



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE



34<sup>th</sup>  
**CHRISTMAS  
FESTIVAL**

8–23 December 2019

Artistic Director Stephen Layton

Patron HRH The Duchess of Cornwall

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# Welcome to the 34<sup>th</sup> Christmas Festival at St John's Smith Square

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Stephen Layton @ Keith Saunders

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## 34<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

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The 34<sup>th</sup> Christmas Festival at St John's Smith Square is a festive feast of 17 concerts.

Our Festival begins with two wonderful choral programmes: Cardinal's Musick open the festival with a concert focussing on the sacred music of the Italian Renaissance, before Solomon's Knot, fresh from their debut at the BBC Proms, bring to life Marc-Antoine Charpentier's festive Oratorio *Pastorale sur la naissance de Notre Seigneur Jésus-Christ*.

We welcome back many of our audience's favourite choirs: The Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford; the Choir of King's College, London; the Choirs of Clare College and Trinity College, Cambridge; and Ex Cathedra for another transportive candle-lit evening. The Tallis Scholars return, this year focusing on 'Reflections' across time: exploring comparative settings of the same texts from composers of different periods, backgrounds and places.

As usual, there is a wealth of Baroque music. Gabrieli present a specialist programme of Lutheran Christmas chorales, hymns and mass settings. Trinity College, Cambridge perform Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* and Vox Luminis bring us Handel's celebrated and effervescent *Dixit Dominus*. La Nuova Musica will pair two advent cantatas by Bach alongside his colossal *Magnificat in D*.

The London Choral Sinfonia return with Britten's *Saint Nicolas* and The City of London Choir present an uplifting evening of all your favourite Christmas carols whilst the National Youth Music Theatre present their ever-popular evening of music and staged readings. For fans of the organ, David Titterington performs Messiaen's monumental reflection on the mystery of the nativity.

We bring the festival to a close, as ever, with Handel's *Messiah* performed by Polyphony and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.


I hope to welcome you to St John's Smith Square this festive season!


A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'S. Layton', is positioned above the name and title of the Artistic Director.


**Stephen Layton**  
Artistic Director


### JOIN THE CONVERSATION!


#SJSSChristmas

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**“VIGILIA DI NATALE”  
- AN ITALIAN  
CELEBRATION  
OF CHRISTMAS**

**The Cardinal's Musick**  
**Andrew Carwood** CONDUCTOR

Lasso *Alma redemptoris mater* [a 8]  
Victoria *Kyrie – Gloria (Missa O magnum  
mysterium) • Credo (Missa O magnum  
mysterium) • Sanctus & Benedictus - Agnus  
Dei (Missa O magnum mysterium) • Alma  
redemptoris mater* [a 8] • *O regem caeli*  
Monteverdi *Angelus ad pastores ait • Hodie  
Christus natus est*  
Gabrieli *Hodie Christus natus est* [a 8]  
Anerio *Alma redemptoris mater*  
Josquin *Praeter rerum seriem*  
Palestrina *Rex Melchior • Hodie Christus  
natus est* [a 8]  
Viadana *Hodie nobis caelorum rex* [a 8]

Is there anywhere like Italy for a musical Christmas? A programme of beautiful music, some contemplative, some a riot of joy, by native composers and those who made their homes in the cradle of the Renaissance. Gorgeous eight-part music and intimate three-part settings recreate the atmosphere of Christmas Eve.

[cardinalsmusick.com](http://cardinalsmusick.com)

Promoted by  
The Cardinal's Musick

**Sun 8 December 7.30pm**

£25, £20, £15, (unreserved £10);  
concessions 10% discount at all prices;  
10% discount for Friends of The Cardinal's  
Musick on tickets at all prices



Solomon's Knot © Gerard Collett

**CHARPENTIER:  
A CHRISTMAS ORATORIO**

**Solomon's Knot**

Charpentier *In nativitate Domini  
Canticum H416 • Pastorale sur la naissance  
de Notre Seigneur Jésus-Christ H483*

On their return to the Christmas Festival, Solomon's Knot turn to Charpentier with two expressive sacred dramas about the arrival of baby Jesus and some of the best French music for Christmastide.

