



St George's Singers

**St George's Singers** 2010-11Season

## St George's Singers



### President

Brigit Forsyth

### Vice-Presidents

Sue Roper

Head of Vocal Studies, Royal Northern College of Music

Mark Rowlinson

Singer, former Senior Producer, BBC Radio 3

Stephen Threlfall

Director of Music, Chetham's School of Music

Stephen Williams

Director of Music, Uppingham School

### Musical Director

Neil Taylor

### Assistant Musical Director

Calum Fraser

### Accompanist

Jeffrey Makinson

### Assistant Accompanists

Tim Kennedy, Julia Mayall

[www.st-georges-singers.org.uk](http://www.st-georges-singers.org.uk)

## Welcome to our 2010-11 season



Dear Friends

The launch of a new season is always exciting and filled with anticipation, and this year is no exception.

We start the season in a familiar choral landscape with a concert of 20th century English works entitled 'Visions of Albion', featuring music by three English choral greats: Elgar, Parry and Finzi. As a change to our normal venues, we're delighted to be giving this concert in St George's Church in Poynton, and hope to see many of our regular audience in our home church. The season ends with 'Eastern Voices' in which we will be presenting works by two giants of eastern European choral music, Kodály and Janáček. For this concert we return to Gorton Monastery, a perfect setting for this intense and uplifting music.

However, the highlight of the year will be Bach's *St John Passion* with the Manchester Camerata orchestra and an international line up of soloists at the Bridgewater Hall. We were delighted to be invited by the Camerata to take part in this joint venture, in which we will be working with conductor Nicholas Kraemer. The tradition of marking Holy Week with a performance of one of Bach's Passions is now universal, so it will be a particular thrill for us to be singing this great work on the Tuesday before Good Friday.

This will be the first year in office for our new President, actress Brigit Forsyth, who has taken over the role from Joan Bakewell. Although best known for her stage and TV performances, Brigit is also a talented musician, and we look forward to welcoming her to some of our future concerts.

Finally, I would like to thank the wonderful team of professionals without whom we could not put on these thrilling works. Our Musical Director, Neil Taylor, continues to lead us in exciting and challenging programmes of music, supported by our incredibly versatile accompanist, Jeffrey Makinson, and this year by our new Assistant MD, Calum Fraser. We hope to see you at our concerts in the year ahead.

Anne Francis  
Chair



Graham North



Derek Jones



Sarah Craig



Saturday 13 November 2010, 7.30 pm  
St George's Church, London Road, Poynton

## Visions of Albion

English choral music of the 20th century

**Conductor** Neil Taylor  
**Organ** Darius Battiwalla

**Parry** *Songs of Farewell*  
**Holst** *Two Psalms*  
**Vaughan Williams** *Mass in G minor*  
**Finzi** *Lo, the full, final sacrifice; Magnificat*

The early years of the 20th century saw a renaissance in English choral music, drawing inspiration from folk song and literary traditions to create a sound world that is unmistakably of this island nation, and in which music is married to 'the imperishable glories of English prose'. This concert presents some of the landmark works which defined this world, from Parry's *Songs of Farewell*, composed at the end of his life and against the backdrop of the First World War, through to Gerald Finzi's evocative and sensitive *Lo, the full, final sacrifice*, written in the aftermath of the Second World War.

**Ticket prices:** £12, £10 concessions, £2 students and children  
Group discounts available



Saturday 4 December 2010, 7.30 pm  
St George's Church, Buxton Road, Stockport

## Carols and Brass by Candlelight

**Conductor** Neil Taylor  
**Organ** Jeffrey Makinson  
with Vernon Building Society Poynton Brass Band  
Musical Director: Kevin Gibbs

Once again, St George's Singers gets the Christmas festivities off to a grand start with our ever popular concert of Carols and Brass by Candlelight in the atmospheric setting of St George's Church. We welcome back our friends from Poynton's very own award-winning band, this year under the direction of their new Musical Director, Kevin Gibbs.

In addition to the traditional carols and festive music, the Choir will be joining forces with the Band to perform *A Merry Little Christmas* by Goff Richards, one of the UK's most famous brass band composers, and will also be singing carols specially commissioned for St George's Singers.

With mince pies and mulled wine at the interval to ward off the winter chill, this concert is a must for young and old alike.

