

The background of the entire page is a complex, abstract pattern of wavy, ribbon-like shapes. These shapes are rendered in three colors: a vibrant red, a light grey, and a white. They are set against a solid black background. The lines flow and curve in various directions, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is a dense, textured visual field.

**St George's
Singers
2012-13
Season**

St George's Singers



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Head of Vocal Studies, Royal Northern College of Music

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Singer, former Senior Producer, BBC Radio 3

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Stephen Williams

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Musical Director

Neil Taylor

Assistant Musical Director

Calum Fraser

Accompanist

Jeffrey Makinson

Assistant Accompanists

Tim Kennedy, Julia Mayall



St George's Singers

www.st-georges-singers.org.uk

Welcome to our 2012-13 season



Dear Friends,

This is the first Chair's introduction for years that hasn't been written by Anne Francis, whose spectacular leadership has helped to make St George's Singers what it is – one of the best and most innovative choirs around. Anne, like many other members of the Choir, is still hugely involved in the wide range of singing-related activities that SGS gets up to. About the only reason I'm now Chair is because everyone else is far too busy doing things!

The 2012-13 season starts with a concert of French music, featuring Fauré's beautiful *Requiem*. 2013 is of course the centenary of the birth of Benjamin Britten, and we are getting in early, with a lovely range of Britten's music staged at the Royal Northern College of Music. And for our third major concert, we will be back at the magnificent Gorton Monastery. Last season we sang Handel's *Messiah* in this incredible building; this season we also return to Handel, aided by Vivaldi, with a stunning baroque line-up.

Having sung in French in November, we go on tour to Paris at the end of May to show them what a decent French accent sounds like. We'll be singing at a number of venues, including (we hope) Notre Dame. In January we have our annual Singing Day. The last one broke all records for attendance and sheer enjoyment, as well as all the home-made food. This is a wonderful chance for people who have always wanted to try out singing with us to come and do it, so please come and join us – come for soup and cakes, stay for the Puccini!

Our open rehearsal – this year planned for October – is a more low key (and low calorie) opportunity for anyone to come along for an evening and simply see how much fun it is, not just to perform, but to rehearse with us. Many new members decide to join us having sampled the fun of a Singing Day or open rehearsal.

The chief reason why rehearsing and performing is so much fun and so musically rewarding is down to our amazing musical director, Neil Taylor. He constantly challenges us to reach higher standards and to tackle new and exciting works, and is supported by the outstanding musical talents of accompanist Jeff Makinson and assistant musical director, Calum Fraser.

On behalf of St George's Singers I look forward to welcoming you to our concerts.

Peter Marcus, Chair



Saturday 10 November 2012, 7.30 pm
St George's Church, Buxton Road, Stockport

Fauré Requiem

Fauré *Cantique de Jean Racine*

Poulenc *Litanies à la Vierge Noire*

Villette *Hymne à la Vierge*

Debussy *Trois chansons de Charles d'Orléans*

Ravel *Trois chansons*

Saint-Saëns *Calme des Nuits, Les Fleurs et des Arbres*

Conductor Neil Taylor

Organ Jeffrey Makinson

Soloists Ella Taylor (soprano), Daniel Shelvey (baritone)

The first concert of the season offers all things French, with an enchanting mix of choral favourites alongside less familiar works from the great composers of 20th century France.

The gentle *Requiem* of Gabriel Fauré is one of the most beloved of all sacred choral works, with its soaring lyrical lines and ethereal beauty of the '*Pie Jesu*', to be sung in this concert by Ella Taylor, the 2010 BBC Radio 2 Young Chorister of the Year.

Litanies à la Vierge Noire by Francis Poulenc, for three-part female chorus, is a deeply personal prayer to Mary, and was the first of a steady stream of sacred works by this intensely religious composer. Pierre Villette was a renowned choral composer, and *Hymne à la Vierge*, his best known work, is in a similar vein to the sacred music of Tavener and Pärt with its quiet mysticism and rich harmonies.

