



NWEMF
Charity registration number 508218

NORTH WEST EARLY MUSIC FORUM
Registered charity number 508218

CHROMATIC MOTETS

Tutor: Morris Davies

Venue: St Mary's Church, Todmorden

Saturday 8 May 2010, 10.30 to 17.30

Choral music in the fifteenth century was based on very simple harmonies – tonic chords with some dissonances which resolve regularly. Few of the keyboard black notes are indicated in the manuscript copies (though modern editors usually introduce more, some of them tentatively, talking about *musica ficta*). A need for more accidentals was felt early in the sixteenth century, and it may have started explicitly by Willaert with his remarkable *Quid non ebrietas**. The idea – chromaticism – was taken up first in Italy, famously by Gesualdo, where simple chords were placed extraordinarily together, and it gradually matured to become mainstream in the following century, as shown in works by Hassler and Purcell. We shall work at some of the chromatic pieces below. They require a bit of courage (no vibrato!) but they provide insight into a dark corner of the late Renaissance. There will be a short discussion about how the pitch of the black notes was fixed.

Beginnings

Willaert *Quid non ebrietas**

Rore *Calami sonum ferentes*

Clemens non Papa *Fremuit spiritu Jesus*†

Lassus *Prologue to the Prophetiae Sibyllarum*

Realisation

Gesualdo *Moro lasso*

Schein *Die mit Tränen*

Hassler *Ad Dominum cum tribulare*

Purcell *How long, O Lord, wilt thou be angry?*

* This was an enigma, discussed at length by theoreticians of his day and time and again through the following centuries but may well have remained unsung until a few American students might possibly have sung it in 1956. We shall, in a version found in *Early Music Performer*.

† Clemens' setting seems to require flattening of certain notes which he does not make explicit. We shall look at it with and without modification.

FEE NWEMF/other EMF members £20 Non-Members £22.50

Please complete the reply slip below, and send it as soon as possible (**to arrive not later than 1 May 2010**), with your remittance (cheques payable to NWEMF), to:

Clive Tolley, NWEMF Secretary, 45 Lime Grove, Hoole, Chester CH2 3HW.

CHROMATIC MOTETS, ST MARY'S CHURCH, TODMORDEN, 8 MAY 2010

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

Date _____

Telephone _____

Email address _____

I am a member of NWEMF / of another Early Music Forum / a non-member (**delete** as applicable).

I enclose £ _____ for _____ person/people (payable to 'NWEMF')

I/we sing _____ (please indicate voice type(s))