



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE



31st
**CHRISTMAS
FESTIVAL**

9–23 December 2016

Artistic Director Stephen Layton

Patron HRH The Duchess of Cornwall

Welcome to the 31st Christmas Festival at St John's Smith Square



Stephen Layton @ Keith Saunders

31st CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Now in its 31st season, the Christmas Festival has flourished into a series of 16 concerts.

The great British choral tradition continues to influence the programming, with The Choir of King's College London returning to launch the Festival with two choral masterpieces – Tavener's *Ikon of the Nativity* and Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil*.

The Festival comprises several other familiar choirs: Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford with Howard Goodall; an eclectic selection of Christmas choral pieces with the Choir of Merton College, Oxford and Benjamin Nicholas; festive favourites with the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge and Graham Ross; a programme of Renaissance music celebrating the Virgin Mary with The Tallis Scholars and Peter Phillips; an atmospheric candle-lit concert with Ex Cathedra and Jeffrey Skidmore; and the wonderful young musicians of the National Youth Music Theatre.

Also returning this year are Andrew Carwood and The Cardinal's Musick with Renaissance masterpieces; and Tenebrae and Nigel Short with an all-English programme.

New to St John's Smith Square's Christmas Festival are La Nuova Musica and David Peter Bates with Lucy Crowe who will perform Bach's triumphant *Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen* and Mozart's jubilant *Exsultate Jubilate*; and St John's Smith Square's 2015/16 Young Artists The Gesualdo Six and their director Owain Park.

We also extend a warm welcome to David Titterton, Organ Curator of St John's Smith Square, who performs Messiaen's nine meditations on the birth of Jesus, *La Nativité du Seigneur*; the City of London Choir who bring a festive programme of classic carols and new works; and the Holst Singers and the City of London Sinfonia who present a programme inspired by English folksongs and Yuletide tales, complete with seasonal readings and sing-along carols.

Handel's *Messiah* with Polyphony and Bach's *Mass in B minor* with The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge have become part of a much-anticipated annual tradition. We are delighted that the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment will join us again, alongside a wonderful cast of soloists.

I hope to welcome you this festive season!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Stephen Layton', is written in a cursive style.

Stephen Layton
Artistic Director



@KaupoKikkas

THE CHOIR OF KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

Joseph Fort CONDUCTOR

Tavener *Ikon of the Nativity*
Rachmaninoff *All-Night Vigil Op. 37*

The Choir of King's College London returns to St John's Smith Square, this time to celebrate the musical traditions of the Orthodox Church. The choir will perform John Tavener's *Ikon of the Nativity* and Sergei Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil*.

kcl.ac.uk/choir

Promoted by
The Choir of King's College London

Fri 9 December 7.30pm
£20, £16, £14, £10



THE GESUALDO SIX

Owain Park DIRECTOR

Byrd *Vigilate*
Palestrina *O magnum mysterium*
Praetorius *Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland à 6*
Harvey *The Annunciation*
Anon. *There is no rose*
Trad. *Coventry Carol*
Tallis *Videte Miraculum*
Owain Park *On the Infancy of our Saviour*
Taverner *Audivi vocem*
Hassler *Verbum caro factum est*
Canale *Quem vidistis*
Kirkpatrick arr. Lawson *Away in a manger*
Trad. arr. Brian Kay *Gaudete*
Praetorius arr. Bach *In dulci jubilo*
Trad. German, harm. Praetorius *Es ist ein Ros Entsprungen*
Holst *Lullay my liking*
Trad. arr. Vaughan Williams *This is the truth*
Howells *Here is the little door*
John Rutter *There is a flower*
Jonathan Rathbone *The Oxen*
Tavener *The Lamb*
Trad. arr. Lawson *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

"The Gesualdo Six have everything going for them – talent, youth, stamina, confidence and years of experience of singing the most difficult vocal polyphony in the repertoire." — *The Tablet*

thegesualdosix.co.uk

Co-promoted by The Gesualdo Six
and St John's Smith Square

Sat 10 December 7.30pm
£25, £20, £15, £10

THE GESUALDO SIX

"Each vocal part showed control and dexterity that blended with the next... At times you felt like there were a hundred voices; at others, only one"