[solomonsknotcollective.com](http://solomonsknotcollective.com)

Promoted by  
Solomon's Knot

**Mon 9 December 7.30pm**

£45, £36, £24, £18



Choir of Christ Church Cathedral Oxford © Hugh Warwick



**CHRISTMAS  
AT CHRIST CHURCH**

**Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford**  
**Steven Grahl** CONDUCTOR

*A programme of some of the best-loved and most beautiful Christmas music ever written, performed by one of the greatest cathedral choirs in the world.*

What better way to get into the festive spirit than with this programme of some of the best-loved and most beautiful Christmas music ever written, performed by one of the greatest cathedral choirs in the world.

[chchchoir.org](http://chchchoir.org)

Promoted by  
Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford

**Tue 10 December 7.30pm**

£25, £20, £15, £10

**CHRISTMAS  
WITH THE LONDON  
CHORAL SINFONIA**

**The London Choral Sinfonia**  
**Michael Waldron** CONDUCTOR

Britten *Saint Nicolas*  
*Other works to include:*  
Holst arr. Owain Park *Christmas Day*  
Adam arr. Max Pappenheim *O Holy Night*

A concert of uplifting music for the festive season. The first half features familiar carols and Christmas tunes in new and exciting arrangements. The programme culminates with Britten's epic Christmas cantata, *Saint Nicolas*.

Pre-Concert Recital: 6.30pm

[thelcs.org](http://thelcs.org)

Promoted by  
The London Choral Sinfonia

**Wed 11 December 7.30pm**

£35, £25, £15, £10



## EX CATHEDRA

### Christmas Music by Candlelight

**Ex Cathedra**  
**Jeffrey Skidmore** CONDUCTOR

*A mixed programme of seasonal favourites.*

In the deep, still, darkness, only candles pierce the winter gloom. And then, upon the silence, comes the luminous sound of a choir in harmony. With a sequence of Christmas music old and new, and readings to make you smile and reflect, our popular Christmas concerts are a uniquely magical way to begin your festive season.

[excathedra.co.uk](http://excathedra.co.uk)

Promoted by  
Ex Cathedra

**Thu 12 December 7.30pm**  
£40, £32, £25, £15

## KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

### Choir of King's College, London The Strand Consort

*Palestrina Canite tuba*  
*Chant 'O Antiphons'*  
*Philip Moore Sancte et sapienter*  
*Lasso Ad te Domine levavi*  
*Joel Rust O radix Jesse*  
*Byrd Tollite portas • Laetentur coeli*  
*Cecilia McDowall Advent Moon*  
*Sir George Benjamin 'Twas in the year*  
*Pawel Łukaszewski O Antiphons*  
*Poulenc Quatre Motets pour le temps de Noël, FP152*

Featured in the Guardian's annual 'best carol services' review, the Advent Carol services at King's College London are something of a signature dish for the choir. Every year, over a thousand people attend the services in the college chapel, which are repeated over three nights in early December. The service is structured around the Great O Antiphons of Advent, which collectively point towards the Christmas birth.

[kcl.ac.uk](http://kcl.ac.uk)

Promoted by  
St John's Smith Square

**Fri 13 December 7.30pm**  
£25, £20, £15, £10

## EX CATHEDRA

“three hours of radiant purity”

*The Telegraph*



Ex Cathedra @ Janet Skidmore



## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

**City of London Choir**  
**Richard Gowers** ORGAN  
**Hilary Davan Wetton** CONDUCTOR

The City of London Choir returns for its annual "carol concert with bells on" (*The Guardian*) with Hilary Davan Wetton. This much-loved Christmas celebration features classic carols, favourites new and old, and plenty of audience participation. An annual highlight for all the family.

Please note the early start time of 6.30pm.

[cityoflondonchoir.org](http://cityoflondonchoir.org)

Promoted by  
City of London Choir

**Sat 14 December 6.30pm**

£32, £27, £22, £15

(50% discount for Under 16s);

concessions 20% discount at all prices

## NATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC THEATRE

**A Christmas Celebration**

**National Youth Music Theatre Chorus,  
Alumni and Orchestra**

*A seasonal selection of readings, music and staged extracts.*

The National Youth Music Theatre represents the very best in work with young people through musical theatre, leading Andrew Lloyd Webber to dub it "the best youth music theatre in the world".

