

# St George's Singers

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2009-10 Season

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St George's Singers

## St George's Singers



### President

Dame Joan Bakewell

### 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

Matthew Hamilton

### 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 2009-10 season



Dear Friends

Our Musical Director Neil Taylor has created a very varied programme for 2009–2010, offering something to appeal to everyone, singers and audience alike.

Our aim of including young people in our music making which we started last season continues in a number of this season's concerts. We return to the Royal Northern College of Music in November for a performance of Will Todd's *Mass in Blue* with the student Jazz Collective. Our previous experience of a jazz concert was in June 2006 when we performed Duke Ellington's *Sacred Concert* at Manchester Cathedral – a very exciting evening for us all. One of the pleasures of singing in a choir is the opportunity to explore different types of music and we look forward to working with the students, and with celebrated soloist, Tina May, for this concert.

Last season started and ended with very different concerts at Gorton Monastery. This year we return to the wonderful setting of the Monastery in March for a performance of Monteverdi's *Vespers*. The work was first performed in 1610 and the Monastery seems to us to be the perfect place to give a 400th anniversary performance of this great work. We are very pleased to be joined once again by students from Chetham's School of Music for this concert. The Chetham's Brass Ensemble made a stunning contribution to our concert at Manchester Cathedral last season and we feel sure that their Baroque Orchestra will be equally impressive. We are also joined by an excellent team of young soloists including Marcus Farnsworth, our previous Assistant Musical Director, who is now studying at the Royal Academy of Music.

As usual our season will include the traditional Christmas concert, which again will feature young readers from local schools, the very popular Singing Day – famous for the quality of the refreshments as well as the vocal training and music-making – and another visit to Emmanuel Church, Didsbury for a live broadcast of the BBC Radio 4 Daily Service. The Choir goes on tour in May and the season then concludes with a concert celebrating the German choral tradition including works by Bach, Brahms and Mendelssohn.

I am sure you will find something of interest in our Season Brochure and on behalf of St George's Singers look forward to welcoming you to our concerts in the year ahead.

Anne Francis  
Chair, St George's Singers



Keith Tysall



Keith Tysall



Derek Jones

Sunday 8 November 2009, 7.30 pm  
Royal Northern College of Music, Oxford Road, Manchester

## **Will Todd *Mass in Blue***

**Conductor** Neil Taylor

**Soloist** Tina May

with

RNCM Jazz Collective, conductor Mike Hall

Originally published as the 'Jazz Mass', Will Todd's *Mass in Blue* is an upbeat setting of the Latin mass that brilliantly blends driving jazz grooves with strong choral writing to stunning effect. St George's Singers will be joined on the platform at the RNCM by one of the UK's most expressive and technically gifted jazz singers, Tina May, and by the College's very own band, the RNCM Jazz Collective. If you enjoyed our performance of Duke Ellington's *Sacred Concert* in 2006 – or even if you missed it - you'll certainly want to come along to hear this exciting fusion of jazz and classical music!

**Ticket prices: £16, £12 concessions, £5 students and children**  
Group discounts available

Coach transport is available from Poynton and Hazel Grove to RNCM. Please contact Dave Francis on 01663 764012 for details. (Free to Friends of St George's)

Saturday 5 December, 2009, 7.30 pm  
St George's Church, Buxton Road, Stockport

## Carols and Brass by Candlelight

with extracts from *Messiah*

**Conductor** Neil Taylor

With Vernon Building Society Poynton Brass Band

**Musical Director** Kevin Gibbs

Join us for our traditional carol concert in the atmospheric candlelight of St George's Church in Stockport. Following the great reception the audience gave to our young readers last year, we have invited pupils from local primary schools back again to entertain us with their own unique interpretation of the Christmas story.

We also 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 usual carols and festive music, the Choir will be joining the band in a special choir/brass band arrangement of extracts from Handel's *Messiah*. With mince pies and mulled wine, audience carols and great music, this is the ideal way to start your Christmas festivities.

Early booking recommended.

