



## BAROQUE VOCAL COURSE

- are you an undiscovered female tenor or bass?
- or a soprano or contralto who would like to develop your vocal technique?
- do you want to sing baroque music with more style and flair?

This three day course is open to amateur female singers of all ages and will be led by staff and mentors from *Vivaldi's Women*, the unique all-female ensemble featured in the award-winning BBC FOUR programmes "Gloria" and "Vivaldi's Women".

Book online at [www.spav.org](http://www.spav.org) or fill in the form overleaf and send it to:

Vivaldi's Women  
42 East Avenue  
Oxford OX4 1XP

Vivaldi's Women is an ensemble of singers and players which aims to recreate the sound of Vivaldi's *Figlie di Choro*, those foundlings at Venice's *Ospedale della Pietà* who performed at Mass and Vespers hidden behind grilles in the high choir galleries. It reflects the age range (11 to 80+) and vocal range of the women musicians, some of whom sang tenor and bass.

The detective work of Vivaldi researcher Micky White, the former Wimbledon photographer who lives near the Pietà in Venice, gives us a comprehensive picture of the daily life of this remarkable institution during the 18th century, the heyday of its musical tradition. We even know the names of the women – such as the legendary violinist *Anna Maria* and soprano *Apollonia*, *Cecilia dal Contralto*, *Paulina dal Tenor*, and *Anna dal Basso* – which instruments they played and which parts they sang: in some cases their names are written into the music.

## VIVALDI'S WOMEN

SCHOLA PIETATIS ANTONIO VIVALDI

*women sopranos...*

*women contraltos...*

*women tenors...*

*women basses...*

## BAROQUE VOCAL COURSE

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

OXFORD

24-26 AUGUST 2009

artistic director: Richard Vendome  
vocal tutor: Penelope Martin-Smith  
stylistic tutor: Bridget Cunningham

### Richard Vendome (artistic director)



Richard studied at the Royal College of Music before winning a scholarship to the Queen's College, Oxford, and continuing his keyboard studies with James Dalton and Susi Jeans. He has held research fellowships in computing at Oxford University, he continues to perform

as an organist, harpsichordist and piano accompanist, and has a large number of singing pupils. Encouraged by the late Prof. Denis Arnold, an authority on Vivaldi and the women musicians of Venice, he founded the Oxford Girls' Choir in 1984. His special interests include the psychology of music and female musical traditions, such as those of Hildegard of Bingen and the Venetian *ospedali*.

### Penelope Martin-Smith (vocal tutor)



"Peps" read Music and German at Goldsmiths, University of London, and studied singing with Henry Herford and Jessica Cash. She has a performing diploma from the Guildhall School of Music. A coloratura soprano with a wide range, she has sung a diversity of roles from medieval to jazz, including

Mozart's Queen of the Night, Purcell's Dido and Britten's Mrs Noah. She recently formed Canterbury Cathedral Garden Opera, which performed Mozart's Marriage of Figaro this season. She is Assistant Musical Director of Oxford Youth Choirs and has singing pupils ranging in age from 5-80.

### Bridget Cunningham (stylistic tutor)



Bridget studied harpsichord and organ with Robert Woolley at Southampton University and the Royal College of Music, where she is currently a Junior Fellow and vocal coach. She teaches and researches baroque style and ornamentation at the RCM and prepares singers for the

London Handel Festival competition. Last year she won a travel scholarship from the Finzi Trust to research and perform early music of Handel's time in Ireland. She has worked with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, English Touring Opera, Ulster Orchestra, Opera Theatre Company, and Irish Chamber Orchestra, and plays regularly with her groups Emerald Baroque, Fleuri and Iberian Archive.

The **BAROQUE VOCAL COURSE** will offer singers the opportunity to:

- learn more about the history of Vivaldi's all-female choir (which included female tenors and basses) and orchestra at Venice's *Ospedale della Pietà*.
- discover the vocal techniques and training methods which give Vivaldi's Women their distinctive sound.
- explore your voice and vocal range – particularly the lower range. There are undiscovered women tenors and basses out there!
- enjoy one-to-one tuition with Penelope Martin-Smith (vocal technique) and Bridget Cunningham (baroque style), and sing alongside mentors from Vivaldi's Women.
- take part in a concert of music by Vivaldi and his contemporaries, including the spectacular *Dixit Dominus* (RV 595).

**materials:** printed music and other documentation will be provided for course participants.

**dates:** Monday 24 August – Wednesday 26 August 2009, 10am-4pm.

**venue:** Friends Meeting House, 43 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LW in central Oxford, close to coach and rail links and to Park-and-Ride.

**cost:** the course will cost £180 (£60 per day), to include all training and tuition, talks, refreshments and a light lunch. There will be a concessionary rate of £150 (£50 per day) for senior citizens, students, ES40 holders, and disabled people (a carer accompanying a disabled person will be offered a free place). Men are welcome to attend as observers at the concessionary rate.

**accommodation:** a list of places to stay is available on request.

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Vivaldi's Women  
42 East Avenue  
Oxford OX4 1XP

**Closing date for applications: 6 August**

name

contact email

contact telephone

address

age (optional - but helpful for us to know)

parent's name (participants under 18)

sight-reading ability

1=terrified / 2=nervous / 3=fair / 4=good / 5=confident

**I enclose a deposit of £50**

**(please make cheques payable to "SPAV")**

OPTIONAL – tell us about your vocal range



lowest firm note (number)



highest firm note (number)

which part(s) do you normally sing?