

**St Martin-in-the-Fields announces its
2024-25 Autumn and Winter Season
featuring choral masterpieces for reflection
and meditation, plus the London premiere
of Alex Roth's *A Road Less Travelled***



**with an exceptional roster of
artists and ensembles**

**Angela Hewitt, Antony Roth Constanzo, Bruce Liu, Dunedin Consort,
Iestyn Davies, I Fagiolini, Kristian Bezuidenhout, Maria Joao Pires, Mark
Padmore, Maya Youssef, Plinio, SANSARA, Tallis Scholars, Tenebrae
Choir, The English Concert, The Gesualdo Six, The Sixteen, The Academy
of St Martin in the Fields, The Monteverdi Choir, Tim Ridout**

www.smitf.org/autumn-winter
[Season Brochure](#)

As the home of choral and baroque music in London, **St Martin-in-the-Fields** presents a stimulating season of events for its **2024-2025 Concert Season**. With an exceptional roster of choral ensembles, orchestras, soloists and partners, St Martin-in-the Fields' beautiful architecture and stunning acoustic provide the perfect backdrop for inspiration, reflection and enlightenment. The season starts

on **17 September** with the **London premiere** of **Alec Roth's song cycle A Road Less Travelled** performed by tenor **Mark Padmore** and **Morgan Szymanski** on guitar. **I Fagiolini** return for a programme of Monteverdi, Carissimi and Benevoli ("**sonic bliss**", Gramophone), and an evening of guided meditation features **Tenebrae** whilst **Bach for Heart and Soul** is presented by **The English Concert**.

St Martin-in-the-Fields is the London home of the **Monteverdi Choir and orchestras**, who present a Christmas programme of Bach and Charpentier on **17 December** and a concert of **Mozart Double Piano Concertos (with celebrated pianists Maria João Pires & Kristian Bezuidenhout and the English Baroque Soloists)** on **29 April**. Celebrating their 60th anniversary in 2024, the Monteverdi Choir were named 'Best Choir' at the **Oper! Awards in January 2024**, with the jury noting that "*at festivals, on concert tours and in their numerous recordings, this is an ensemble whose quality will always leave the listener speechless.*"

The Academy of St Martin in the Fields is the **principal orchestral partner** of St Martin-in-the-Fields, its historic London home. Throughout the 2024-2025 season, they join world-leading soloists such as cellist **Anastasia Kobekina**, pianists **Bruce Liu** and **Alexandra Dariescu**, countertenor **Anthony Roth Constanzo**, violinist **Augustin Hadelich**, and violist **Timothy Ridout**.

Alongside the work of St Martin's Voices and programme of professional development for young singers, the core partnerships established with ensembles mean that St Martin-in-the-Fields has an ever-growing role as London's choral hub, and the city's home for baroque music, and has firmly re-established itself on the capital's musical map in the years since lockdown.

As **Chris Denton, Chief Executive**, comments:

"With such a roster of sought-after ensembles such as Tenebrae, I Fagiolini, The Sixteen, Ex Cathedra, the English Concert, La Nuova Musica, the Tallis Scholars and more, and our proud ongoing relationships with partners the Monteverdi Choir and Orchestras and Academy of St Martin in the Fields, there is a wealth of memorable events on offer this season. St Martin's is one of London's most iconic churches and has a stunning architecture and acoustic in which to enjoy concerts. With this season, we continue to establish our position at the heart of London's finest music making."

Opening the season on **Tuesday 17 September** with **Crypt Close-Up: Mark Padmore & Morgan Szymanski**, tenor **Mark Padmore** and guitarist **Morgan Szymanski** share songs by Schubert, Dowland, Britten and Alec Roth, including the **London Premiere of Alec Roth's A Road Less Travelled**. This work was composed to commemorate the centenary of the poet Edward Thomas's death at the Battle of Arras in 1917 and commissioned by the Autumn in Malvern Festival and premiered in September 2017. *Thomas was "a person, who whichever road he went, would be sorry he didn't go the other". As Roth explains, "it has been suggested that it was influential in his decision to enlist in the army."*



