



Welcome to the 32nd Christmas Festival at St John's Smith Square



32nd CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Now in its 32nd season, the Christmas Festival has flourished into a series of 14 concerts.

The Festival opens with the City of London Choir's Carols by Candlelight with plenty of heart-warming festive tunes and audience participation, making it a perfect occasion for adults and children alike.

The great British choral tradition continues to influence the programming of our Christmas Festival. This season we welcome back a number of leading choirs: The Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford and Howard Goodall; the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge with music dedicated to the Virgin Mary; The Tallis Scholars with three 'Renaissance blockbusters'; and Ex Cathedra for another atmospheric candle-lit concert.

Following their hugely successful Christmas debut here a few seasons ago, Solomon's Knot return to perform Bach's monumental masterpiece, *Mass in B minor*.

We look forward to the excitement that comes hand-in-hand with the National Youth Music Theatre's annual Christmas celebration.

New to St John's Smith Square's Christmas Festival this year is The City Musick, a leading period ensemble who continue their commitment to raise awareness of music for Renaissance civic bands with traditional dance music and Christmas songs for shawms, hoboys, cornetts, sackbuts, recorders, voices and bagpipes.

We extend a warm welcome to the internationally renowned Choir of New College Oxford, who present an eclectic programme of festive favourites and jewels from the French and German Baroque; the London Choral Sinfonia whose festive programme includes Britten's Christmas cantata Saint Nicolas; and Vox Luminis who juxtapose Bach's jubilant Magnificat with Kuhnau's setting and Pachelbel's animated Jauchzet dem Herrn alle Welt 'Shout for joy to the Lord'.

Handel's Messiah with Polyphony has become part of a much-anticipated annual tradition. The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge also return with Bach's Christmas Oratorio. We are delighted too that the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment will join us again for both performances, alongside a wonderful cast of soloists.

I hope to welcome you this festive season!

gapan

Stephen Layton Artistic Director

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

#SJSSChristmas

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City of London Choir © Filskifoto



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

City of London Choir
Hilary Davan Wetton CONDUCTOR

Christmas carols for choir and audience

"A carol concert with bells on" *The Guardian* – the City of London Choir's much-loved annual celebration of Christmas, with classic carols, new favourites, and audience participation. A highlight of the year for adults and children alike, and an unmissable start to the festive season.

Recommended minimum age: 6

cityoflondonchoir.org

Promoted by City of London Choir

2.

Sat 9 December 6.30pm

£30, £25, £20, £15 (conc. 20%; Under 16 50%)

CHOIR OF NEW COLLEGE OXFORD

A New College Christmas

Timothy Wakerell ORGAN
Josef Laming ORGAN
Charles Maxtone-Smith ORGAN
Robert Quinney CONDUCTOR

Plainchant Conditor alme siderum **Trad.** Of the Father's heart beaotten Besancon trad. People, look East Michael Fleming Kindle a light Goldschmidt A tender shoot Bach Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland Naylor Vox dicentis, clama! Basque trad. The angel Gabriel Bryan Kelly This lovely lady Daquin Noël 'en Grand Jeu et en duo' Praetorius Maanificat Barnby Cradle song of the Blessed Virgin Leighton Lully, lulla Daquin Noël Suisse Wishart Alleluia, a new work is come on hand

Darke In the bleak midwinter Trad. O little town of Bethlehem harm. Wood Ding dong, merrily on high

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 the exuberant splendour of the French and German Baroque.

newcollegechoir.com

Promoted by Choir of New College Oxford

Sun 10 December 7.30pm

£25, £20, £15, £10



VOX LUMINIS

Magnificat

Lionel Meunier DIRECTOR

Pachelbel Jauchzet dem Herrn alle Welt P213 Kuhnau Magnificat Bach Magnificat BWV243

Written to display the full splendour of his art to the congregation in Leipzig, Bach's Magnificat is performed here by the much-lauded Vox Luminis under director Lionel Meunier. This seminal and popular work is performed tonight with another Magnificat by Bach's predecessor at St Thomas' Church, Johann Kuhnau. Pachelbel provides the perfect opener to this concert with an animated setting of Psalm 100, Jauchzet dem Herrn alle Welt 'Shout for joy to the Lord'.