Early booking recommended

**Ticket prices:** £12, £10 concessions, £2 students and children  
Group discounts available

Saturday 15 January 2011  
9.30-10.15 am (registration for singers), 6.00 pm (concert)  
St George's Church, London Road, Poynton

## 2011 Singing Day

**Haydn Nelson Mass** (*Missa in angustiiis*)

**Conductor** Neil Taylor  
**Accompanist** Jeffrey Makinson  
**Soprano** Rebecca Lea  
**Alto** Rebecca Anderson  
**Tenor** Richard Dowling  
**Bass** David Hansford

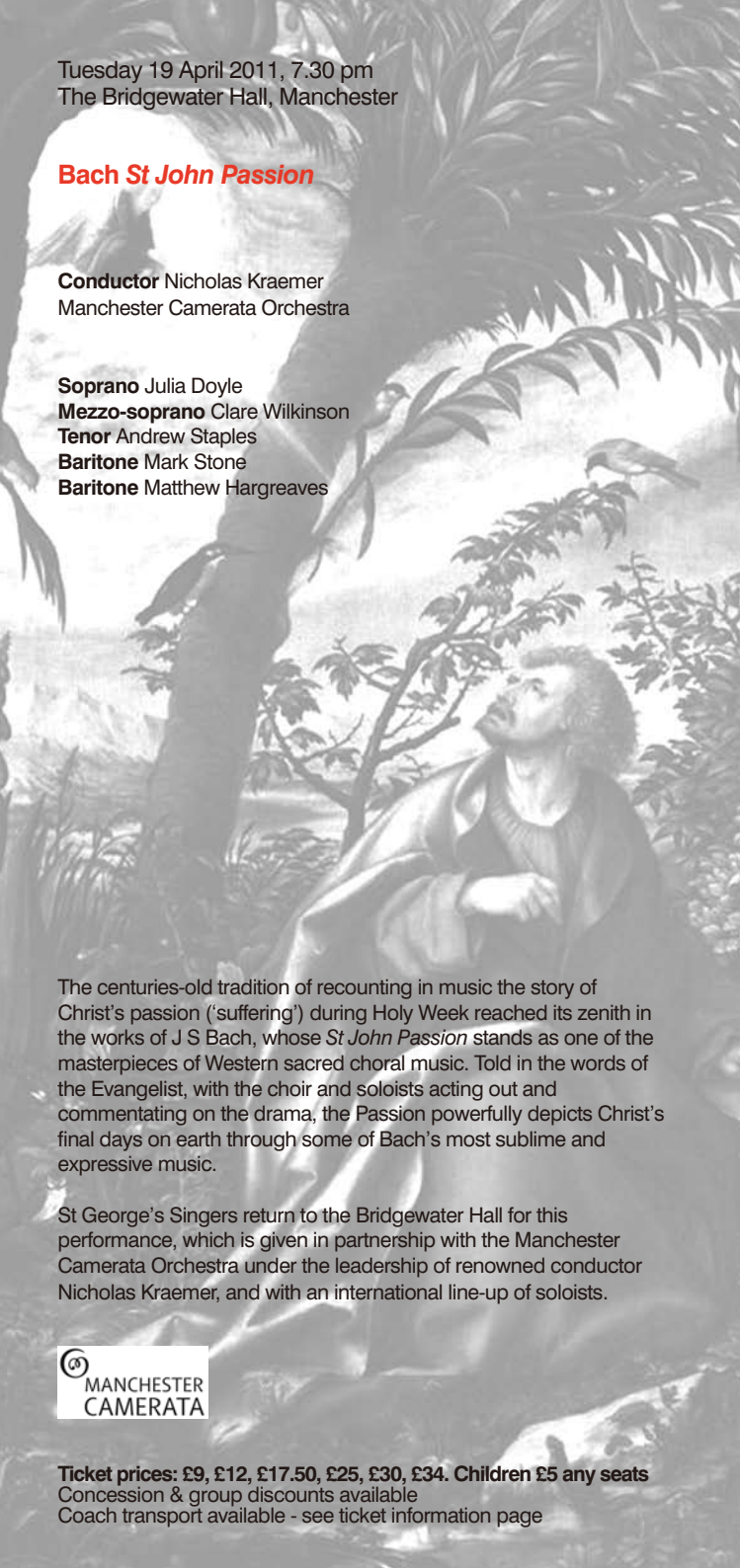
This year's Singing Day brings an opportunity to sing one of Haydn's most popular works, the *Missa in angustiiis* ('Mass in straitened times'). Written in a mere fifty-three days during July and August 1798, the work reflects the political and economic turmoil caused by the Napoleonic wars raging throughout Europe, and gained its nickname (*Nelson Mass*) two years later when the Admiral visited Haydn's patron, Prince Esterhazy in Eisenstadt, Austria. One of a series of choral masterpieces stemming from the composer's last years, the *Nelson Mass* combines drama, sophistication, intricate musical development and thrilling choruses.