From the sacred to the secular, and song cycles by three giants of French music: Ravel, Debussy (2012 is his 150th anniversary) and Saint-Saëns. These choral gems are unaccountably rarely heard in the concert hall, but provide a beguiling contrast to the more familiar works in the rest of the programme.

Ticket prices: £14, £12 concession, £5 students/children
Group discounts / season tickets available

Saturday 8 December 2012, 7.00 pm
St George's Church, Buxton Road, Stockport

Carols and Brass by Candlelight

Conductor Neil Taylor

Organ Ian Roberts

with Vernon Building Society Poynton Band

Musical Director Colin Short

A traditional concert for all the family with the magic of candlelight. This year we'll be inviting children to sing or play along with St George's Singers in some of the carols, whilst everyone can enjoy festive music from our friends at VBS Poynton Band, and join in with their favourite carols. With mulled wine for the adults, punch for the children, and mince pies for all, there's something for everyone.

Note the earlier start time!

Ticket prices: £12, £10 concession, £2 students/children

Group discounts / season tickets available

Monday 31 December 2012, 8.00 pm
Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

New Year's Eve Gala with Manchester Camerata

Conductor Robert Ziegler

Soprano Rebecca Nelsen

Experience the glamour of the New Year's Eve Gala at The Bridgewater Hall, when St George's Singers joins Manchester Camerata for an evening of operatic favourites from Puccini, Verdi, Tchaikovsky and Johann Strauss.

Ticket prices: £52, £42, £32

Group discounts / concessions available. Information and tickets from
Bridgewater Hall Box Office, 0844 907 9000, www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk



Saturday 19 January 2013

9.30-10.15 am (registration for singers), 6.00 pm (concert)

St George's Church, London Road, Poynton

2013 Singing Day **Puccini *Messa di Gloria***

Conductor

Neil Taylor

Accompanist

Jeffrey Makinson

Soloists TBC

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924) came from a long line of musicians who had served as church organists, teachers and directors of music in the Tuscan city of Lucca since the early 18th century. But Giacomo, inspired by Verdi's *Aida*, turned his back on church music, and in 1880 moved to Milan to pursue his true calling – opera. Before leaving Lucca, he graduated from the Istituto Musicale Pacini in 1880 with a mass known today as the *Messa di Gloria*. Scored for tenor and baritone soloists and four-part mixed choir, *Messa di Gloria* is full of melodic freshness and movement, richness of sound and lyrical softness, and demonstrates the dramatic and expressive characteristics of opera for which Puccini later became world-famous.

Join St George's Singers for a wonderful day of singing, good company and fantastic food, culminating in a concert performance, which always exceeds expectations. And this year we're delighted to be back in our home church of St George's Poynton, which, following the splendid refurbishment of the interior, offers a warmer, more comfortable and singer-friendly space for everyone.

Ticket prices: £22 to sing (including music), £5 audience

Note: We shall be using the Belwin Mills edition, not Ricordi

Download our Singing Day application form from www.st-georges-singers.org.uk or contact Gillian Banks, Tel 01925 213949, email gillian.m.banks@gmail.com

Saturday 23 February 2013, 7.30 pm
Royal Northern College of Music, Oxford Road, Manchester

Britten at 100

A celebration of the works of Benjamin Britten

Rejoice in the Lamb

A Hymn to the Virgin

Te Deum /Jubilate Deo in C

Antiphon

Hymn to St Cecilia


Metamorphosen after Ovid

Phantasy Quartet for Oboe and Strings

Conductor Neil Taylor

Organ Jeffery Makinson

Orchestra Eblana String Trio with oboist David Curington



"I want my music to be of use to people ... I do not write for posterity."