voxluminis.com/en

Promoted by St John's Smith Square

Mon 11 December 7.30pm

£35, £28, £22, £16

THE CHOIR OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, OXFORD

Christmas Treasures

Clive Driskill-Smith PIANO & ORGAN Stephen Darlington CONDUCTOR Howard Goodall HOST

arr. Willcocks O come, O come, Emmanuel arr. Willcocks The angel Gabriel
Howells A spotless rose
Tavener The Lamb
Prokofiev Troika Rida
Darke In the bleak midwinter
Canteloube Qui frappe ici
arr. Stephen Darlington Silent Night
Howard Goodall It came upon the midnight

arr. Williamson Ding, dong, merrily on high arr. Willcocks Sussex Carol arr. Willcocks Quelle est cette odeur Simon Preston There is no rose Holst Personent hodie Anderson Sleigh Ride arr. Willcocks Tomorrow shall be my dancing

arr. Stephen Darlington Susanni Howard Goodall I am Christmas Day Bob Chilcott The Twelve Days of Christmas

What better way to get into the festive spirit than with some of the best-loved and most beautiful Christmas music, performed by one of the greatest cathedral choirs in the world, and presented by Howard Goodall in informative and entertaining festive form.

chchchoir.org

Promoted by Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford

Tue 12 December 7.30pm

£25, £20, £15, £10

Box Office 020 7222 1061 Book online siss.org.uk 3

32nd CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL



THE CITY MUSICK

Heigh Ho Holiday: Christmas Revels in 17th-century London

William Lyons DIRECTOR

Music for shawms, hoboys, cornetts, sackbuts, recorders, voices and bagpipes composed and published between 1580–1650 by John Adson, Anthony Holborne, Thomas Morley, Orlando Gibbons, and John Playford. Programme also includes traditional dances and Christmas songs from the British Isles

This concert represents festive music and song as played by the civic band of waits whose traditional duties included playing for the singing of carols around the streets of the city. The London waits were "excellent and expert musitians" who performed for masque, theatre, civic ceremony and in church, also giving regular public concerts.

tcmusick.com

Promoted by St John's Smith Square

Wed 13 December 7.30pm

£25, £20, £15, £10



EX CATHEDRA

Christmas Music by Candlelight

Alexander Mason ORGAN Lucy Wakeford HARP Jeffrey Skidmore CONDUCTOR

An atmospheric programme of music and readings.

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, as well as readings to make you smile and reflect, Ex Cathedra's popular Christmas concert is a uniquely magical way to begin your festive season.

excathedra.co.uk

Promoted by Ex Cathedra

Thu 14 December 7.30pm

£35, £28, £22, £14

CHOIR OF NEW COLLEGE, OXFORD

"...the young boys who make up this choir produce a wonderfully fresh sound."

The Independent



Choir of New College, Oxford @ Nick Rutter

THE CHOIR OF KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

Wachet auf!

Joseph Fort CONDUCTOR

Nicolai Hymn 'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme'

Praetorius Motet 'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme'

Weckmann Cantata for Soprano 'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme'

Buxtehude Cantata 'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme' BuxWV101

Telemann Cantata 'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme' TWV1:1487

JS Bach Cantata 'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme' BWV140

JCF Bach Cantata 'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme' WfXV:2

Perhaps the most famous hymn of the Lutheran Reformation was Philipp Nicolai's 'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme', literally translated as 'Awake, the voice is calling us'.

The Choir of King's College London and Joseph Fort return to our Christmas Festival with a rare performance that brings together the unique and highly varied 'Wachet auf' cantatas composed by Praetorius, Weckmann, Telemann, Buxtehude, JS Bach, and JCF Bach.

kcl.ac.uk

Promoted by The Choir of King's College London

Fri 15 December 7.30pm

£25, £20, £15, £10



NATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC THEATRE

A Christmas Celebration

National Youth Music Theatre Chorus, Alumni, and Orchestra

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, leading Andrew Lloyd Webber to dub it "the best youth music theatre in the world".

