



South West Early Music Forum

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Workshop for Voices with Katy Silverman

Composers of the English Reformation
John Sheppard (1515-1558) and Edmund Hooper (1553-1621)

St Cuthbert's Church, St Cuthbert's Street, Wells BA5 2AW

Saturday 20th June 2026 | 10am (10.30 start) - 5pm

£25 (non-members); £20 (EMF members); £10 (18-25's)

Organiser: Dr Chris Lovell / Chrislovell805@gmail.com

The Workshop

This workshop will provide a great opportunity to sing and get to know the sacred music of two Gentlemen of the Chapel Royal in a time of religious and musical turbulence.

The music ranges from Sheppard's exuberant *Verbum caro*, through homophonic settings of English text, to Hooper's development of the more intricate English style in pieces like *Behold it is Christ*.

Full details of, and links to, the music will be circulated to participants roughly a fortnight before the workshop.

The Leader

Katy Silverman is Director of Music at St Mary's, Battersea, where she is passionate about maintaining an excellent amateur choir alongside a thriving choral and organ scholarship programme. She also directs and accompanies *Laus Deo*, a gathered choir who come together to sing at different cathedrals around the country.

Katy read Music at Worcester College, Oxford, alongside playing and conducting as one of the college organ scholars, and graduated with Distinction from the Master of Music in Performance course at the Royal College of Music in 2018.

During her degree Katy studied composers of the English Reformation in detail and enjoys making connections between composers and styles in the context of the time.

The Venue

St Cuthbert's Church is a large building, sometimes mistaken by visitors for the cathedral. Among many interesting features it has a fine carved ceiling and a medieval reredos. The Wingfield organ was reconstructed to a Tudor specification by the organ builder and restorer Dominic Gwynn, incorporating a 16th C soundboard which he unearthed in Wingfield Church, Suffolk.

The church has disabled access and is near the High Street, with various pubs, cafes and food shops nearby. You are welcome to bring a packed lunch to eat indoors or in the grounds. Coffee/tea will be provided on arrival and during the day; it would help if you are able to bring your own mug.

There are several car parks within short walking distance of the church, including all day parking at Tucker Street (BA5 1TF, across the road from Halford's on the perimeter road). Car parking in various private and public venues can be reserved via Justpark or Parkopedia websites.

The nearest rail stations are Weston Super Mare, Bath and Bristol. Bristol has a bus service every 30 minutes or so, the others are rather less frequent.

Booking forms available on the SWEMF website: <https://swemf.org.uk/event/13081/>

Bookings close: Sunday 14th June.