As usual, our Musical Director Neil Taylor will be working us all hard during the day, which will finish with a concert performance of the work in the early evening, and for which the choir will be joined by a line up of wonderful soloists. And to keep us all going, our famous soup, sandwiches and cakes will be in plentiful supply! So beat off those post-Christmas blues by joining in a great day's singing!

**Ticket prices:** £20 (to sing), £5 (audience)

For more information and an application form, download our Singing Day brochure from [www.st-georges-singers.org.uk](http://www.st-georges-singers.org.uk), or contact Gillian Banks, Tel 01925 213949, email [Gillian.m.banks@tesco.net](mailto:Gillian.m.banks@tesco.net).





Tuesday 19 April 2011, 7.30 pm  
The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

## **Bach St John Passion**

**Conductor** Nicholas Kraemer  
Manchester Camerata Orchestra

**Soprano** Julia Doyle  
**Mezzo-soprano** Clare Wilkinson  
**Tenor** Andrew Staples  
**Baritone** Mark Stone  
**Baritone** Matthew Hargreaves

The centuries-old tradition of recounting in music the story of Christ's passion ('suffering') during Holy Week reached its zenith in the works of J S Bach, whose *St John Passion* stands as one of the masterpieces of Western sacred choral music. Told in the words of the Evangelist, with the choir and soloists acting out and commenting on the drama, the Passion powerfully depicts Christ's final days on earth through some of Bach's most sublime and expressive music.

St George's Singers return to the Bridgewater Hall for this performance, which is given in partnership with the Manchester Camerata Orchestra under the leadership of renowned conductor Nicholas Kraemer, and with an international line-up of soloists.



**Ticket prices: £9, £12, £17.50, £25, £30, £34. Children £5 any seats**  
Concession & group discounts available  
Coach transport available - see ticket information page

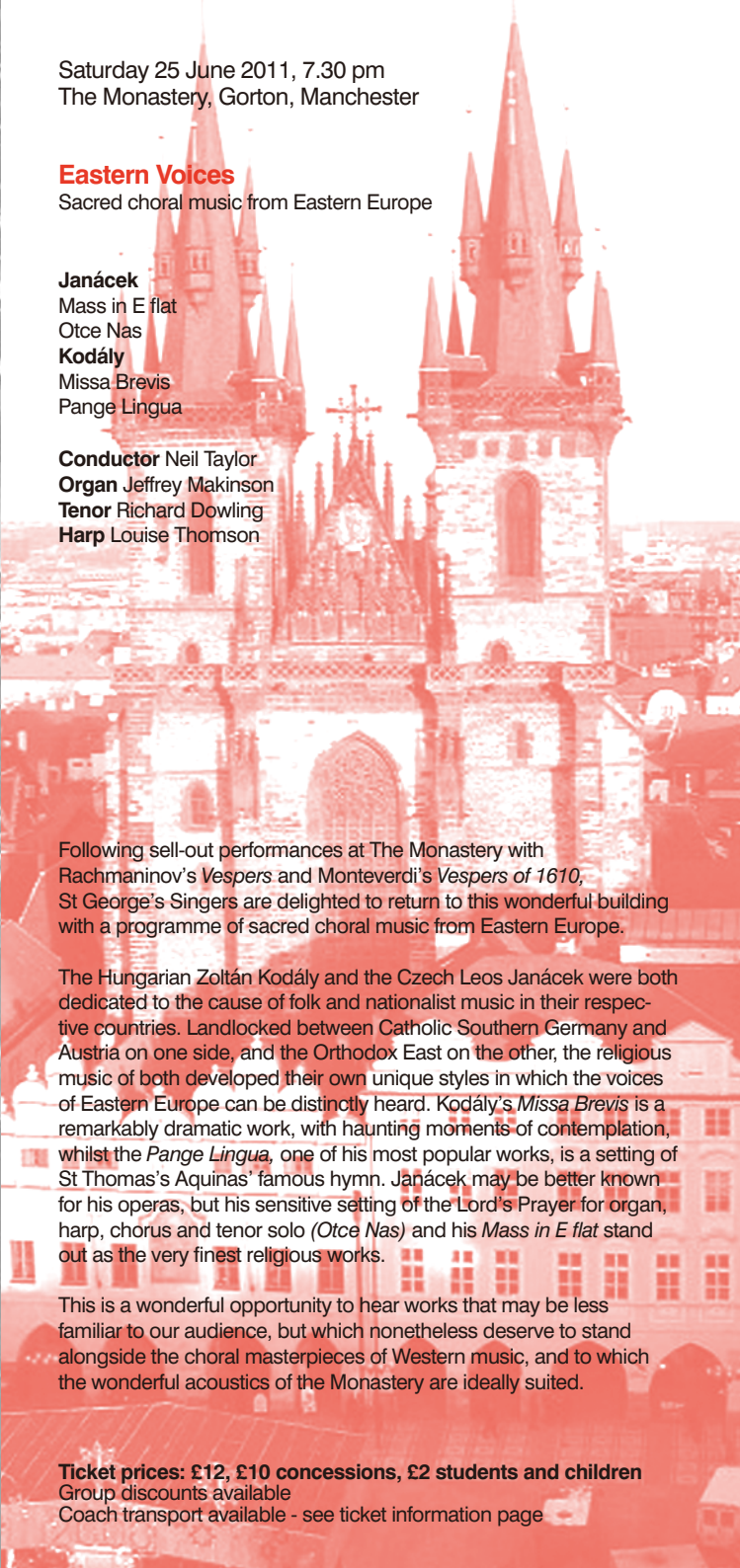
Saturday 25 June 2011, 7.30 pm  
The Monastery, Gorton, Manchester