nymt.org.uk

Promoted by National Youth Music Theatre

Sat 16 December 7.30pm

£30, £25, £20, £15

THE CHOIR OF KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

"astonishing...
a choir as passionate as it is disciplined"

BBC Music Magazine



32nd CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL



BRITTEN SAINT NICOLAS

London Choral Sinfonia
Gallery Choir of Westminster
Cathedral Choir School
Francesca Chiejina SOPRANO
Nick Pritchard TENOR
Michael Waldron CONDUCTOR

Fletcher arr. Owain Park Ring out wild bells Donald Fraser This Christmastide Carol Canning Lullay my liking Trad arr. West Silent Night Trad arr. Grafton I wonder as I wander Ireland The Holy Boy Trad. arr. Pappenheim O Holy Night Britten Saint Nicolas

The London Choral Sinfonia's concert of uplifting, festive music features familiar carols and Christmas tunes in exciting, new arrangements. The programme culminates with Britten's epic cantata *Saint Nicolas*.

thelcs.org

Promoted by The London Choral Sinfonia

Sun 17 December 7.30pm £35, £25, £20, £10



BACH MASS IN B MINOR

Solomon's Knot Jonathan Sells Artistic Director

Bach Mass in B minor BWV232

"Organic music-making at its most sophisticated" — The Guardian

Solomon's Knot return to apply their gripping and virtuosic approach to Bach's monumental masterpiece, *Mass in B minor*: a compendium of his 'greatest hits', assembled at the end of his life into a Mass for all people and all ages.

solomonsknotcollective.com

Promoted by Solomon's Knot

Mon 18 December 7.30pm

£35, £28, £22, £14

SOLOMON'S KNOT

"organic music-making at its most sophisticated"

The Observer



Solomon's Knot © James Berry

CHOIR OF CLARE COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

Eleanor Carter ORGAN
Ashley Chow ORGAN
Graham Ross CONDUCTOR

Tallis Videte miraculum Plainsong Verbum supernum prodiens Byrd Vigilate Howard Skempton Adam lay ybounden Richard Wilberforce Remember Bethlehem

Cecilia MacDowall Now may we singen Praetorious Magnificat quinti toni (interpolated with Josef lieber and In dulci jubilo)

In dulci jubilo)

Tavener Today the Virgin Tavener God is with us Wood Hail, gladdening light! Trad. Gaudete

Trad. Gaudete

John Joubert Torches Britten A Hymn to the Virgin Villette Hymne à la Vierge

Joshua Pacey I sing of a maiden (world premiere)

Trad. arr. Willcocks The Infant King
John Rutter What sweeter music
Will Todd My Lord has come
Grüber arr. Graham Ross Silent
night (world premiere)
Mathias A babe is born

Mathias A babe is born

James Burton Tomorrow shall be my dancing day

arr. James Mawson Santa Baby

A sumptuous Christmas programme in praise of the Virgin Mary and the coming of the light. Renaissance masterpieces sit alongside more recent works, including two world premieres.

clarecollegechoir.com

Promoted by Choir of Clare College, Cambridge

Tue 19 December 7.30pm

£38, £28, £15, £10

THE TALLIS SCHOLARS

Gaude Gloriosa

Peter Phillips DIRECTOR

Josquin Gaude virgo Josquin Tu solus qui facis Josquin Pater noster Sheppard Verbum Caro Taverner Magnificat a 6 Browne Stabat juxta Josquin Inter natos mulierum Tallis Gaude gloriosa

This programme contains three blockbusters of the Renaissance repertoire.

Performances of Tallis' *Gaude gloriosa*, written in praise of the Virgin, are rare because of its technical challenges, for which it remains a pinnacle of the English Renaissance repertoire.

Taverner's 6-voice Magnificat is not far behind in terms of difficulty, building on the uniquely embellished style of the Eton Choirbook. This style is on full display in Browne's Stabat juxta, scored for the most unusual combination of four tenors and two basses. Add the Josquin and Sheppard items, chosen for their seasonal texts, and you have an extraordinarily powerful survey of renaissance writing.

thetallisscholars.co.uk

Promoted by The Tallis Scholars

Wed 20 December 7.30pm

£35, £28, £22, £14

THE TALLIS SCHOLARS

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

The Observer



BACH IN ADVENT WITH DAVID TITTERINGTON

This advent join us for our Organ Curator David Titterington's journey through the organ works of JS Bach.