The Birmingham Post commented on the work's premiere at Malvern Festival, *"pungent, poignant and always with a glance over the shoulder of the Great War which would claim him. Its sequence in Roth's structure builds an irresistible sense of universality over and above such time-sensitive issues.....(Padmore's) voice was often eerily unaccompanied, and evoked ancient plainchant in his delivery...fully deserved the acclamation of the packed audience" (★★★★★)*

The London Mozart Players season continues with concerts through the autumn and spring and on **Thursday 26 September** they will perform **Vivaldi's The Four Seasons** and **Panufnik's Four World Seasons** alongside live immersive digital projections. Composed in **2011**, *Four World Seasons* explores the seasons in different parts of the world including autumn in Albania, winter in Tibetan, spring in Japan, and summer in India. They will return to St Martin-in-the-Fields on **Friday 8 November** alongside **Angela Hewitt** for a programme of Mozart.



On **Friday 4 October**, the virtuoso chamber choir, **I Fagiolini**, perform a programme including **Monteverdi** and **Carissimi** alongside **Benevoli's Missa Benevola for four choirs**. They will be joined by **Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields**, singers from **The University of York**, and **The Lyons Mouth**. In **2023**, I Fagiolini released **world premiere recordings** of multi-choir masses by Benevoli, including his **Missa Benevola**, which were originally written in the 17th century for the finest churches in Rome.

"Benevoli's Mass is remarkable... Sonic bliss... awash in gloriousness... both subtle and shocking... Like Italian sunshine... musical magic."
Gramophone, October 2023

On **Thursday 10 October**, the choir **Tenebrae** will perform a programme of music for mindfulness called *Meditatio* – beautiful, reflective choral works and plainchant from composers including **Howells, Allegri, Rachmaninov and Lobo, alongside guided meditation by Michael McCaffrey**. Throughout the evening, he will guide the audience towards deeper listening through a focus on the breath and immersion in the sheer sonorous beauty of sound. Michael is a dedicated meditation, mindfulness and breathwork guide whose teachings focus on demystifying mindfulness, offering clarity and guidance to beginners while providing depth and insight for seasoned practitioners. Over the last decade he has built up a dedicated following for his sessions, working with individuals and also with companies such as Chelsea FC, NBC Universal, Amazon and Google.



Quanun player, **Maya Youssef**, says '*finding home is also about losing home*', and while this Syrian-born virtuoso is one of the supreme exponents of the 78-stringed plucked zither, she's also an artist who transcends boundaries: a composer, a dazzling instrumentalist, and an educator whose music draws strength and beauty from her experience of exile. On **Friday 11 October**, Maya will be performing new material alongside special guests from the UK folk scene, with whom she's collaborating on her next album, alongside material from her previous albums.

The English Concert perform an uplifting programme titled ***Bach for Heart & Soul*** on **Thursday 17 October**, featuring Bach Cantata No.54, 161, and 150, alongside his Brandenburg Concerto No.4. Soloists include soprano **Lauren Lodge Campbell**, countertenor **Alexander Chance**, tenor **Hugo Hymas**, and bass **Matthew Brook**.

On **Thursday 14 November**, **La Nuova Musica** perform **Haydn's Creation**. Haydn once said '*When I think of God, I can write only cheerful music*', and his oratorio *The Creation* is powered by a sense of joy that embraces both earthworms and angels. La Nuova Musica will be conducted by David Bates who '*offers superbly engaging playing from La Nuova Musica*' (Gramophone, December 2023), and joined by soloists **Nardus Williams, Andy Staples, and James Platt**. Soprano Williams was the **winner of the Rising Talent award at the 2022 International Opera Awards**, and has gone on to perform with English National Opera, Opéra de Rouen Normandie, Glyndebourne, and Toronto Symphony Orchestra. '*It's hard to imagine that any London audience this winter will hear*



more thoroughly gorgeous singing – or more refined musical artistry all round – than Nardus Williams” (The Arts Desk, January 2024).

During the **Christmas period**, highlights include **The Sixteen**, **London Gay Men’s Chorus**, **Ex Cathedra**, and the **Monteverdi Choir**. On **Friday 6**



December, **The Sixteen** will perform **Handel’s Messiah**, now an annual fixture. In **2022**, Bachtrack commented *‘We heard a realisation of Handel’s work that suggested it was written yesterday’* adding that *‘invigorating freshness was the hallmark of the whole performance’*. This will be an intimately-scaled, historically-informed interpretation, in the heart of the city that Handel called home.