Born 100 years ago on St Cecilia's Day (22 November) 1913, Benjamin Britten was the outstanding British musician of his generation. A brilliant pianist and accompanist, he is renowned principally as a composer, producing works of stunning originality and musicality for the orchestra. But it is his use of the voice that is one of the most distinctive features of his sound world, in which he worked out a fresh relationship with the English choral tradition based on impeccable timing and word-setting. In celebration of Britten's centenary, this concert features choral works from his youngest days (*Hymn to the Virgin*, composed at the age of 16) right through to the mature works of *Antiphon* (1956), and including two of his most popular works, *Rejoice in the Lamb* and *Hymn to St Cecilia*.

The Eblana String Trio began playing together as students at the RNCM, where they won all the major chamber music prizes, and now regularly perform for music societies and festivals throughout the UK. They are joined for this concert by oboist David Curington.



Ticket prices: £14, £12 concession, £5 students/children
Group discounts / season tickets available. Coach transport is available from Poynton/Hazel Grove to RNCM - please contact Dave Francis on 01663 764012. £5 or free to Friends of St George's Singers

Sunday 23 June 2013, 7.30 pm
The Monastery, Gorton, Manchester

GLORIA!

Vivaldi *Gloria*

Handel *Dixit Dominus, Nisi Dominus*

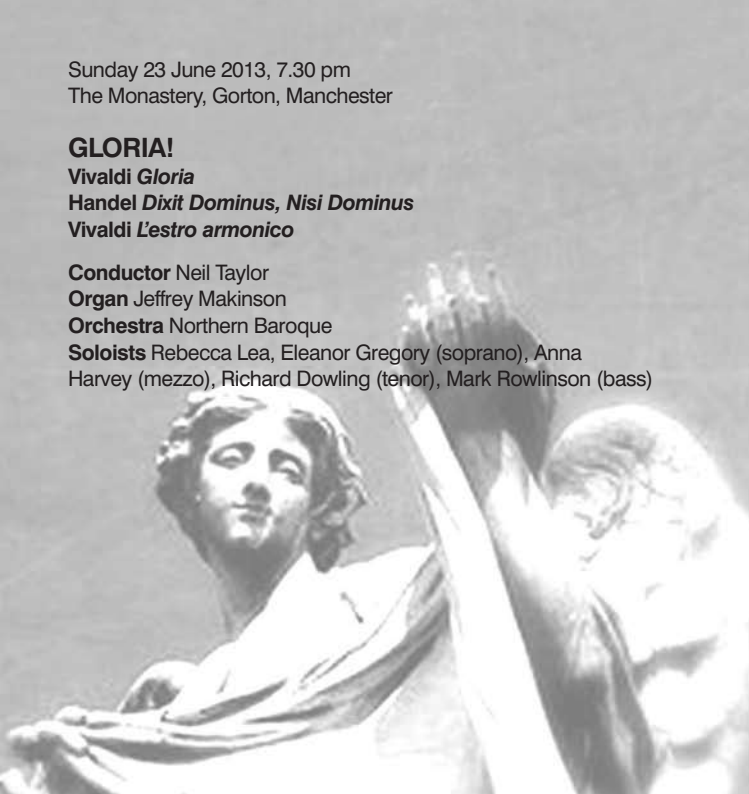
Vivaldi *L'estro armonico*

Conductor Neil Taylor

Organ Jeffrey Makinson

Orchestra Northern Baroque

Soloists Rebecca Lea, Eleanor Gregory (soprano), Anna Harvey (mezzo), Richard Dowling (tenor), Mark Rowlinson (bass)



St George's Singers' season reaches a glorious and joyous climax with a concert of uplifting music and song at the Monastery. The *Gloria* is Vivaldi's most famous choral work, presenting the traditional 'Gloria' from the Latin Mass in twelve cantata-like sections. With distinctive melodies and rhythms, this exhilarating and immediately appealing work is characteristic of Vivaldi's music.