Admission to these recitals is entirely **FREE***, with each performance lasting approximately 40 minutes.

Enjoy the wonder of Bach's music as Christmas approaches, played on the magnificent Klais Organ and in the serene setting of St John's Smith Square.

* The final concert on Thu 2l December 7.30pm is a ticketed event.

Promoted by St John's Smith Square

3-21 December

Most recitals begin at 6.00pm

Please note the recitals on Sat 9 and Thu 2l December have different start times.

Sun 3 December 6.00pm

Toccata & Fugue in D minor (Dorian) BWV565 Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV659, 660, 661

Passacaglia in C minor BWV582

Mon 4 December 6.00pm

Prelude & Fugue in C BWV545 Partita Sei gegrüsset, Jesu gütig BWV768 Pièce d'orque in G BWV572

Tue 5 December 6.00pm

Fantasia & Fugue in C minor BWV537 An Wasserflüssen Babylon BWV653 Trio Sonata No. 5 in C BWV529 Wenn wir in höchsten Nöthen sein BWV641 Fantasia in C minor BWV562

Wed 6 December 6.00pm

Pastorella BWV590 Fugue on a theme of Corelli BWV579 Toccata, Adagio & Fugue in C BWV564



Concerto in D minor BWV596
Duetto I in E minor BWV802
Duetto II in F BWV803
Duetto III in G BWV804
Duetto IV in E minor BWV805
Toccata & Fugue in D minor BWV565

Fri 8 December 6.00pm

Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr' BWV663 Partita O Gott du frommer Gott BWV767 Prelude & Fuque in C minor BWV546

Sat 9 December 5.15pm

Komm, Gott Schöpher, heiliger Geist BWV667 Komm Heiliger Geist BWV652 Schmücke dich, o liebe seele BWV654 Nun Danket alle Gott BWV657 Prelude & Fugue in G BWV550

Please note different start time.

Sun 10 December 6.00pm

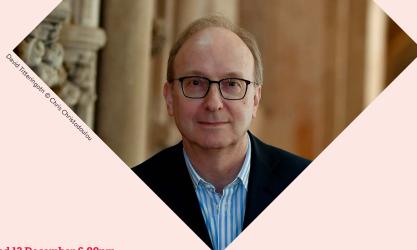
Prelude & Fugue in C minor BWV549
Schübler Chorales BWV645–650
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme
Woll soll ich fliehen hin
Wer nur den lieben Gott laesst walten
Meine Seele erhebt den Herren
Ach bleib bei uns, Herr Jesu Christ
Kommst du nun, Jesu, von Himmel herunter
Canzona in D minor BWV588
Prelude & Fugue in Bb BWV560

Mon 11 December 6.00pm

Fantasia G minor BWV542 Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier BWV731 Prelude & Fugue in D minor BWV539 Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend BWV655 Fugue in G minor BWV542

Tue 12 December 6.00pm

Fantasia super Komm, Heiliger Geist BWV651 Christ, der du bist der helle Tag BWV766 Trio Sonata in C minor BWV526 Fugue in F BWV540



Wed 13 December 6.00pm

Prelude & Fugue in E minor BWV548 Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr' BWV662 Prelude & Fugue in E minor BWV548

Thu 14 December 6.00pm

O lamm Gottes unschüldig BWV656 Jesus Christus unser Heiland BWV665 Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr' (Trio) BWV664 Jesus Christus unser Heiland BWV666 Prelude & Fugue in A BWV536

Fri 15 December 6.00pm

Prelude & Fugue in F minor BWV534 O Mensch bewein' dein Sünde gross BWV622 Partita Ach, was soll ich Sünder machen BWV770

Prelude & Fugue in B minor BWV544

Sat 16 December 6.00pm

Concerto in A minor BWV593 Canonic Variations Von Himmel hoch, da komm 'ich her BWV769 Concerto in G BWV592