To see in the New Year, there will be an unparalleled range of vocal excellence with highlights in **January** including **The Gesualdo Six**, **Iestyn Davies**, **Dunedin Consort** and **The Tallis Scholars**.

On **Tuesday 7 January**, **The Gesualdo Six** perform *Fading*, an intimate, candlelit programme of music in St Martin’s ancient crypt, ranging from Hildegard von Bingen to renaissance, romantic and 21st-century composers, all bringing light to the very darkest time of the year. This follows the success of their Secret Byrd tour which appeared at St Martin-in-the-Fields to outstanding reviews. *“The all-male voices ring out with intonational precision and an almost ecstatic connection to text that would have delighted Byrd”*, The Guardian.

‘It was as good as you are likely to hear, ever’ said The Observer of the voice of countertenor **Iestyn Davies** who will perform on **Friday 17 January**. Performing works from his **Gramophone award-nominated** 2021 album **Lamento** he joins forces with the viol ensemble **Fretwork** to explore some of the most poignant (but unsung) byways of 17th-century music.

John Butt’s Scottish ensemble, the **Dunedin Consort**, won the **2021 Royal Philharmonic Society Ensemble Award**. On **Friday 24 January**, they will perform **Handel’s Susanna** - an oratorio for our time, with resonant themes of sexual assault by those in power, corruption, and the fickleness of public opinion. In her husband’s absence, Susanna rejects the unwelcome attention of two lascivious elders and they vengefully concoct false charges of adultery against her, until she is vindicated and they in turn are sentenced to death. Like Theodora, another late masterpiece, its mood is sometimes contemplative, but interspersed with comedy and a gripping court scene that thrilled audiences of Handel’s time and will leap off the page with this first-class cast.

On **Saturday 1 February**, **The Tallis Scholars** celebrate **both Palestrina’s 500th anniversary and the 90th birthday of Arvo Pärt**, two composers

separated by five centuries but united by the purity, emotion and spiritual power of their work.

The English Concert is becoming a regular fixture in the St Martin-in-the-Fields programme, with acclaimed previous performances of Handel's *Semele* and *Amadigi*. On **Thursday 20 February**, **Kristian Bezuidenhout** conducts the Everest of Baroque choral music, **Bach's Mass in B minor**.

Jeffrey Skidmore will conduct **Ex Cathedra Consort** and **Baroque Ensemble** through a Latin-American Baroque programme on **Thursday 20 March**. They have pioneered the rediscovery of the vibrant sounds of South American Baroque music – a fusion of music from Europe, Africa and South America. The iconic Inca liturgy 'Hanac pachap cussicuinin' – the oldest printed polyphony in the Americas – opens their programme which utilises harp, lute, cornetts and sackbuts.

"a heady mix of gloriously rich polyphony and manic, earthy villancicos. Skidmore has mined a rich vein of hitherto undiscovered music... exhilaratingly uninhibited."

BBC Music Magazine



St Martin-in-the-Fields' **Easter Festival** is crowned by appearances from renowned ensembles including **SANSARA**, **the Academy of St Martin in the Fields**, **The Gesualdo Six** and **Tenebrae**.

Opening the festival on **Thursday 10 April**, **SANSARA** choir's *Passiontide* concert marks **Pärt's 90th birthday year** with a sequence of his best-loved masterpieces including *Fratres* and the heart-rending *Stabat Mater*. They visit Tudor England too: '*Not even the words of the prophet sound as sad as my composer,*' wrote a 16th-century fan of Robert White's *Lamentations*.

As part of Holy Week, on **Saturday 12 April**, **The Gesualdo Six** perform a programme which explores loss, uncertainty and hope for Eternal Light. Byrd and Bingham capture a sense of surrender to a higher power, asking for forgiveness and protection, alongside music by Tavener, Morales, Richard Rodney Bennett and Joanna Marsh which remind us to enjoy all that life has to offer.

On **Tuesday 15 April**, **Tenebrae** perform Tallis' *Lamentations* for Holy Week under the direction of Nigel Short. *"For purity and precision of tone, and flawless intonation, Nigel Short's chamber choir Tenebrae is pretty much unbeatable"*, *The Times*.