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

Saturday 16 January 2010

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

## 2010 Singing Day

**Dvorák Mass in D**

**Conductor** Neil Taylor

**Accompanist** Jeffrey Makinson

For our 2010 Singing Day, Neil Taylor has chosen a wonderful setting of the Mass by Czech composer, Antonin Dvorák.

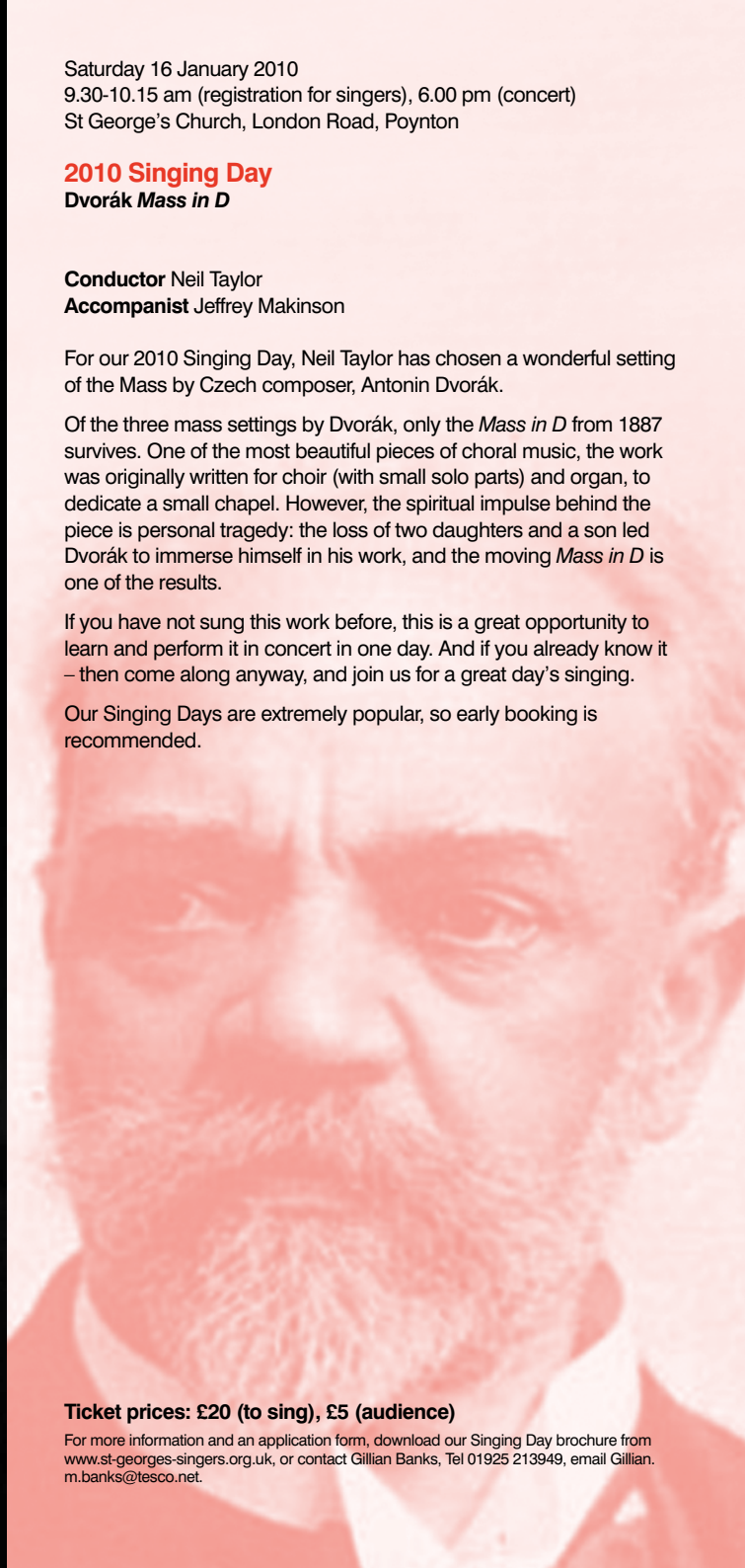
Of the three mass settings by Dvorák, only the *Mass in D* from 1887 survives. One of the most beautiful pieces of choral music, the work was originally written for choir (with small solo parts) and organ, to dedicate a small chapel. However, the spiritual impulse behind the piece is personal tragedy: the loss of two daughters and a son led Dvorák to immerse himself in his work, and the moving *Mass in D* is one of the results.