"It is difficult to imagine that the National Youth Music Theatre has ever been on better form." - *British Theatre Guide*

[nymt.org.uk](http://nymt.org.uk)

Promoted by  
National Youth Music Theatre

**Sun 15 December 7.30pm**

£30, £25, £20, £15

## CITY OF LONDON CHOIR

"freshness, bloom, attentive diction  
and a palpable heart"

*The Telegraph*



City of London Choir © Roger Way



Choir of New College Oxford © Nick Rutter

## VENI EMMANUEL: ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT NEW COLLEGE

**Choir of New College Oxford**  
**Timothy Wakerell, Charles Maxtone-Smith**  
& **Hamish Fraser** ORGAN  
**Robert Quinney** CONDUCTOR

Trad. *Veni, veni Emmanuel*  
Matthew Martin *O Oriens*  
Bennet *Out of your Sleep • In the bleak midwinter • Sweet was the song • Susanni Plainchant Veni redemptor gentium Praetorius Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland • Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern • Uns ist ein Kindlein heut geboren*  
Bach *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland in organo pleno (organ)*  
Arr. Willcocks *Tomorrow shall be my dancing day • Sussex Carol*  
Arr. Pearsall *In dulci jubilo*  
Chilcott *The Shepherd's carol • Nova, nova*  
Baker *Toccata-Gigue on the 'Sussex carol' (organ)*  
Schütz *Hodie Christus natus est*

Lassus *Resonet in ludibus*  
Bednall *Noe, noe*  
Trad. Arr. Willcocks *Of the Father's heart begotten*

The Choir of New College Oxford is firmly established as one of the most acclaimed British choral ensembles, known for its stylish performances of a diverse repertoire. Join the choristers, clerks and organists for an inspiring journey through Advent to Christmas: from traditional seasonal melodies to more recent favourites, via glorious Renaissance polyphony and the exuberant splendour of the Baroque.

[newcollegechoir.com](http://newcollegechoir.com)

Promoted by  
Choir of New College Oxford

**Mon 16 December 7.30pm**  
£35, £25, £15, £10



Gabrieli

## PRAETORIUS: MASS FOR CHRISTMAS MORNING

**Gabrieli**  
**Paul McCreesh** CONDUCTOR

*A Lutheran Christmas Morning as might have been heard in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Germany, featuring the music of Michael Praetorius, Samuel Scheidt and Johann Hermann Schein.*

Paul McCreesh and the Gabrieli revive their glorious reconstruction of a typical 17<sup>th</sup> Century Lutheran Christmas Mass, the 1994 recording of which remains the ensemble's bestselling release on *Deutsche Grammophon*, beloved the world over.

[gabrieli.com](http://gabrieli.com)

Promoted by  
Gabrieli

**Tue 17 December 7.30pm**  
£35, £28, £22, £15

## DIXIT DOMINUS

**Vox Luminis**  
**Lionel Meunier** DIRECTOR

*Anon. Magnificat BuxWV Anhang 1 - Previously attributed to Buxtehude, probably written by Franz Tunder (Anonymous officially at the moment)*  
Bach *Nun komm der heiden Heiland BWV61*  
Handel *Dixit Dominus HWV232*

"Their sound is warm and resonant, and they sing this 300-year-old music with the freshness and ardour of true believers..."  
(Michael Church, *The Independent*)

"The appeal of Vox Luminis is to apply no special tricks except an almost supernatural concentration on minute dynamic contrasts, uncanny intonation, clean, clear tone ... and meditative expression." (*The Times*)

[voxluminis.com](http://voxluminis.com)

Promoted by  
St John's Smith Square

**Wed 18 December 7.30pm**  
£35, £28, £22, £14



David Titterington © Chris Christodoulou

THURSDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

DAVID TITTERINGTON

*Organ Series*

**La Nativité du Seigneur**

David Titterington ORGAN

Messiaen *La Nativité du Seigneur*

Messiaen's epic and majestic masterpiece for organ, reflecting on the spiritual mystery of the birth of Jesus, is brought to life by David Titterington.