## **Eastern Voices**

Sacred choral music from Eastern Europe

**Janáček**  
Mass in E flat  
Otce Nas  
**Kodály**  
Missa Brevis  
Pange Lingua

**Conductor** Neil Taylor  
**Organ** Jeffrey Makinson  
**Tenor** Richard Dowling  
**Harp** Louise Thomson



Following sell-out performances at The Monastery with Rachmaninov's *Vespers* and Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*, St George's Singers are delighted to return to this wonderful building with a programme of sacred choral music from Eastern Europe.

The Hungarian Zoltán Kodály and the Czech Leos Janáček were both dedicated to the cause of folk and nationalist music in their respective countries. Landlocked between Catholic Southern Germany and Austria on one side, and the Orthodox East on the other, the religious music of both developed their own unique styles in which the voices of Eastern Europe can be distinctly heard. Kodály's *Missa Brevis* is a remarkably dramatic work, with haunting moments of contemplation, whilst the *Pange Lingua*, one of his most popular works, is a setting of St Thomas's Aquinas' famous hymn. Janáček may be better known for his operas, but his sensitive setting of the Lord's Prayer for organ, harp, chorus and tenor solo (*Otce Nas*) and his *Mass in E flat* stand out as the very finest religious works.

This is a wonderful opportunity to hear works that may be less familiar to our audience, but which nonetheless deserve to stand alongside the choral masterpieces of Western music, and to which the wonderful acoustics of the Monastery are ideally suited.

**Ticket prices: £12, £10 concessions, £2 students and children**  
Group discounts available  
Coach transport available - see ticket information page

## Friends and Patrons

St George's Singers finances all its own concerts, no small task when performing in venues such as The Bridgewater Hall, or touring overseas. So we rely heavily on fund-raising activities, and particularly on our Friends and other Supporters.

### Friends

The Friends of St George's Singers was formed by families, friends and former members of the Choir as an easy way to stay in touch with us, and enable them to support our activities.

The Friends play an important part in the social and musical life of the Choir, as well as providing vital financial support. Annual membership of the Friends costs only £10 for Red Rose, and £25 for Gold Rose Membership, though many Friends make more generous donations. Many long-standing Friends have also been invited to become Honorary Life Friends, in recognition of their contribution to the Choir.

### In return Friends receive

Reserved seats at concerts where available  
The choir newsletter, Hemiola  
Free coach transport to city centre venues, when available  
Invitations to social events, open rehearsals and pre-concert receptions  
Special rates on CDs  
Acknowledgement in programmes  
Early notice of concert information and priority booking  
Entry into the Friends' Concert Draw for a chance to win free tickets to our next concert

### To join our Friends

To join our Friends, simply complete and return the Application Form in this brochure, or contact Jean Egerton on [friends@st-georges-singers.org.uk](mailto:friends@st-georges-singers.org.uk), Tel 01625 871381.