If you have not sung this work before, this is a great opportunity to learn and perform it in concert in one day. And if you already know it – then come along anyway, and join us for a great day's singing.

Our Singing Days are extremely popular, so early booking is recommended.

**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).



Saturday 20 March 2010, 7.30 pm  
The Monastery, Gorton, Manchester

## Monteverdi Vespers

**Conductor** Neil Taylor  
Chetham's Baroque Orchestra

### Soloists

Clare Lloyd (soprano)  
Amy Wood (soprano)  
Peter Davoren (tenor)  
Richard Dowling (tenor)  
Marcus Farnsworth (baritone)  
Johnny Herford (baritone)

St George's Singers returns once more to The Monastery to perform a work that was destined to be sung in a magnificent building such as this. Monteverdi's *Vespro della Beata Vergine 1610* – more commonly known as the *Vespers of 1610* – is a monumental work of music, which pulls together psalms, meditations and virtuosic vocal and instrumental solos, and calls for the Choir to split into as many as ten parts, and accompany six different soloists. The work not only presents intimate, prayerful moments but also incorporates secular music in an array of different musical forms.

A wonderful line-up of soloists, and the young musicians of Chetham's School of Music will be joining us for this performance.

**Ticket prices: £16, £12 concessions, £2 students and children**  
Group discounts available

Coach transport is available from Poynton and Hazel Grove to Gorton Monastery - please contact Dave Francis on 01663 764012 for details. (Free to Friends of St George's)

Saturday 26 June 2010, 7.30 pm  
St George's Church, Stockport

## German Masterworks

Choral works by Bach, Mendelssohn and Brahms

**Conductor** Neil Taylor  
**Organ** Jeffrey Makinson

The final concert of the season explores masterworks of German choral music by some of the greatest composers of their (and indeed any) era.

The journey begins naturally with Bach, the father of German music, and with two of his sacred motets, *Jesu meine Freude* and *Lobet den Herrn*. Mendelssohn, whose choral music owes a tremendous debt to Bach, is represented by his 8-part setting of Psalm 43 (*Richte mich Gott*) and his popular *Hear my Prayer*. He forges a wonderful link between the late baroque of Bach and the high romanticism of Brahms, whose *Three Festival Anthems* and *Geistliches Lied* will be among some of the other choral classics sung by the Choir. Our Accompanist Jeffrey Makinson will also be performing some of the virtuoso organ works from these three giants of music.

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

## 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.

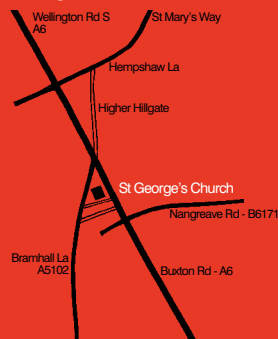
### 2009-10 Season Patrons

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

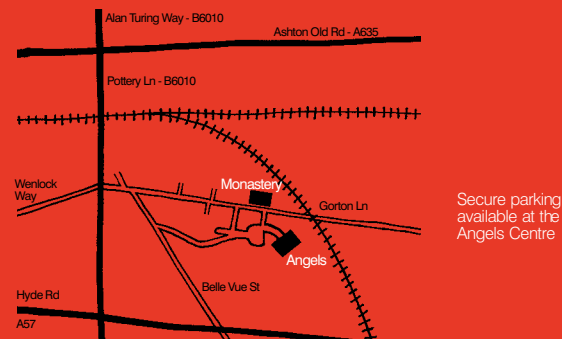
Rehearsal piano sponsorship: Frank Millington  
Season supporters: HSBC Bank plc, East Cheshire Council, Intuitive Media Ltd