Under the baton of **Andrew Earis**, **Bach's St John Passion** forms the centrepiece of the Good Friday programme (**Friday 18 April**). Performed by the **Academy of St Martin in the Fields**, Bach wrote the *St John Passion* for the

Good Friday Vespers service of 1724 to take the congregation through the events of the crucifixion of Jesus.

Season Listings

Tuesday 17 September Crypt Close-Up: Mark Padmore & Morgan Szymanski

Dowland Come again, Sweet Love
Dowland Come ye Heavy States of Night
Dowland O Sweet Woods
Dowland Flow my Tears
Schubert Heidenröslein
Schubert Nachtstück
Schubert Des Fischersliebesglück
 I will give my Love an Apple (arr. Britten)
 Bonny at Morn (arr. Britten)
 The Shooting of his Dear (arr. Britten)
 Scarborough Fair (arr. Alec Roth)
 Sweet William (arr. Alec Roth)
Alec Roth A Road Less Travelled
LONDON PREMIERE

Mark Padmore tenor
Morgan Szymanski guitar

Thursday 26 September London Mozart Players – Four World Seasons: Vivaldi & Panufnik

Vivaldi The Four Seasons
Roxanna Panufnik Four World Seasons

Ruth Rogers director/solo violin
London Mozart Players

Friday 4 October I Fagiolini: From Venice with Love

Monteverdi Motets for solo voice, duets and ensemble

Benevoli Missa Maria Prodigio
 Celeste (for four choirs)
Carissimi Jephthe

I Fagiolini
Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields
Robert Hollingworth director

Thursday 10 October Tenebrae: Music and Meditation

Tenebrae
Nigel Short director
Michael McCaffrey breathing and mindfulness guide

Friday 11 October Maya Youssef and with Zoe Rahman, Elizabeth Nott & special guests

Maya Youssef qanun
Zoe Rahman piano
Elizabeth Nott percussion

Wednesday 16 October Crypt Closeups – Plínio Fernandes

Plínio Fernandes guitar
Hadewych Van Gent cello

Thursday 17 October The English Concert: Bach for Heart & Soul

Bach Cantata No.54, Widerstehe doch der Sünde
Bach Cantata No.161, Komm, du süsse Todesstunde
Bach Cantata No.150, Nach dir, Herr, verlanget mich

Bach Brandenburg Concerto No.4 in G major

Lauren Lodge Campbell soprano
Alexander Chance countertenor
Hugo Hymas tenor
Matthew Brook bass
The English Concert
Kristian Bezuidenhout
director/harpsichord

Friday 18 October
London Mozart Players:
Mendelssohn and The
Schumanns

Schumann Concerto for Piano in A minor Op.54
Clara (Wieck) Schumann Three Romances, Op.22 (orchestrated by Benjamin de Murashkin)
Mendelssohn Symphony No.4 in A major, Op.90 'Italian'

Louis Schwizgebel piano
London Mozart Players
Jonathan Bloxham conductor

Friday 1 November
Academy of St Martin in the
Fields with Anastasia Kobekina

Stravinsky Concerto in E flat 'Dumbarton Oaks'
Haydn Concerto for Cello No.1 in C major
Stravinsky Suite Italienne
Gallo Follia
Anastasia Kobekina cello

Friday 8 November
Angela Hewitt & London Mozart
Players: The Ages of Mozart

Mozart Symphony No.1 in E flat major
Mozart Concerto for Piano No.9 in E flat major, 'Jeunehomme'
Mozart Symphony No.36 in C major, 'Linz'

Angela Hewitt piano/director
London Mozart Players
Jonathan Bloxham conductor

Tuesday 12 November
In Remembrance: A Choral
Discovery Concert

John Rutter Lord, thou hast been our refuge
Barry Mills Questioning the Stars
Cecilia McDowall Angel of the Battlefield **ENGLISH PREMIERE**
Lucy Walker New work

Imogen Whitehead trumpet
St Martin's Voices
Andrew Earis conductor

Thursday 14 November
La Nuova Musica: Haydn's
Creation
Haydn *The Creation (in English)*

