

Edmund Hooper and his contemporary Orlando Gibbons
A workshop for singers with tutor Katy Silverman

Saturday 30th November 2024, 10.00 - 16.30, registration from 9.30
The Bridges Centre, Drybridge Park, Monmouth, NP25 5AS

Robert Harris writes:

Edmund Hooper (c1553 – 1621) is a virtually unknown composer compared with contemporaries such as Orlando Gibbons (1583 – 1625) and William Byrd (1540 – 1623), and yet he was organist at both Westminster Abbey and the Chapel Royal. My first encounter with Hooper was when I was a 1960’s chorister - and he instilled terror because the one and only work of his that we sang contained so many solos that there was no escape. Fortunately it was an easy and attractive setting of the Mag and Nunc affectionately referred to as “Hooper for Verses”. Fast forward to 2020 and I suddenly rediscovered Hooper on a delightful Westminster Abbey CD of music from the reign of James I of England. Further research located an exclusively Hooper CD by Selwyn College Cambridge. Maybe it was time for a BMEMF Hooper workshop?

But who would tutor us? Last summer I found myself expertly directed by **Katy Silverman** over a weekend of services in Beverley Minster, and realised that she would be perfect – calm and friendly and forgiving, and highly musical and a great inspiration. Katy’s roots are in the music of Worcester College Oxford, and she gained a Distinction from the “Master of Music in Performance” course at the RCM. She now directs the choir on the Thames waterside at St Mary’s Battersea, having been an organ scholar at Guildford Cathedral.

During the day, we’ll run through several Edmund Hooper pieces and a couple by Orlando Gibbons by way of comparison, all sacred. I’m hoping for the gentle backing of a chamber organ. Any solo and verse passages will be sung tutti. We will meet at **The Bridges Centre** in Monmouth, an accessible and well-run venue with plenty of free parking - and effective heating! There are pubs and cafes within 10 minutes walk but I recommend bringing a picnic.

Further details of the day and the venue will appear as they become known, on the Future Workshops page of www.bmemf.org.uk Please contact **Robert Harris** if you have any questions, on 07766 298168 or pilothouse321@icloud.com **Prior booking** is essential. Either book online at www.bmemf.org.uk or print out the form below and return it to **Sue Weber**, Old Bakehouse, The Street, Bishops Cannings, Wiltshire, SN10 2LD.

Fee: £22 for members of Early Music Fora; £25 for non-EMF members; £5 for students; under 18s free but they must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

30th November 2024 – application form

I am a member of _____ Early Music Forum / I am not an EMF member

Either: I have paid £ _____ to BMEMF a/c 41571829, sort code 23-05-80, ref NOV30

Or: I enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to BMEMF and dated 30th November 2024

Name/s -----

Address-----

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Tel ----- Email -----

Voice/s S1 S2 A1 A2 T1 T2 B1 B2 (please circle which)

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