### Patrons

We have recently formed our Patrons Group, individual and corporate supporters of the Choir who contribute funds for specific purposes, such as sponsoring concerts, soloists or other Choir activities. All Patrons are acknowledged in our Season Brochure and concert programmes, and depending on the level of support, on relevant concert publicity.

If you or your company are interested in becoming a Patron, please contact the Chair, Anne Francis, on [chair@st-georges-singers.org.uk](mailto:chair@st-georges-singers.org.uk), or Tel 01663 764012.

### 2010-11 Season Patrons

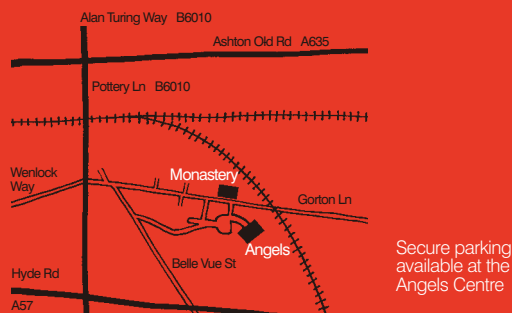
We would like to offer our grateful thanks to all our Patrons for their support during the current season:

Rehearsal piano sponsorship: Frank Millington  
Season supporters: HSBC Bank plc, Intuitive Media Ltd

## Concert Venues



**St George's Church, Buxton Road, Stockport, SK2 6NU**



**Gorton Monastery, Gorton Lane, Manchester M12 5AS**



**The Bridgewater Hall, Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3WS**



**St George's Church, London Road, Poynton SK12 1AF**

# Ticket Information

There are four easy ways to buy tickets for our concerts:

## Online booking

To buy online using Paypal or credit card, or to download a booking form, visit our website at [www.st-georges-singers.org.uk](http://www.st-georges-singers.org.uk), and go to 'Online Tickets'

## Telephone

Ring the Ticket Hotline on 01663 764012

## Email

Email your requirements to: [tickets@st-georges-singers.org.uk](mailto:tickets@st-georges-singers.org.uk).

## Post

Complete the Application Form in this brochure and post with your cheque, payable to 'St George's Singers', to the Ticket Secretary, 11 The Ridgeway South, Disley, Stockport, Cheshire SK12 2JG

## Concessions

Concessionary rates are available for Senior Citizens, claimants, students and children. All concessionary prices are detailed against the appropriate concert in this brochure.

## Group Discounts

For all concerts except the St John Passion, discounts are available for group bookings as follows: 10% off 5-9 tickets and 20% off 10 or more tickets. Please contact the Ticket Secretary on 01663 764012 for more information.

## Bach St John Passion

Special discount arrangements apply to the concert at the Bridgewater Hall on 19 April 2011, as follows. A discount of 10% off the full price is available to Senior Citizens, claimants, students, under 26s, and groups of 5 or more people.

Tickets for this concert can also be obtained from the Bridgewater Hall Box Office, Tel 0161 907 9000, online [www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk](http://www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk).

## Coach Transport

Coach transport is available from Poynton/Hazel Grove to concerts at Gorton Monastery and The Bridgewater Hall. To book seats, please contact Dave Francis on 01663 764012. Free to Friends of St George's, others £5.

## Singing Day

For tickets to sing in the Singing Day on 15 January 2011, please see our separate Singing Day brochure, available to download from the website at [www.st-georges-singers.org.uk](http://www.st-georges-singers.org.uk), or by contacting Gillian Banks, Tel 01925 213949, Email [gillian.m.banks@tesco.net](mailto:gillian.m.banks@tesco.net).

## Mailing list

For early notification of concerts, ticket availability, special events, and to receive a copy of our Choir newsletter, please register with our Mailing List by completing the Application Form overleaf.

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# Application Form

Please complete this form and tick the appropriate boxes below

Title	First Name
Surname	
Address	
Postcode	Telephone
Email	

## Mailing List Registration

- ☐ Please include me on your Mailing List (please tick)
- ☐ I agree to my details being stored on the Choir's database and used for publicity relating to St George's Singers only. I understand my details will not be divulged to third parties (please tick)

I would prefer to receive information by (please tick one):

- ☐ post
- ☐ email

## Friends of St George's Singers

I would like to:

- ☐ Become a Red Rose Friend for the 2010-11 Season and enclose a cheque for £10
- ☐ Become a Gold Rose Friend for the 2010-11 Season and enclose a cheque for £25

I am already a Friend, and would like to:

- ☐ Renew my Red Rose membership for the 2010-11 Season and enclose a cheque for £10
- ☐ Renew my Gold Rose membership for the 2010-11 Season and enclose a cheque for £25

To order tickets, please remember to complete the Ticket Booking form overleaf

## About St George's Singers

### Joining the Choir

Entry to the Choir is by audition, and all Singers are re-auditioned every three years. New members can join at any time, and are welcome to come along to a few rehearsals before auditioning. We rehearse on Tuesday evenings in St George's Church Hall, Poynton, SK12 1AF (located on the A523 London Road) from 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm. For more information about joining St George's Singers, please contact our Secretary, Jacqui Smith, Tel 01625 533779, Email [enquiries@st-georges-singers.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-georges-singers.org.uk).