Sun 17 December 6.00pm

Fugue in G minor BWV578
Kyrie, Gott heiliger Geist BWV672
Kyrie, Gott Vater in Ewigkeit BWV673
Christe, aller Welt Trost BWV674
Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr' BWV675
Dies sind die heil'gen zehn Gebot BWV679
Wir Glauben all'an einen Gott BWV681
Vater unser im Himmelreich BWV683
Prelude & Fugue in A minor BWV543

Mon 18 December 6.00pm

Toccata F BWV540
Prelude & Fugue in C BWV553
Aria in F BWV587
Prelude & Fugue in A minor BWV559
Prelude (Toccata) & Fugue in E BWV566

Tue 19 December 6.00pm

Prelude & Fugue in G BWV541
Puer natus in Bethlehem BWV603
Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ BWV604
Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich BWV605
Vom Himmel hoch, da komm'ich her BWV606
Vom Himmel kam der Engel Schaar BWV607
In ducli Jubilo BWV608
Das alte Jahr vergangen ist BWV614
In dir ist freude BWV615
Prelude & Fugue in C BWV547

Wed 20 December 6.00pm

Erbarm dich mein, O Herre Gott BWV721 Prelude & Fugue in D BWV532 Vor deinen Thron tret' ich BWV668

Thu 21 December 7.30pm

David Titterington will be joined by the choir **Siglo de Oro** and their conductor **Patrick Allies** for a selection of festive Bach chorales.

Clavier-Ubung III 'German Organ Mass' Selection of Chorales

Please note different start time of 7.30pm.

This concert will be ticketed: £16 (£10), YF

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The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge © Benjamin Ealovega

BACH CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge
Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment
Anna Dennis SOPRANO
Helen Charlston MEZZO SOPRANO
Gwilym Bowen TENOR
Matthew Brook BASS
Stephen Layton CONDUCTOR

Bach Christmas Oratorio

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 Parts 1, 2, 3, and 6 of Bach's Christmas Oratorio.

trinitycollegechoir.com

Promoted by The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge

Fri 22 December 7.30pm

£35, £28, £22, £14

HANDEL MESSIAH

Polyphony
Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment
Anna Dennis SOPRANO
Helen Charlston MEZZO SOPRANO
Gwilym Bowen TENOR
Matthew Brook BASS
Stephen Layton CONDUCTOR

Handel Messiah

"radiant young voices under the energetic guidance of Stephen Layton – with a clutch of alluring soloists and the Orchestra of the Age of the Enlightenment"

Helen Wallace, classical-music.com

stephenlayton.com/polyphony

Promoted by Associated Musical Services

Sat 23 December 7.30pm

£59, £49, £39, £25

POLYPHONY

"Polyphony typically balances beauty of timbre with precise articulation and empathy with the texts"

BBC Music Magazine



Polyphony © Benjamin Ealovega

BOOKING INFORMATION

PHONE

020 7222 1061

Monday to Saturday 10.00am-5.00pm £2.75 booking fee applies

ONLINE

siss.org.uk

£1.75 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. No booking fee when booking in person.

POST

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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

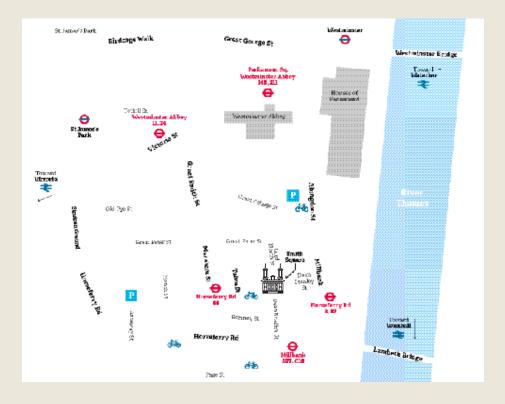
A docking station is located in Smith Square and there are also stations on Horseferry Road, Page Street and Great College Street.

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



Box Office **020 7222 1061** Book online **siss.org.uk** 17

Now in its 32nd season, St John's Smith Square's Christmas Festival has flourished into a series of fourteen 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!

PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH WITH US ONLINE

#SJSSChristmas

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

St John's Smith Square Charitable Trust

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