Dixit Dominus is a setting by Handel of the Latin text of Psalm 110. Written in 1707, when Handel was 22 and living in Italy, it is his earliest surviving autograph. The work's vivid colours, vocal virtuosity and driving energy clearly demonstrate the young German Protestant's ability to write in the exuberant Italian style. *Nisi Dominus*, composed in the same year, was first performed in the church of Santa Maria in Montesanto, Rome and is written for double chorus and (uniquely in Handel's output) a double string orchestra.

Northern Baroque, who played so beautifully at last year's *Messiah*, will be accompanying the Choir and our wonderful soloists, as well as playing one of the concertos from Vivaldi's *L'estro armonico* ('Harmonic Inspiration'). With lively rhythms and jolly tunes, it's just right for a summer's evening at the Monastery.



Ticket prices: £16, £14 concession, £5 students/children

Group discounts / season tickets available. Coach transport is available from Poynton/Hazel Grove to The Monastery - please contact Dave Francis on 01663 764012. £5 or free to Friends of St George's Singers

Friends and Patrons

St George's Singers finances all its own concerts, no small task when putting on major concerts 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 £15 for Red Rose, and £30 for Gold Rose Membership, and many Friends make even more generous donations. Many long-standing Friends have 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 for Friends & two guests
the choir newsletter, Hemiola
free coach transport to city centre venues, when available
invitations to social events, open rehearsals and receptions
free concert programmes
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, 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, Peter Marcus, on chair@st-georges-singers.org.uk.

2012-13 Season Supporters

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

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Intuitive Media Ltd

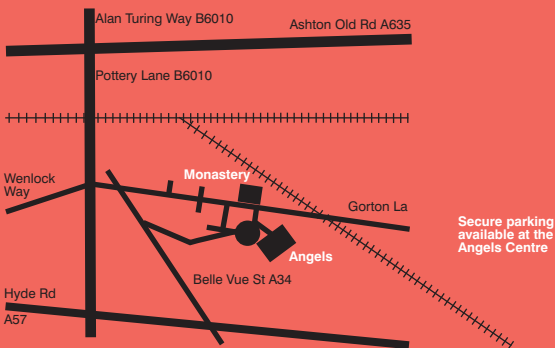
We acknowledge with gratitude the help provided by Cheshire East Library Services throughout the season.

Concert venues

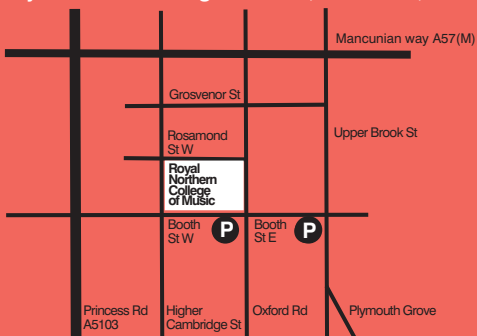
St George's Church, Buxton Road, Stockport SK2 6NU



The Monastery, Gorton Lane, Gorton, Manchester M12 5WF



Royal Northern College of Music, Oxford Rd, Manchester M13 9RD



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, and go to 'Online Tickets'.

Telephone

Ring the Ticket Hotline on 01663 764012.

Email

Email your requirements to: 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 Poynton', 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 each concert in this brochure.

Group Discounts

Discounts are available for group booking: 10% off 10 or more tickets. Please contact the Ticket Secretary on 01663 764012 for more information.

Season Tickets

Buy a season ticket to our four main concerts and save around 15% on standard ticket prices. A full rate season ticket costs £48 and a concessionary ticket is £42. (Excludes the Singing Day and the New Year's Eve Gala concerts).

Singing Day

To book a place on the Singing Day on 19 January 2013, please see our separate Singing Day brochure, available to download from the website at www.st-georges-singers.org.uk, or by contacting Gillian Banks, Tel 01925 213949, Email gillian.m.banks@gmail.com.

