



Photo courtesy of Catherine Woodman

'Like a lily among the thorns, so is my love' Renaissance polyphony in Paris

Where better to sing of love and devotion than Paris? Strictly Singing's summer 2024 workshop will explore a variety of Renaissance motets and songs with a distinctly French accent.

Renaissance music specialist David Allinson, currently Director of Music at University of Christ Church Canterbury, will lead singers through a programme offering a range of moods, challenges and rewards. Beginning and ending with the music of Josquin des Prez, the greatest composer of the early Renaissance, we will also sing motets by French composers Jean Mouton, Dominique Phinot and Antoine Brumel. Our programme will then take on a lighter mood, evoking the spirit of summer, the scent of gardens and amorous intentions with a range of motets in which the erotic poetry of the Song of Songs inspires composers (including Isaac, Guerrero and Ceballos) to lyrical heights.

We hope you can join us for this opportunity to immerse yourself in the best of Renaissance polyphony. Rehearsals will be held at the *Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris* situated in the 14th arrondissement, just opposite the beautiful Parc Montsouris. Our end of workshop concert will be held at the magnificent American Cathedral, located in the heart of Paris, just a stone's throw from the Champs Elysées and the Arc de Triomphe.

David Allinson

Dr David Allinson is a highly respected choral trainer specializing in the history and performance of Renaissance sacred music. He read Music at St Peter's College, Oxford (where he was a choral scholar) and later completed a doctorate on the devotional context and meaning of early Tudor sacred music.

Now Director of Music at the University of Christ Church Canterbury, David also writes, conducts and sings professionally. In addition to directing the Renaissance Singers, a leading amateur early music choir based in London, he leads his own early music ensemble, Cantores.

In recent years he has guest-directed concerts with several esteemed early music ensembles, including The Cambridge Taverner Choir, a professional-standard early music group led by Dr Owen Rees; Contrafactum, Helen Price's accomplished ensemble; and Quorum in Milton Keynes.

Who is the course for?

The workshop is for experienced choral singers, who have good sight-reading skills. Participants are expected to prepare and learn the music before attending the workshop.

Schedule

Thursday 20 June	Welcome cocktail (early evening)
Friday 21 June	Full day rehearsal. Evening free to enjoy la <i>Fête de la Musique</i>
Saturday 22 June	Full day rehearsal followed by dinner
Sunday 23 June	Morning rehearsal Afternoon: dress rehearsal and concert performance at the American Cathedral This will be followed by farewell reception

The Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity

Concert venue: Located on the avenue George V, just off the Champs Elysées, the American Cathedral was built at the end of the 19th century and is considered as one of the finest examples of Victorian Gothic Revival architecture on the European continent. The Cathedral's tower is among the tallest in Paris. Notably for us, the Cathedral's Great Organ was built by the prestigious French firm Cavallé-Coll.

Cost

380 € per person. The course fee covers tuition, refreshments, scores, welcome drinks and post concert reception. It does not include meals (apart from those mentioned in the schedule above), travel or accommodation. Refreshments will be provided during rehearsals.

Non-singers are welcome to join us for the dinner on Saturday and post concert reception. The cost for non-singers is **90 €**.

Travel and accommodation

Travel and accommodation are NOT included in the course fees. Participants are expected to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. We are available to offer advice if needed.

Participants coming from abroad must purchase appropriate travel and health insurance.

Music

The music will be sent to you in advance.

How do I register for the course?

To apply for the course, please fill in the [application form](#) (Note that filling in the form does not guarantee you a place on the course as this will depend on numbers and balance).

For further information, email us: info@strictlysinging.org