Promoted by  
St John's Smith Square

**Thu 19 December 1.05pm**  
£10, YF

THE TALLIS SCHOLARS

Reflections

The Tallis Scholars

- Chant *Salve Regina* • *Ave Maria*
- Padilla *Salve Regina*
- Poulenc *Salve Regina*
- Cornysh *Salve Regina* • *Ave Maria*
- Poulenc arr. Jeremy White *Ave Maria* [a 10]
- Gabrieli *Angelus Domini descendit* [a 8]
- Massaino *Angelus Domini descendit* [a 7]
- Lassus *Angelus Domini descendit*
- Tallis *O sacrum convivium*
- Messiaen *O sacrum convivium*
- Byrd *Magnificat* from *Short Service*
- Victoria *Magnificat Primi Toni* [a 8]

We start with one of the most famous of these chant melodies - the *Salve regina* - and sing three strongly contrasting settings based on it, from Puebla, Paris and London. The *Ave Maria* section follows the same pattern. In the second half it is the *Magnificat* settings which are most obviously dependent on chant while the Tallis and Messiaen *O sacrum convivium* motets show how composers who were poles apart in time and place may react to the same words similarly. Our programme rounds off with two joyful *Magnificats*, one Protestant, one Catholic, from 16<sup>th</sup> Century England and Spain.

[thetallissscholars.co.uk](http://thetallissscholars.co.uk)

Promoted by  
The Tallis Scholars

**Thu 19 December 7.30pm**  
£35, £28, £22, £14

THE TALLIS SCHOLARS

“...as near extraterrestrial as you can get sitting in a concert hall...”

Fiona Maddocks, *The Observer*



The Tallis Scholars © Nick Rutter



Choir of Clare College, Cambridge © Nick Rutter



## LA NUOVA MUSICA

### Bach Magnificat and Advent Cantatas

**Anna Dennis & Miriam Allen** SOPRANO  
**Patrick Terry** ALTO  
**Nick Pritchard** TENOR  
**Dingle Yandell** BASS  
**David Bates** CONDUCTOR

*Bach Bereitete die Wege, bereite die Bahn!*  
BWV132 • *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*  
BWV140 • *Magnificat in D* BWV243

Following the mystery and soul searching of Advent, the Church longs for the birth of its saviour, Jesus Christ. The *Magnificat* is the song of Jesus Christ's mother, Mary, who tells the news of his longed-for arrival. With Baroque contrast at its heart Bach's *Magnificat* alternates grand choruses with intimate arias – excitable declamations with sensual invocations for the coming of Christ.

[thetallissscholars.co.uk](http://thetallissscholars.co.uk)

Promoted by  
La Nuova Musica

**Fri 20 December 7.30pm**  
£49, 38, £26, £15

## A CLARE CHRISTMAS

**Choir of Clare College, Cambridge**  
**Ashley Chow & George Gillow** ORGAN  
**Graham Ross** CONDUCTOR

*Seasonal music from Clare College, Cambridge*

The Choir of Clare College, Cambridge return to St John's Smith Square's Christmas Festival, exploring festive choral masterpieces old and new. Poulenc's *Quatre motets pour le temps de Noël* and Hieronymus Praetorius's *Christmas Magnificat* sit alongside Roderick Williams's haunting *O Adonai*, *Jan Sandström's Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen*, and a selection of beautiful arrangements that tell us that Christmas has truly begun.

[clarecollegechoir.com](http://clarecollegechoir.com)

Promoted by  
Choir of Clare College, Cambridge

**Sat 21 December 7.30pm**  
£39, £29, £19, £12

## LA NUOVA MUSICA

“La Nuova Musica....as lively a collection of instrumentalists and singers as the world offers”

*The Times*



La Nuova Musica © Nick Rutter





Anna Dennis  
© Sebastian Xander



James Gilchrist  
© Patrick Allen - operaomnia.co.uk

## CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

The Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge  
Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

**Anna Dennis** SOPRANO  
**Helen Charlston** MEZZO SOPRANO  
**James Gilchrist** TENOR  
**Neal Davies** BASS  
**Stephen Layton** CONDUCTOR

*Bach Christmas Oratorio*

After the sell-out success of its recent Christmas Festival performances, The Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge again joins forces with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment for Bach's *Christmas Oratorio, Parts 1, 2, 3, 6*. Stephen Layton conducts and they are joined by four outstanding soloists.

