

Thames Valley Early Music Forum

Tuesday 9th February 7.30pm

Reading between the lines: how contemporary written descriptions can help transform early musical notation into sound

An illustrated talk on Zoom by John Bryan



For most pieces of Renaissance music, all we have to inspire our performances today is the musical notation, usually in separate parts rather than a score. While this information may have offered early modern composers and performers a relatively clear starting point, it is sometimes surprising to read contemporary written descriptions of music making that go well beyond the expectations arising from the surviving notation.

In this talk, we will investigate four pieces from sixteenth century Italy and England for which we have some contemporary form of verbal description, and can begin to discover how those original parts were interpreted by at least some Renaissance performers.

John Bryan is Emeritus Professor of Music at the University of Huddersfield and Artistic Adviser to the York Early Music Festival, and he's well known to many of us as a viol player and member of the Rose Consort of Viols. We're delighted to welcome him to give us this online talk on a fascinating subject.

How to book: Please book online: click on this link [Book Now](#), fill in the form, and click "SUBMIT" at the end. No bookings can be accepted after midnight the day before (Monday 8th February).

Payment details: £5/head*

*If you are able to, and would like to add a donation on top of this to show your support for John and other musicians, this would be much appreciated. Surplus monies above John's agreed fee will be split equally between John and the charity Help Musicians Coronavirus Financial Hardship Fund.

By bank transfer if at all possible: Lloyds A/C no 00691902, Sort Code: 30-94-28 in the name of Thames Valley Early Music Forum.

By cheque (only if bank transfer not possible): payable to Thames Valley Early Music Forum (**NOT** TVEMF), sent to David King, 9 Clarke Mansions, 10 Marwood Square, London N10 3EY. For financial and any other queries please contact David King treasurer@tvemf.org.

Zoom link will be issued by email the day before the event. If you need to, you can download the free software here: <https://zoom.us/>