Varsity



The Gesualdo Six @ Ash Mills

31st CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL



Christ Church Cathedral Choir, Oxford © KT Bruce

CITY OF LONDON CHOIR

Carols by Candlelight

Lucy Wakeford HARP
Stephen Farr ORGAN
Hilary Davan Wetton CONDUCTOR

Britten *Selection from A Ceremony of Carols*
Warlock *Benedicamus Domino*
Ord *Adam lay y bounden*
Head *The little road to Bethlehem*
John Rutter *The shepherd's pipe carol* •
Angel's carol • *Star carol*
Malcolm Hawkins *Four Carols*
Sargent *Mary had a baby*
Howard Goodall *Romance of the Epiphany*
Trad. arr. Jacques *Good King Wenceslas*
Gardner *O little town of Bethlehem* •
Tomorrow shall be my dancing day
Peter Gritton *Follow that star*
Fletcher *Ring out wild bells*
Trad. arr. Willcocks *O come, o come, Emmanuel* • *God rest you merry, gentlemen* •
Unto us is born a son • *Away in a manger* •
O come all ye faithful

The City of London Choir's much-loved celebration of Christmas under the baton of Hilary Davan Wetton. A delightful mix of old and new, with audience participation – an annual highlight for families (min. age 6).

cityoflondonchoir.org

Promoted by
City of London Choir

Sun 11 December 6.30pm

£30, £25, £20, £15
(conc. 20%, child 50%)

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL CHOIR, OXFORD

Christmas Bells

Stephen Darlington DIRECTOR
Howard Goodall PRESENTER

Trad. arr. Woodward *Ding, dong, ding*
Trad. arr. Pearsall *In dulci jubilo*
Trad. arr. 16th century *E la don don*
Trad. arr. Wood *Past three o'clock*
Lefébure-Wély *Sortie in Eb*
Howard Goodall *Stella quam viderant Magi* •
Romance of the Angels
Darke *In the bleak midwinter*
Cornelius *The three kings*
John Rutter *Shepherd's pipe carol*
Williamson *Ding, dong, merrily on high*
Warlock *Bethlehem Down*
Trad. arr. Poston *As I sat on a sunny bank*
Ives *Variations on America*
Trad. arr. Stephen Darlington *Jacob's ladder*
Howells *A Spotless Rose*
Gardner *Tomorrow shall be my dancing day*
Trad. arr. Ralph Allwood *Jingle Bells*

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

chchchoir.org

Promoted by
Christ Church Cathedral Choir, Oxford

Mon 12 December 7.30pm

£25, £20, £15, £10

The Cardinal's Musick © Dmitri Goujahn



CHOIR OF MERTON COLLEGE, OXFORD

O Holy Night!

Benjamin Nicholas DIRECTOR

Praetorius *Magnificat quinti toni*
Victoria *Missa Pro Victoria*
Poulenc *Quatre motets pour le temps de Noël*
Trad. arr. Pearsall *In dulci jubilo*
Robin Holloway *The angel Gabriel*
Adam *O holy night!*
Hadley *I sing of a maiden*
Darke *In the bleak midwinter*
16th-century French arr. Wilberg *Ding dong!*
Merrily on high
John Rutter *Shepherd's pipe carol*
Gruber arr. Rutter *Silent night*
Torme and Wells arr. Rutter
The Christmas Song

The Choir of Merton College's programme contrasts two polychoral masterpieces from the Renaissance period with Poulenc's popular Christmas motets, and a sequence of well-known carols by Darke and Rutter amongst others.

merton.ox.ac.uk

Promoted by
Choir of Merton College, Oxford

Tue 13 December 7.30pm

£25, £20, £15, £10

THE CARDINAL'S MUSICK

In Honour of the Virgin

Andrew Carwood DIRECTOR

Lassus *Osculetur me* • *Missa Osculetur me*
Plainsong *Salve sancta parens* • *Virgo prudentissima*
Victoria *Ave Maria* • *Quam pulchri sunt gressus tui* • *Sancta Maria succere miseris*
Padilla *Ave regina caelorum*
Anchieta *Salve regina*
Guerrero *Regina caeli*
Byrd *Propers for the Nativity of the Virgin Mary*
Palestrina *Magnificat primi toni*

This programme features music from four of the greatest Renaissance composers – Lassus, Victoria, Byrd and Palestrina. The sumptuous erotically-titled *Missa Osculetur me* (Kiss me!) takes its inspiration from the *Song of Songs* (a book often used for texts in honour of the Virgin) and Lassus relishes the sonorities of eight voices talking in dialogue. Italian giant Palestrina has the last word and is seen at his most ebullient in his eight-voice *Magnificat primi toni*.

cardinalsmusick.com

Promoted by
The Cardinal's Musick

Wed 14 December 7.30pm

£25, £20, £15, £10 (conc. 10%)



Ex Cathedra @ Roger Cahle

THURSDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

DAVID TITTERINGTON

Organ Series

Messiaen *La Nativité du Seigneur*

La Nativité du Seigneur is one of Olivier Messiaen's most evocative and beautiful cycles tracing the nativity of Jesus. Written in 1935, the first Christmas story is recounted in nine exquisite meditations in which the Shepherds, Angels and Wise Men are centre-stage in this vivid and awesome masterpiece.