### Social Events

Although a large group with around 100 members, St George's Singers is an extremely friendly and welcoming Choir. We hold a wide range of social events throughout the season, including the annual Social Evening (an opportunity for choir members to take the solo stage!), wine tastings, ceilidhs, and regular walks in Cheshire and the High Peak.

### Tours

St George's Singers regularly tours in the UK and overseas. Recent tours have included Poland, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Eire, Suffolk and Wales, and Czech Republic.

### Open Rehearsal, 28 September 2010

Once a year we hold an Open Rehearsal, which this season is on Tuesday 28 September 2010. Anyone can come and sit in at the rehearsal, enjoy a glass of wine and have a chat afterwards with Choir members. For more information, please contact our Secretary, Jacqui Smith, Email [enquiries@st-georges-singers.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-georges-singers.org.uk), Tel 01625 533779 or visit our website.

### Hemiola

If you want to read more about St George's Singers and our activities, pick up a copy of Hemiola, our regular Choir newsletter, from our Publicity Officer Susan Hodgson, [publicity@st-georges-singers.org](mailto:publicity@st-georges-singers.org), Tel 0161 338 3013, or sign up to our Mailing List on our website.

### Cheshire Consort

The Cheshire Consort is St George's Singers' wedding choir, and is available to sing at weddings throughout the Cheshire and Greater Manchester area. For information, contact Sue Taylor on 01663 766991, email: [setaylor9@btinternet.com](mailto:setaylor9@btinternet.com).

[www.st-georges-singers.org.uk](http://www.st-georges-singers.org.uk)

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## Ticket Booking Form

Please complete the form and post with your cheque, made payable to 'St George's Singers', to:  
Ticket Secretary, St George's Singers, 11 The Ridgeway South, Disley, Stockport, Cheshire SK12 2DJ  
**Remember to complete your name and address details overleaf!**

Concert	Date	Price	No. full price	No. conc	No. stdnt/childn	No. coach tickets	Total £
Visions of Albion	13/11/2010	£12, £10 concession, £2 students/children					
Carols & Brass by Candlelight	4/12/2010	£12, £10 concession, £2 students/children					
Singing Day	15/1/2011	£5 (audience tickets only)					
St John Passion	19/4/2011	£34, £30, £25, £17.50, £12, £9/£5 children 10% discount for concessions					
Eastern Voices	25/6/2011	£12, £10 concession, £2 students/children					
Grand Total £							

Coach tickets from Poynton/Hazel Grove to concert venues in Manchester City Centre where available: Friends of St George's Singers – free, Others - £5 per person.  
For information on group discounts, please contact the Ticket Secretary on 01663 764012.



# St George's Singers

St George's Singers was formed in Poynton, Cheshire in 1956 with 23 founding members drawn from the local community. Today, the Choir has over 100 members who travel from Cheshire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire and Greater Manchester, and is widely recognised as one of the most enterprising and innovative choirs in the North of England.

The Choir has an extensive repertoire, including classical, modern and newly commissioned choral works, performs in venues throughout Greater Manchester and Cheshire, including The Bridgewater Hall and the Royal Northern College of Music, and tours regularly in the UK and overseas.

## 2010-2011 Season at a glance

Tuesday 28 September 2010 Open Rehearsal

Saturday 13 November 2010 Visions of Albion

Saturday 4 December 2010 Carols & Brass by Candlelight

Saturday 15 January 2011 Singing Day - Haydn Nelson Mass

Tuesday 19 April 2011 St John Passion

Saturday 25 June 2011 Eastern Voices

Ticket Hotline 01663 764012

Online ticket bookings [www.st-georges-singers.org.uk](http://www.st-georges-singers.org.uk)

General enquiries 01625 533779

St George's Singers is a Registered Charity, No 508686, and a member of Making Music, the National Federation of Music Societies