

## The EFMS Choral Programme

The Early Music Choirs programme was established in 2016 in response to demand from singers for opportunities to sing Early Music on a regular basis. Requests from choristers whose choirs don't sing Renaissance and Baroque music, and others looking to join a choir that specialised in music of these periods suggested that there was a vacuum to fill.

Working through a monthly workshop rehearsal, with different groups and areas of focus in morning and afternoon sessions, the programme has attracted singers from far and wide. The **EMFS Choir** for singers with some choral experience and basic sight-reading skills meets after lunch and the **EMFS Advanced Choir**, for singers with wide choral experience and the reading and musicianship skills to work at a faster rate, meets in the morning. A check list is available on the website [www.emfscotland.org.uk](http://www.emfscotland.org.uk) to assist people in deciding which group might be most appropriate for them.

Singers may sign-up for the entire term of rehearsals or just take part in individual sessions. Those in the Advanced Choir may opt to sign up for the afternoon also so that they can enjoy the music that the EMFS Choir is working on.

The pattern of three meetings per term enables music to be mastered and questions of style, performance practice and context for music by, among others, Palestrina, Tallis, Byrd, Monteverdi, Purcell, and even Mozart to be considered. Preparing music without the pressure of an impending performance continues to be a refreshing and rewarding experience allowing great flexibility in music selection and preparation for all concerned.

## Spring 2019 Programme

### EMFS Choir

#### Hail, Queen of Heaven! Marian music from Dufay to Mozart

Veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary was a major feature of worship throughout the Medieval and Renaissance periods and beyond. There is a huge repertoire of hymns and motets and a wide range of styles to choose from and we will explore well-known and less travelled paths through this fascinating corpus of choral music.

### EMFS Advanced Choir

#### William Byrd - Gradualia

Writing at the very height of his powers in 1605, Byrd published a complete cycle of motets setting the proper texts for each Sunday and Feast Day of the entire ecclesiastical year. This remarkable collection contains some of his finest music, but the length of many of the pieces has inhibited their adoption into the wider choral repertoire. This Spring we will explore the riches of this outstanding publication.

### Dates for Spring 2019

Saturday 12 January  
Saturday 9 February  
Saturday 9 March

### Schedule:

Morning:      Advanced Choir  
10.00 - 11.15 Session 1  
11.15 - 11.30 Break  
11.30 - 13.00 Session 2

Afternoon:    EMFS Choir  
13.45 - 15.00 Session 1  
15.00 - 15.15 Break  
15.15 - 16.30 Session 2

### Venue:

St Michael and All Saints Church  
28 Brougham Street, Tollcross,  
Edinburgh, EH3 9JH  
<http://www.stmichaelandallsaints.org>

### Fees:

The fee for a single half-day session is £12 for EMFS members  
£15 for non-members, and  
£5 for students and those on low incomes.

A reduced full-day rate of £20 / £25 / £8 will apply to any Advanced Choir singers who would like to stay on to join the EMFS Choir in the afternoon.

Mid-morning and mid-afternoon refreshments will be provided. If you are attending both sessions, please bring a packed lunch which you may eat in the church or, alternatively, you may wish to explore one of the many cafes in the area.

## Payment

We prefer not to handle cash, therefore, if possible, pay by BACS in advance, or by cheque on the day. In any event please email Sue Owens [sue@emfscotland.org.uk](mailto:sue@emfscotland.org.uk) to confirm your intention to attend.

Please make cheques payable to EMFS.

BACS details are:

Bank: The Co-operative Bank  
A/C: EMFS (Early Music Forum of Scotland)  
A/C no. 65690662  
Sort code: 08-92-99  
(ref EMFS choir workshop),

If you are paying by BACS, please email Sue Owens [sue@emfscotland.org.uk](mailto:sue@emfscotland.org.uk) and cc Kate treasurer [treasurer@emfscotland.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@emfscotland.org.uk) to let them know that you have paid.

## Scores

PDF copies of the music will be sent to you by email after you have signed up. We are hoping to keep costs down by inviting choir members to print their own music, but we are happy to print music for you if you need us to.

Please email Sue Owens [sue@emfscotland.org.uk](mailto:sue@emfscotland.org.uk) in advance if you will need printed copies on the day.

Further information is available from:

[www.emfscotland.org.uk](http://www.emfscotland.org.uk)  
or  
[sue@emfscotland.org.uk](mailto:sue@emfscotland.org.uk)

## How to join the Early Music Forum of Scotland

It is easy to join the EMFS online at [www.emfscotland.org.uk](http://www.emfscotland.org.uk)

The annual membership fee is £12. A discounted rate is available on application.

Members have access to our membership list and receive regular email updates with information on current and future early music workshops and events for instrumentalists and singers.

Membership also entitles you to a discount on EMFS workshop fees.

For membership enquiries or to join our free mailing list please email [membership@emfscotland.org.uk](mailto:membership@emfscotland.org.uk)

To tell us about a concert or event, or for any other choir enquiry email: [sue@emfscotland.org.uk](mailto:sue@emfscotland.org.uk)



Early Music Forum of Scotland  
Since 1992  
[www.emfscotland.org.uk](http://www.emfscotland.org.uk)



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Spring 2019*

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Marian music from  
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*William Byrd  
Gradualia*