Promoted by
St John's Smith Square

Thu 15 December 1.05pm
£10, YF

EX CATHEDRA

Christmas Music
by Candlelight

Jeffrey Skidmore CONDUCTOR
Alexander Mason ORGAN

Aimed at the heart of Christmas, these atmospheric concerts have become a popular annual tradition at St John's Smith Square.

A seamless stream of music brings old favourites, stunning new music, and hidden gems, all interspersed with readings that capture the meaning – and humour – of the season.

excathedra.co.uk

Promoted by
Ex Cathedra

Thu 15 December 7.30pm
£35, £28, £22, £14

DAVID TITTERINGTON

“....a performance [of Messiaen's *Livre du Saint Sacrement*] of spellbinding authority... of staggering intensity and brilliance”

The Dominion



David Titterington © Leo Cincicolo

31st CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

CHOIR OF CLARE COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

Lullaby my Jesus

Graham Ross CONDUCTOR

The programme, interspersed with plainsong 'O' antiphons, includes:

Trad. arr. Graham Ross *O come, O come, Emmanuel* • *Still, Still, Still*

Plainsong arr. Judith Weir *Drop down ye heavens from above*

Ramsey *O Sapientia*

Roderick Williams *O Adonai et Dux domus Israel*

Praetorius arr. Jan Sandström *Det är en ros utsprung*

Gabriel Jackson *O Clavis David*

Mendelssohn *When Jesus our Lord was born in Bethlehem*

John Rutter *Christ is the morning star*

Bob Chilcott *O Emmanuel*

Howells *Magnificat from Collegium Regale Service*

Tavener *O do not move*

Mouton *Nesciens Mater*

Sweelinck *Hodie Christus natus est*

Trad. arr. Richard Allain *Coventry Carol*

Maxwell Davies *Nowell (Out of your sleep arise)*

Simon Preston *There is no rose*

Bach *O Jesulein süß*

Warlock arr. Andrew Carter *Lullaby my Jesus*

A sumptuous programme of music for the last week in Advent. The 9th century 'O' Antiphons of Advent are heard alongside festive favourites, lesser-known masterpieces and a ravishing selection of Christmas arrangements.

clarecollegechoir.com

Promoted by
Choir of Clare College, Cambridge

Fri 16 December 7.30pm

£30, £25, £20, £10



National Youth Music Theatre © Konrad Barcikski

NATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC THEATRE

In their 40th anniversary year, the award-winning National Youth Music Theatre presents their popular concert of seasonal readings, music and staged extracts.

NYMT represents the very best in work with young people through musical theatre which has led Andrew Lloyd Webber to praise it "the best youth music theatre in the world".

nymt.org.uk

Promoted by
National Youth Music Theatre

Sat 17 December 7.30pm

£27, £22, £17, £12

TENEBRAE

"Choral music doesn't get more magnificent than this."

Classic FM



Tenebrae © Chris O'Donovan



TENEBRAE

A Very English Christmas

Nigel Short CONDUCTOR

Adrian Peacock *Venite, Gaudete!*
Ledger Adam *Lay Ybounden*
Simon Preston *There Is No Rose*
Wishart *Alleluya*
Byrd *O Magnum Mysterium*
Pygott *Quid petis, O fili?*
Anon. *Angelus ad Virginem*
Jonathan Lane *There Is No Rose*
Warlock *I Saw a Fair Maiden • Benedicamus Domino • As dew in Aprylle*
Vaughan Williams *Wassail Song*
Gruber. arr. Jonathan Rathbone *Silent Night*
Alex Redshaw *I Sing of a Maiden*
Jonathan Rathbone *The Oxen*
Holst *In the Bleak Midwinter*
Christopher Robinson *Rejoice and be Merry*
Bax *I Sing of a Maiden*
Richard Lloyd *Love Came Down at Christmas*
Will Todd *My Lord Has Come*
Trad. arr. Humphris *Twelve Days of Christmas*
Trad. arr. Nigel Short *Away in a manger*
Trad. arr. Ben Parry *Jingle Bells*