[trinitycollegechoir.com](http://trinitycollegechoir.com)

Promoted by  
The Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge

**Sun 22 December 7.30pm**  
£39, £32, £24, £15

## HANDEL'S MESSIAH WITH POLYPHONY

**Polyphony**  
**Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment**  
**Anna Dennis** SOPRANO  
**Helen Charlston** MEZZO SOPRANO  
**James Gilchrist** TENOR  
**Neal Davies** BASS  
**Stephen Layton** CONDUCTOR

*Handel Messiah*

Christmas without *Messiah*? Not possible! But this is no ordinary *Messiah*...join Polyphony's "radiant young voices" and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment's "zestful strings" and "keen trumpets" with a brilliant line-up of soloists, all under the inspired direction of Stephen Layton and you will be singing and dancing all the way home.

[stephenlayton.com/polyphony](http://stephenlayton.com/polyphony)

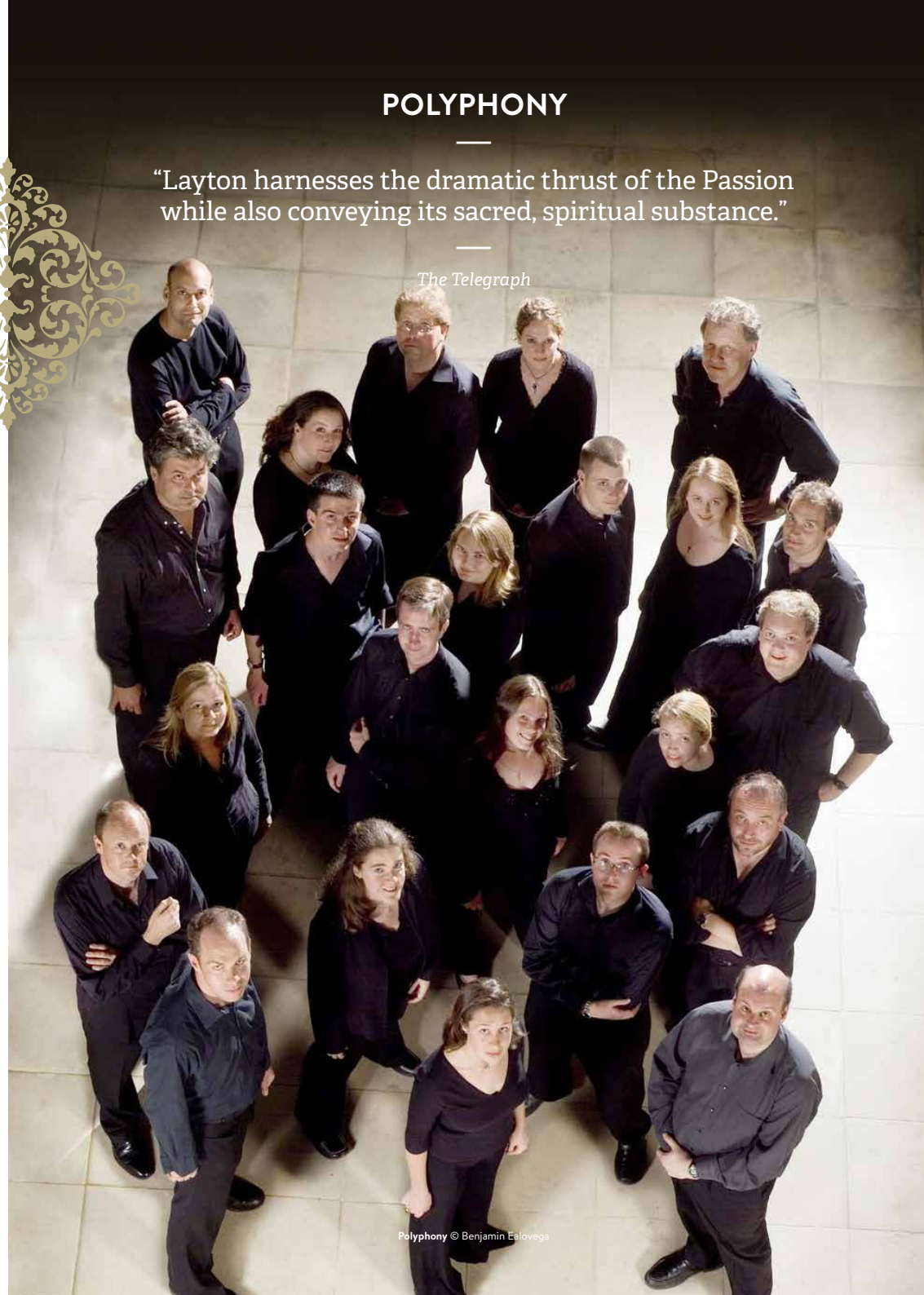
Promoted by  
Associated Musical Services Ltd

