalis

A workshop for instrumentalists (A=440)

Tutor: David Hatcher

Saturday, 5th November 2022 10am-4.30pm, registration from 9.30

Yarpole Parish Hall, Yarpole, Leominster HR6 0BL

When you know that David Hatcher is tutoring an event, you can safely assume that you will learn a great deal that's new to you, and that the music will be ravishing and rewarding in equal measure. We're delighted that David has agreed to lead this instrumental workshop, where he will introduce us to a composer and a piece of music that may be new to many BMEMF members.

Constanzo Porta (c.1528-1601) was a hugely influential composer and teacher who studied with Willaert and was a close friend of Merulo. This 13-part mass, which we will be playing in instrumental form, was written to mark a very special occasion in his career. In January 1565 he was offered the position of Maestro di Cappella of S. Antonio in Padua, but he didn't take up the post until April as there was some bargaining involved: he requested that his appointment be approved by the entire monastic community, which took some time. The month after Porta took up his position, the Minister-General of the Franciscan order requested his services at the Pentecostal celebrations of the Franciscan General Chapter in Florence. This was a huge honour, and it gave him the opportunity to be introduced to some very important people. There he met, among others, Duke Cosimo de' Medici, his son Francesco, and the cardinals Carlo Borromeo and Felice Peretti (later Pope Sixtus V) – networking at a very high level! Missa Ducalis celebrates this important event.

Yarpole Parish Hall is a warm, well-lit, spacious venue with its own car park. Full instructions and directions will be sent to you in good time before the workshop. The fee is £22 for members of BMEMF and other Early Music Fora, £26 for non-members, and £5 for students.

If you've got any queries, please contact the organiser, Sue Russell, on 5novemberworkshop@btinternet.com