



Welcome to the 30th Christmas Festival at St John's Smith Square



30th CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Now in its 30th season, the Christmas Festival has flourished into a series of 14 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 choral masterpieces such as Tallis' iconic 40-part Spem in Alium. More Tallis ensues with Peter Phillips and The Tallis Scholars in the seven-part Missa Puer natus est nobis.

The Festival comprises several returning ensembles: Chapelle du Roi with music written during the marriage of Mary Tudor and Philip of Spain; tributes to the Virgin Mary continue with Britten's A Hymn to the Virgin performed by the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford and Howard Goodall; a festively atmospheric concert follows with Ex Cathedra in a programme of works both old and new: Ensemble Plus Ultra presents more homages to the Virgin; Christmas classics and carols with the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge: the National Youth Music Theatre represents the world of musical theatre: Solomon's Knot juxtaposes settings of the Song of Mary.

New to the Festival this year are Siglo de Oro who make their St John's Smith Square debut with an unusual festive programme which carries undertones of vulnerability and sacrifice; and The Choir of Merton College, Oxford in a concert with Britten's A Ceremony of Carols. We also extend a warm welcome to distinguished organist Thomas Trotter.

Handel's Messiah with Polyphony and Bach's Mass in B minor with the Choir of Trinity College Cambridge have become part of an annual tradition. Once again, we are delighted to perform alongside the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment as well as a wonderful cast of soloists.

With best wishes for a peaceful Christmas and New Year,

Stephen Layton Artistic Director

Safter

ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE



CHOIR OF KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

Voices of Enchantment

Joseph Fort CONDUCTOR

Leighton Mass for Double Choir Op. 44 • A Hymn of the Nativity Carver O bone Jesu Carver Gaude Flore Virginali Tallis Spem in alium

The Choir of King's College London return to St John's Smith Square with a rich programme featuring one of the masterpieces of the Renaissance, Tallis' 40-part motet Spem in alium. The Choir of King's College London is one of the finest mixed-voice choirs in England. In addition to singing weekly services in the College Chapel, the Choir has made a number of recordings of sixteenth-century Spanish, English and Italian music to critical acclaim and has recently given concerts in Russia, France, Hong Kong and Italy.

Fri 11 December 7.30pm £20, £16, £14, £10





Christmas Music from the Chapel Royal Choirs of England and Philip of Spain

A programme of music celebrating English and Spanish music from the sixteenth century

Mary Tudor and Philip of Spain were married in 1554. The union was short lived but the music written as a result of the joining of the two countries was rich and varied. Some of the repertoire was written with the joint choirs of the Chapel Royal and the Capella Flamenca in mind and the result is music architected on a grand scale with sumptuous textures and up to seven or eight vocal parts.

chapelleduroi.com

Sat 12 December 7.30pm £25, £20, £15, £10



CHAPELLE DU ROI

"Such natural unaffected music-making."

The Daily Telegraph

ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE



A Christmas Passion

Patrick Allies CONDUCTOR

SIGLO DE ORO

Roderick Williams O Adonai, et dux domus Sheppard Salvator mundi Howells Sing lullaby Byrd Lullaby my sweet little babe Leighton A Hymn of the Nativity Warlock Bethlehem down Trad. arr. Richard Allain Coventry Carol David Lang The Little Match Girl Passion

Siglo de Oro make their St John's Smith Square debut with an unusual Christmas programme: a collection of festive music that carries undertones of vulnerability and sacrifice, including renaissance polyphony, 20th century carols, and David Lang's Pulitzer Prize-winning work, The Little Match Girl Passion. "A young, rising, gifted British choir ... I'd happily hear Siglo de Oro sing on every day of the year." – The Arts Desk.

siglodeoro.co.uk

Sun 13 December 7.30pm

£25, £20, £15, £10

CHOIR OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, OXFORD

The Gift of Christmas introduced by Howard Goodall

Clive Driskill-Smith PIANO/ORGAN William Wallace PIANO Stephen Darlington DIRECTOR

Holst Masters in this Hall **Cornelius** The Three Kinas **Ives** Little Star of Bethlehem Walton King Herod Vierne Carillon de Westminster (Pièces de Fantaisie, Troisème Suite Op. 54 No. 6) (Organ Solo) [after Walton King Herod] Howard Goodall Stella auam viderant Maai Holst In the Bleak Midwinter John Tavener The Lamb Britten Hymn to the Virgin Poulenc O Magnum Mysterium Trad. Silent Night Mathias Sir Christémas Lerov Anderson arr. Thomas Trotter Sleigh Ride (Organ Solo) [before Ding! Dong! Merrily on High] Britten A Shepherd's Carol Bob Chilcott The Twelve Days of Christmas