**Mon 23 December 7.30pm**  
£65, £55, £40, £25

## POLYPHONY

"Layton harnesses the dramatic thrust of the Passion while also conveying its sacred, spiritual substance."

*The Telegraph*



## BOOKING INFORMATION

### PHONE

020 7222 1061

Monday to Friday 10.00am – 5.00pm

£2.75 booking fee applies

### ONLINE

[sjss.org.uk](http://sjss.org.uk)

£1.75 booking fee applies

### IN PERSON

Monday to Friday 10.00am – 5.00pm

(until 6.00pm on public concert days).

The Box Office opens one hour before the start of Sunday and Bank Holiday concerts.

### POST

Box Office, St John's Smith Square,  
London SW1P 3HA

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. Cheques should be made payable to St John's Smith Square.

### CONCESSIONS AND REDUCTIONS

Concession prices are indicated in parentheses. These tickets are available for many of our concerts to senior citizens, full-time students, registered unemployed, school children (under 16) and people who are registered disabled.

Westminster CitySave card holders are entitled to a 10% discount on a pair of tickets for any public concert.

Parties of ten or more qualify for a 10% discount.

### YOUNG FRIENDS SCHEME (UNDER 30S)

- ◆ £5 tickets to concerts marked 'YF' such as Thursday Lunchtime Concerts
- ◆ Exclusive targeted discounts

Sign up for **FREE**: [sjss.org.uk/young-friends](http://sjss.org.uk/young-friends)

### ACCESSIBILITY

If you have access requirements, please inform our Box Office staff when booking your tickets to help us provide you with the best possible service and choice of seats. We allocate an additional seat free of charge to disabled patrons who require a carer to accompany them.

### Please Note

We may need to substitute artists and to vary our concert programmes from the published information without warning.

Latecomers are admitted only at a suitable pause in the concert, as advised by the concert promoter.

Please note that tickets may not be refunded but may be exchanged up to 48 hours before the performance, which will incur a £2 administration fee per ticket.

## YOUR VISIT

St John's Smith Square is just off Millbank between Westminster and Lambeth Bridges, close to the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey, and a short walk from Westminster tube station.

### TUBE

Westminster, St James's Park & Victoria

### BUS

3 and 87 to Horseferry Road  
C10 and 507 (limited hours) to Millbank  
88 to Horseferry Road  
11, 211, 148 and 24 to Westminster Abbey

### SANTANDER CYCLES

A docking station is located in Smith Square and there are also stations on Horseferry Road, Page Street and Great College Street.

### CAR PARKING

St John's Smith Square is within the congestion charging zone. Parking meters are in operation during the day Monday–Friday until 6.30pm. In the evenings and at weekends there are usually ample spaces locally. There is Westminster City Council car parking on Great College Street and Arneway Street.


### RAIL

Victoria, Waterloo, Vauxhall & Charing Cross




**PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH WITH US ONLINE**

**#SJSSChristmas**

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Box Office **020 7222 1061**

**[sjss.org.uk](http://sjss.org.uk)**

**St John's Smith Square Charitable Trust**

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