"Sumptuous performances, and perfectly judged sound" — *BBC Music Magazine*

Celebrate the yuletide season with a selection of a cappella choral arrangements providing a musical breath of fresh air at Christmas. This programme heralds the unrivalled talents of English composers, featuring lesser-known gems, traditional carols and heart-warming festive favourites.

tenebrae-choir.com

Promoted by
Tenebrae

Sun 18 December 7.00pm
£32, £26, £20, £12 (conc. 10%)

Lucy Crowe © Marco Borggreve



LA NUOVA MUSICA

Lucy Crowe SOPRANO
David Blackadder TRUMPET
David Peter Bates DIRECTOR

Bach *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* BWV62
• *Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen* BWV51
Mozart *Exsultate Jubilate* K165
Haydn *Missa Sancti Nicolai*

"Dazzling" soprano, Lucy Crowe joins La Nuova Musica for two of the most celebrated soprano cantatas in the repertoire: Bach's *Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen*, and Mozart's *Exsultate Jubilate*.

These joyous, festive cantatas will be bookended by *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, a brooding Advent cantata by Bach, full of darkness and longing for the illuminating birth of Christ, and Haydn's *Missa Sancti Nicolai*, dedicated to the Saint's namesake and his patron, Prince Nicolaus of Esterhazy.

lanuovamusica.co.uk

Promoted by
St John's Smith Square

Mon 19 December 7.30pm
£40, £32, £25, £15

DAVID PETER BATES & LA NUOVA MUSICA

"Bates' conducting had superb poise, and the cast was impeccable, with not a weak link anywhere."

The Guardian



David Peter Bates © Benjamin Ealovega

31st CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Holst Singers © Kate Mount



AN ENGLISH FOLK CHRISTMAS

City of London Sinfonia
Holst Singers
Michael Collins CONDUCTOR
Jeremy Cole CONDUCTOR

Vaughan Williams *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* • This is the Truth Sent from above
Bolton *A Garland of Carols*
Warlock *Bethlehem Down*
Stephen Cleobury *Shropshire Carol*

City of London Sinfonia and Holst Singers celebrate Christmas with a concert inspired by this country's folk-songs and traditional Yuletide tales. Featuring choral pieces from around the country with seasonal readings from Dickens and other great story-tellers. Sing along in carols chosen by the audience to ensure you don't miss out on your own Christmas favourites!

cls.co.uk
Promoted by
City of London Sinfonia

Tue 20 December 7.30pm
£40, £32, £25, £15



THE TALLIS SCHOLARS

Peter Phillips DIRECTOR
Desprez *Praeter rerum seriem*
de Rore *Missa Praeter rerum seriem* •
Hodie Christus natus est
Victoria *Magnificat Primi Toni*
de Sermisy *Salve Regina*
Franco *Salve Regina*
Taverner *O splendor gloriae*

Every piece in this programme celebrates Christmas, more or less directly.

The *Hodie Christus natus est* (Today Christ is born) of de Rore's motet is self explanatory. Less obvious is the explicit reference to Christ's birth in *Praeter rerum seriem*, and the more general praise of the Virgin in the words of the *Magnificat*, *Salve Regina* and *O splendor gloriae*.

This programme features a major Renaissance mass-setting, which not only pays homage to Mary, but also to the Duke of Ferrara, Hercules, whose name is continuously woven into the counterpoint. Hernando Franco, whose beautiful *Salve Regina* is also featured in this concert, was a Guatamalan and Mexican composer who died in 1585.

thetallisscholars.co.uk
Promoted by
Hazard Chase

Wed 21 December 7.30pm
£35, £28, £22, £14

THE TALLIS SCHOLARS

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

The Observer



The Tallis Scholars © Eric Richmond

The TALLIS SCHOLARS

31st CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL



The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge
© Benjamin Elovéga



BACH MASS IN B MINOR

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

Katherine Watson SOPRANO
Iestyn Davies COUNTERTENOR
Gwilym Bowen TENOR
Neal Davies BASS
Stephen Layton CONDUCTOR

Bach Mass in B minor

The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge has established itself as one of the leading mixed-voice choirs in the world. Following the sell-out success of recent Christmas Festival performances the Choir again joins forces with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment for Bach's *Mass in B minor*.

trinitycollegechoir.com

Promoted by
The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge

Thu 22 December 7.30pm
£30, £25, £20, £10 (conc. 10%)

HANDEL MESSIAH

**Polyphony
Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment**
Katherine Watson SOPRANO
Iestyn Davies COUNTERTENOR
Gwilym Bowen TENOR
Neal Davies BASS
Stephen Layton CONDUCTOR

Handel Messiah

A very special performance of Handel's *Messiah* on Stephen Layton's 50th birthday: the perfect way to begin your Christmas celebrations.