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. Presented by Howard Goodall in informative and entertaining festive form.

chchchoir.org

Mon 14 December 7.30pm

£25, £20, £15, £10



EX CATHEDRA

Christmas Music by Candlelight

Alexander Mason ORGAN
Jeffrey Skidmore CONDUCTOR

Nicolai Wachet auf!
Bach Cantata 140 Movement 4
Sandström Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen
Darke In the Bleak Midwinter
Kirkpatrick Away in a Manger
James MacMillan And lo,
the angel of the Lord
Ēriks Ešenvalds Long Road

This atmospheric concert is aimed at the heart of Christmas and has become a very popular St John's Smith Square tradition. A sequence of music flows seamlessly from seasonal favourites to old and new, interspersed with readings to make you smile and reflect.

excathedra.co.uk

Sponsored by blears.com

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

THE CHOIR OF MERTON COLLEGE, OXFORD

Benjamin Nicholas DIRECTOR

Byrd Fantasia in D minor • Rorate caeli desuper • Tollite portas • Ave Maria • Ecce virgo concipiet Bach Wachet Auf BWV645 Rihards Dubra O Radix Jesse Ēriks Ešenvalds O Emmanuel Matthew Martin O Oriens • Noel sing we Britten A Ceremony of Carols Jonathan Dove Te Deum Bob Chilcott The Bird of Dawning • The Shepherd's Carol

"One of the UK's finest choral ensembles", writes Gramophone of The Choir of Merton College, Oxford who we welcome to St John's Smith Square for their Christmas Festival debut. They bring a programme featuring many pieces specially written for the choir as part of The Merton Choirbook project, a series of commissions written for the College's 750th anniversary in 2014.

merton.ox.ac.uk

Wed 16 December 7.30pm

£25, £20, £15, £10



THOMAS TROTTER

Organ Series

Bach Concerto in A minor after Vivaldi BWV593 Mozart Adagio & Allegro K594 Schumann Two Fugues on Bach Op. 60 Prokofiev Kijé's Wedding and Troika from Lieutenant Kijé Suite Op. 60 arr. Trotter Liszt Fantasia & Fugue on Bach S260

Thomas Trotter is one of Britain's most widely admired musicians and since 1983, Birmingham City Organist. He is a recipient of the Royal Philharmonic Society's prestigious Instrumentalist Award in recognition of his particular achievements as "one of the foremost exponents of the organist's art" and International Performer of the Year Award for 2012 by the New York City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Thu 17 December 1.05pm

£10, U26

ENSEMBLE PLUS ULTRA

O Come, Emmanuel!

Byrd Propers for Lady Mass in Advent Victoria Missa Ave Regina caelorum • Ave Maria Praetorius Magnificat quinti toni

Praetorius Magnificat quinti toni with Christmas interpolations And various motets and carols for Christmastide

Award-winning Ensemble Plus Ultra return to the Christmas Festival with a programme leading us from Advent to Christmas, including William Byrd's spectacular Advent Propers, Tomás Luis de Victoria's Missa Ave Regina caelorum, and a selection of motets and carols for the Christmas season.

ensembleplusultra.com

Thu 17 December 7.30pm

£25, £20, £15, £10

THOMAS TROTTER

"Trotter had the grand style and character of the music to his fingertips, animated by a constant stream of detail."

Classical Source



CHOIR OF CLARE COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

Anthony Daly ORGAN
Graham Ross CONDUCTOR

Sheppard Verbum caro
Anon. medieval attrib. Alcock
Nowell! Nowell! Out of your sleep
Ravenscroft Remember O thou man
Rubbra The Virgin's Cradle Song
Warlock Bethlehem Down
Mathias Ave Rex Angelorum
• Sir Christemas

Anon, medieval 14th century

There is no rose of swych virtu Howells A Spotless Rose Trad. Harm. Charles Wood Ding! Dong! Merrily on high

Trad. Czech arr. David Wilcocks Rocking Trad. arr. Jonathan Rathbone Silent Night John Rutter What sweeter music? Trad. arr. David Wilcocks

Trad. arr. David Wilcocks
Unto us is born a son

Tavener Ex Maria Virgine: A Christmas Sequence • God is with us: A Christmas Proclamation

The Choir of Clare College, Cambridge and their director Graham Ross present a programme featuring the late John Tavener's Ex Maria Virgine: A Christmas Sequence, ten years on from its completion on Christmas Day 2005.