Mailing List

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

New Year's Eve Gala

Please book tickets directly from the Bridgewater Hall Box Office, 0844 907 9000, www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk.

detach along dotted line

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

Note: to reduce our costs, please consider receiving information by email.

Friends of St George's Singers

I would like to:

Become a Red Rose Friend for the 2012-13 Season and enclose a cheque for £15

Become a Gold Rose Friend for the 2012-13 Season and enclose a cheque for £30

I am already a Friend, and would like to:

Renew my Red Rose membership for the 2012-13 Season and enclose a cheque for £15

Renew my Gold Rose membership for the 2012-13 Season and enclose a cheque for £30

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

Ticket Booking Form

Please complete the form and post with your cheque, made payable to 'St George's Singers Poynton', 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. stndt/childn	No. coach tickets	Total £
<i>Fauré Requiem</i>	10/11/12	£14, £12 concession, £5 students/children					
<i>Carols & Brass by Candlelight</i>	8/12/12	£12, £10 concession, £2 students/children					
<i>Puccini Messa di Gloria</i>	19/1/13	Audience tickets only £5					
<i>Britten at 100</i>	23/2/13	£14, £12 concession, £5 students/children					
<i>GLORIA!</i>	23/6/13	£16, £14 concession, £5 students/children					
Season Tickets (4 concerts)		Full £48, concession £42					
Grand Total £							

Return coach tickets available from Poynton/Hazel Grove to Gorton Monastery and RNCM concerts only. Friends of St George's Singers – free, Others - £5 per person.

For information on group discounts, please contact the Ticket Secretary on 01663 764012.

About St George's Singers

A large group with around 100 members, St George's Singers is also an extremely friendly and welcoming Choir. We hold a wide range of social events throughout the season, including the annual end-of-season Social Evening when choir members have the opportunity to take the solo stage!

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.

Open Rehearsal – 9 October 2012

Once a year we hold an Open Rehearsal, which this season is on Tuesday 9 October 2012 in St George's Church Hall, Poynton. If you're interested in joining St George's Singers, or just want to find out what goes on at our rehearsals, then do come along, 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.

Choir Tour 2013

Our 2013 choir tour takes us to Paris in May, where we hope to be giving concerts in some of the city's finest sacred buildings, including La Madeleine, St Eustache and the American Church, and singing mass in Notre Dame Cathedral.

Newsletter

If you want to read more about St George's Singers and our activities, pick up a copy of Hemiola, our regular Choir newsletter, at our concerts, download it from our website, or sign up to our Mailing List on the website to receive an electronic copy.

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. You can find more information about our wedding choir on the choir website at: www.st-georges-singers.org.uk/weddingchoir, as well as a guide to choosing the music for your wedding. To discuss your wedding plans and book the Consort, contact Sue Taylor on 01663 766991, email: setaylor9@btinternet.com.

"The glorious singing of the Cheshire Consort made a wonderful day even more special"

For more information on all our activities through the year, visit our **website. www.st-georges-singers.org.uk**

You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook



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. Under Musical Director Neil Taylor, the Choir performs an extensive repertoire that covers baroque, classical, jazz, modern and newly commissioned choral works. Concert venues include the Bridgewater Hall, Gorton Monastery, Manchester Cathedral and the Royal Northern College of Music. The Choir sings with world-class soloists and orchestras, and tours regularly in the UK and overseas.

2012-13 Season at a glance

- 9 October 2012 Open Rehearsal
- 10 November 2012 Fauré *Requiem*
- 8 December 2012 Carols and Brass by Candlelight
- 31 December 2012 New Year's Eve Gala
- 19 January 2013 Singing Day – Puccini *Messa di Gloria*
- 23 February 2013 Britten at 100
- 24-27 May 2013 Tour to Paris
- 23 June 2013 GLORIA!

Ticket hotline **01663 764012**

Online ticket bookings 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



SUPPORTING &
CHAMPIONING
VOLUNTARY MUSIC

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