



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

St John's Smith Square joins REMA

St John's Smith Square is delighted to announce that it has recently joined REMA (the European Early Music Network). As the UK's only concert Hall from the Baroque period, the promotion of music from the 17th and 18th centuries in particular is a major priority for St John's.

Richard Heason, Director of St John's Smith Square said:

"REMA is a remarkable network of over 70 organisations committed to the performance and representation of early music across Europe. As we at St John's continue to develop our programme of historically informed performance, it is of enormous benefit to enjoy such close connections with partners and promoters from right across Europe."

We already enjoy regular concerts and projects with groups such as the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Gabrieli, the Brook Street Band, Polyphony, The Tallis Scholars, Early Opera Company, Arcangelo and La Nuova Musica and our partnership with the European Union Baroque Orchestra already brings us a stimulating partnership of ten European organisations through the Creative Europe Funded EMBA projects (European Union Baroque Orchestra Mobile Baroque Academy).

By joining REMA I am confident we will be able to further build exciting and stimulating partnerships and projects with more and more European partners."

<http://rema-eemn.net/-Saint-John-s-Smith-Square-.html>

For more information please contact: Jo Carpenter Music PR Consultancy
E: jo@jocarpenter.com Tel: 07771 538868

Notes to Editors

REMA

REMA – European Early Music Network (Réseau Européen de Musique Ancienne)

REMA, the European Early Music Network, was created in Ambronay, France, in 2000. REMA now boasts a membership of around 70 Early Music organisations from 21 countries. The network's head office is based in France.

REMA has a dual objective: to promote Early Music and to help raise its profile in Europe. Its role is also to defend Early Music and the interests of Early Music programme organisers.

The network enjoys a wide, diverse and high-quality membership. It provides an opportunity for its members to exchange expertise and ideas and discuss their projects.





ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE

Some examples of what REMA does:

- REMA organises 3-4 meetings each year for its members and develops internal and external communications. REMA organises meetings and events with other European cultural platforms, enabling its members to form new networks and gain new contacts, as well as discuss current topics of interest.
- Every two years, REMA organises a European showcase for young talent in Early Music.
- REMA is creating an application for smartphones for Early Music in order to find early music concerts in Europe anywhere and at any time.
- REMA regularly publishes a survey on its members' activities.
- REMA is a highly active network that is undergoing significant expansion. It gains an average of 10 new members each year. It is supported by the European Commission and the French Ministry of Culture and Communication.

St John's Smith Square – History

The magnificent church of St John the Evangelist was designed by architect Sir Thomas Archer as part of the 'Commission for Building Fifty New Churches' of 1710, with construction lasting 14 years, from 1714 to 1728.

For over 200 years, St John's served as a parish church until the Blitz of 1941 when a direct hit from an incendiary bomb gutted the church. After the war local people funds were raised to buy the site and restore Archer's original designs and when the work was completed in 1969, St John's Smith Square was re-born as one of the finest concert halls in London.

There have been many other highlights over the years – the UK premiere of Karlheinz Stockhausen's *Stimmung* (with Stockhausen himself on sound projection); world premieres of works by Boulez, Birtwistle, Copland and Tippett by the London Sinfonietta; William Walton conducting his own 70th birthday concert; Pierre Boulez and Daniel Barenboim conducting the BBC Symphony Orchestra; an 84-year-old Sir Adrian Boult conducting the English National Orchestra; and Morton Feldman performing alongside Harrison Birtwistle and John Tilbury for BBC Radio. St John's has also hosted the Menuhin School Concert, featuring students Nigel Kennedy and Melvin Tan; a 21-year-old Simon Rattle with the Salomon Orchestra; Plácido Domingo, Teresa Berganza and Ileana Cotrubaş recording Bizet's *Carmen* with Claudio Abbado and the LSO; Philip Glass giving a chamber organ recital, and Lutosławski conducting the Philharmonia in the London premiere of his *Symphony No. 2*.

Over 300 years old, St John's continues to grow and thrive as a busy concert hall – a majestic building resounding to beautiful music in a serene city setting.