clarecollegechoir.com

Fri 18 December 7.30pm £30, £25, £20, £10



THE TALLIS SCHOLARS

Peter Phillips CONDUCTOR

Arvo Pärt Sieben Magnificat Antiphonen • Magnificat Sheppard Sacris solemniis Tallis Gloria and Sanctus from Missa Puer natus est nobis Sheppard Gaude, gaude, gaude Arvo Pärt I am the true vine Tallis Agnus dei from Missa Puer natus est nobis

This programme is based on one of the most famous masses ever written for Christmas Day – Tallis' seven-voice Missa Puer natus est nobis. Interspersed between its movements are further works by Tallis alongside Arvo Pärt and John Sheppard.

thetallisscholars.co.uk

Sat 19 December 7.30pm £30, £28, £22, £14

NATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC THEATRE

Presenting a concert of seasonal readings, music and staged extracts, the award-winning National Youth Music Theatre represents the very best in work with young people through musical theatre. Its trailblazing work led Andrew Lloyd Webber to call it "the finest youth music theatre in the world".

nymt.org.uk

Sun 20 December 7.30pm

£25, £20, £15, £10

SOLOMON'S KNOT

__

Christmas in Leipzig

Schelle Machet die Tore weit Kuhnau Magnificat Bach Magnificat BWV243a

Christmas Day, Leipzig, 1723: the ambitious new Thomaskantor, one Johann Sebastian Bach, premieres his new Latin Magnificat, based in part on that of his predecessor, Johann Kuhnau. Bach was joining a rich musical tradition, from which he would take much inspiration over the next 25 years. Following their celebrated 'chamber Messiah', Solomon's Knot baroque collective returns to St John's Smith Square for the fifth consecutive year with this festive and joyous programme.

solomonsknotcollective.com

Mon 21 December 7.30pm

£30, £25, £20, £15, U26





ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE



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 B Minor Mass.

trinitycollegechoir.com

Tue 22 December 7.30pm £30, £25, £20, £10

POLYPHONY & ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

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

Handel Messiah

For more than a decade Polyphony has given annual sell-out performances of Bach's St John Passion and Handel's Messiah at St John's Smith Square. These have become notable events in London's music calendar and have been broadcast by BBC Radio 3 and the EBU. According to the Evening Standard, "no one performs Handel's Messiah better every year than the choir Polyphony" and The Times rate it "amongst the finest John Passions ... ever heard".

polyphony.co.uk

Wed 23 December 7.30pm £25, £20, £15, £10

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



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 SWIP 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.

UNDER 26 SCHEME

If you're under 26, make sure you sign up for our U26 Scheme!

Members are entitled to purchase £5 tickets to selected events throughout the season.

Alongside £5 ticket offers, members of the U26 Scheme also receive invitations to special events throughout the year, as well as other targeted discounts.

There's no catch and it's entirely FREE to join! Please register online at **sjss.org.uk/friends-st-johns** or call our Box Office for further details.

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.

Please note that tickets may not be exchanged or refunded.

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

A RIIS

3 and 87 to Horseferry Road C10 and 507 (limited hours) to Millbank 88 to Horseferry Road 11, 211, 14B and 24 to Westminster Abbey

M SANTANDER CYCLES

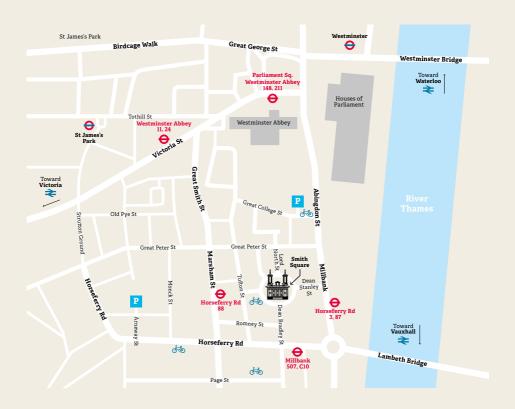
A docking station is located in Smith Square and there are also stations on Horseferry Road, Page Street and Great College Street.

CAR PARKING

St John's Smith Square is within the congestion charging zone. Parking meters are in operation during the day Monday–Friday until 6.00pm. 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



30th CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Now in its 30th season, the Christmas Festival has flourished into a series of 14 concerts. Inspired by the great British choral tradition, the 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

Join the conversation!

- ☑ @StJohnsSmithSa
- /StJohnsSmithSquare
- /StJohnsSmithSquare
- /StJohnsSmithSquare
- /StJohnsSmithSquare

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

St John's Smith Square Charitable Trust

Registered Office: St John's Smith Square London SWIP 3HA

Registered in England Company No. 3028678 Registered Charity No. 1045390