The virtuoso players of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment join Polyphony and a stunning line-up of soloists for "the best performance of Handel's great work that we have ever heard".

— *musicOMH*

Post-concert celebrations:

Join us for a festive celebration of Stephen Layton's 50th birthday at our post-concert mulled wine and mince pies reception!
Tickets £20

stephenlayton.com/polyphony

Promoted by
Associated Musical Services Ltd

Fri 23 December 7.30pm
£59, £49, £39, £19

POLYPHONY

"The excellence of Polyphony's singing is another constant; it would be hard to imagine more incisive attack, more exactitude of diction, more depth in understanding of the text or more thrilling drama than this group provides."

Music OMH



Polyphony © Benjamin Elovéga

BOOKING INFORMATION

PHONE

020 7222 1061

Monday to Saturday 10.00am–5.00pm

£2 booking fee applies

ONLINE

sjss.org.uk

£1.50 booking fee applies

IN PERSON

Monday to Saturday 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

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

If you're aged 30 or under, make sure you sign up for our **FREE** Young Friends Scheme!

Young Friends are entitled to purchase £5 tickets to concerts in our Thursday Lunchtime Concerts, Sunday at St John's series, and Young Artists' Series.

Our Young Friends also receive:

- ◆ £5 tickets for selected concerts throughout the season – you'll find these marked alongside the ticket information in the brochure with the code 'YF'
- ◆ Exclusive invitations to special events
- ◆ Young Friends newsletter
- ◆ Targeted discounts

ACCESSIBILITY

If you have access requirements, please let our Box Office staff know 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. Administration charges may apply.

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

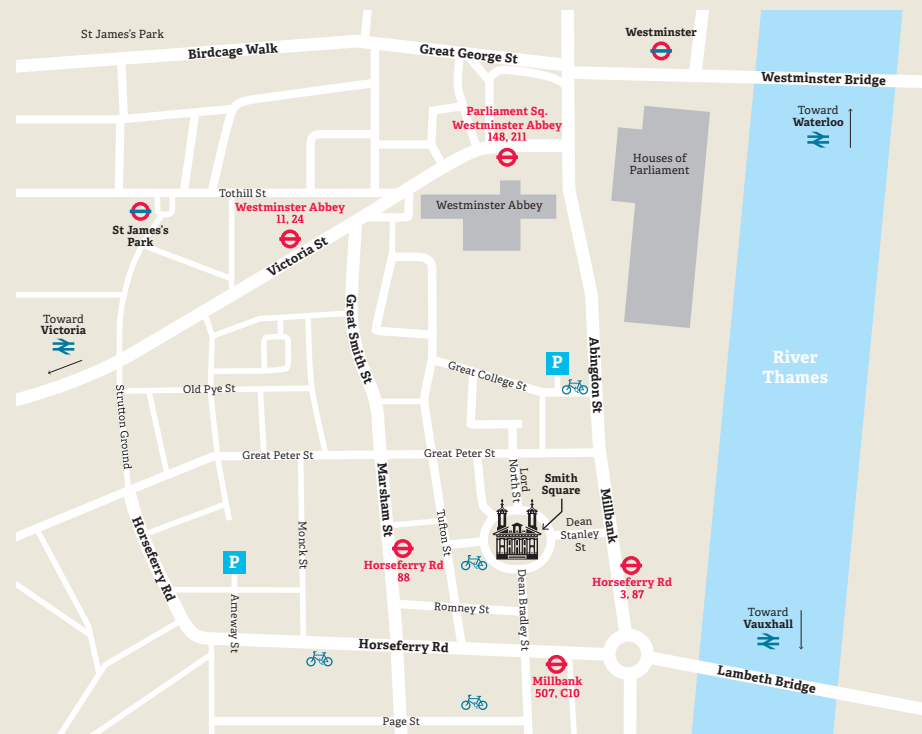
A docking station is located in Smith Square and there are also stations on Horseferry Road, Page Street and Great College Street.

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



31st CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL






Now in its 31st season, St John's Smith Square's Christmas Festival has flourished into a series of 16 concerts.

Inspired by the great British choral tradition, this year's programme features some of the UK's most exceptional choirs, ensembles and solo musicians.

Join us for a fortnight of festive music making!

PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH WITH US ONLINE

#SJSSChristmas

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Box Office **020 7222 1061**
sjss.org.uk

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London SW1P 3HA

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