## Concert Venues

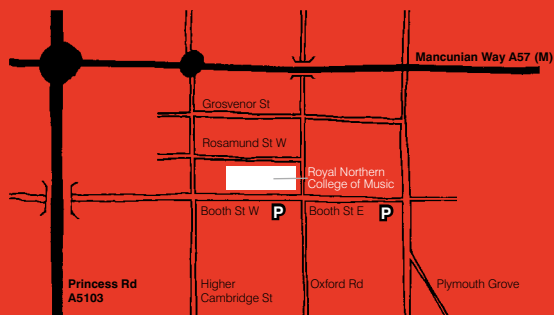
### St George's Church, Buxton Road, Stockport SK2 6NU



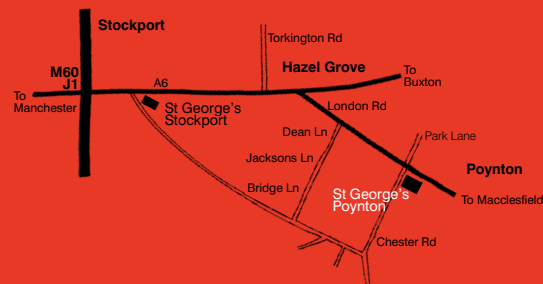
### The Monastery, Gorton Lane, Gorton, Manchester M12 5WF



### Royal Northern College of Music, Oxford Road, 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](http://www.st-georges-singers.org.uk), and go to 'Online Tickets'

### Telephone

Ring the Ticket Secretary on 01663 764012

### Email

Send an email outlining 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

Tickets for the Mass in Blue concert at Royal Northern College of Music on 8 November can also be obtained from the RNCM Box Office, Tel 0161 907 5555, Email [box.office@rncm.ac.uk](mailto:box.office@rncm.ac.uk), Online [www.rncm.ac.uk](http://www.rncm.ac.uk)

Remember that concessions are available for Senior Citizens, with further reductions for students and children.

### Singing Day

For tickets to sing in the Singing Day on 16 January 2010, 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).

### Season Tickets

You can save almost 20% off the standard ticket prices by purchasing a Season Ticket. Prices are £47 (full) and £37 (concession) which gives you tickets to our four main concerts (excluding the Singing Day concert).

### Group Discounts

Attractive discounts are available for group bookings: 10% off 5-9 tickets and 20% off 10 or more tickets. Please contact the Ticket Secretary for more information.

### 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.

## 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 2009-10 Season and enclose a cheque for £10
- Become a Gold Rose Friend for the 2009-10 Season and enclose a cheque for £25

I am already a Friend, and would like to:

- Renew my Red Rose membership for the 2009-10 Season and enclose a cheque for £10
- Renew my Gold Rose membership for the 2009-10 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 120 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, cellidhs, 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 in May 2010 we travel to France.

### Open Rehearsal, 22 September 2009

Once a year we hold an Open Rehearsal, which this season is on Tuesday 22 September 2009. 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.uk](mailto:publicity@st-georges-singers.org.uk), Tel 0161 338 3013, or sign up to our Mailing List on our website.

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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/child	No. coach tickets	Total £
Mass in Blue	8/11/09	£16, £12 concession, £5 students/children					
Carols & Brass by Candlelight	5/12/09	£12, £10 concession, £2 students/children					
Singing Day	16/1/10	£5 (audience tickets only)					
Monteverdi Vespers	20/3/10	£16, £12 concession, £2 students/children					
German Masterworks	26/6/10	£12, £10 concession, £2 students/children					
Season Tickets		Full Price £47, Concessions £37					
<b>Grand Total £</b>							

**Pices for coach tickets** from Poynton/Hazel Grove to the concert venue 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.

### **2009-2010 Season at a glance:**

<b>22 September 2009</b>	Open Rehearsal
<b>8 November 2009</b>	Will Todd: Mass in Blue
<b>5 December 2009</b>	Carols & Brass by Candlelight
<b>16 January 2010</b>	Singing Day
<b>20 March 2010</b>	Monteverdi: Vespers
<b>26 June 2010</b>	German Masterworks

**Ticket hotline: 01663 764012**

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

**General enquiries: 01625 533779**