La Nuova Musica
Nardus Williams soprano
Andy Staples tenor
James Platt bass
David Bates conductor

Friday 15 November
BBC Singers with Sofi Jeannin

Barber Agnus Dei
Kristina Arakelyan Evening Prayer
John Tavener Funeral Ikos
Kristina Arakelyan Open my eyes to meet your gaze
John Tavener Song for Athene
John Tavener Requiem Fragments

BBC Singers
Sofi Jeannin conductor

Thursday 28 November
Eeshar Singh and Shahbaz
Hussain: Indian Music by
Candlelight

Eeshar Singh santoor
Shahbaz Hussain tabla

Friday 6 December
The Sixteen: Messiah
Handel Messiah

Jessica Cale soprano
Catherine Wyn Rogers alto
Gwilym Bowen tenor
Henry Waddington bass
The Sixteen Choir and Orchestra
Harry Christophers conductor

**Friday 13 December & Monday
16 December**
**Ex cathedra: Christmas Music by
Candlelight**

Ex cathedra
Jeffrey Skidmore conductor

Tuesday 17 December
**Monteverdi Choir & English
Baroque Soloists: Charpentier
and Bach**

Bach Cantata Schwingt freudig euch
empor, BWV 36
Bach Cantata Unser Mund sie voll
Lachens, BWV 110
Charpentier Messe de Minuit

Hilary Cronin soprano
Laurence Kilsby tenor
Florian Stoertz bass
Monteverdi Choir
English Baroque Soloists

**Tuesday 7 January 7.30 and
9.15pm**
**Crypt Close-up: The Gesualdo Six
– Fading**

Tallis Te lucis ante terminum
Gesualdo In te Domine speravi
Lobo Versa est in luctum
McKevitt Lumen (Nunc Dimittis)
Seers Look down, O Lord

von Bingen O Ecclesia, oculi tui
Park Phos hilaron
Sheppard In pace, in idipsum
Schubert Die Nacht
Rheinberger Abendlied
Marenzio Potrò viver io più se senza
luce
Palestrina Io son ferito, ah! lasso
Marsh Fading
Tormis Marjal aega magada
Blok-Wilson O Little Rose, O Dark
Rose
Rimkus My heart is like a singing
bird
Marsh Seeds in flight

The Gesualdo Six
Owain Park director

Friday 17 January
Iestyn Davies: Lamento

Franz Tunder Salve mi Jesu
JS Bach An Wasserflüssen Babylon
Samuel Scheidt Canzon super 'O
Nachbar Roland'
Christian Geist Es war aber an die
Stätte
Johann Schein Suite from
Banchetto Musicale No. 14
JC Bach Lamento
Dietrich Buxtehude Jubilate
Domino
Schein Suite from Banchetto
Musicale No. 7
Heinrich Schütz Erbarm dich mein
Scheidt Canzon super cantionem
gallicam
Buxtehude Klaglied
Felices Sances Dulce nomen

Iestyn Davies countertenor
Fretwork
Silas Wollston organ/virginals

Friday 24 January
Dunedin Consort: Handel
Susanna

Handel Susanna

Anna Dennis soprano
Alexander Chance countertenor
Matthew Brook bass
Dunedin Consort
John Butt director

Saturday 1 February
The Tallis Scholars: Palestrina
and Pärt

Palestrina Surge illuminare
Palestrina Missa Brevis
Palestrina Lamentations a 6 (Lectio
III Sabbato Sancto)
Pärt Da Pacem
Palestrina Nunc dimittis
Pärt Nunc dimittis
Pärt Which was the son of...

The Tallis Scholars
Peter Phillips director

Saturday 15 February
Academy of St Martin in the
Fields with Bruce Liu

Shostakovich Concerto for Piano
No.1 in C minor, Op.35
Mozart Concerto for Piano No.9 in E
flat major K.271 'Jeunehomme'
Bruce Liu piano

Thursday 20 February
English Concert: Bach Mass in B
minor
Bach Mass in B minor

The English Concert
Kristian Bezuidenhout
director/harpsichord

Thursday 20 March
Ex Cathedra: Latin America
Baroque

Anon Hanac pachap cussicuinin
(Ritual, 1631)
Araujo ¡Ay, andar!
Hernandez Sancta Maria e!

Nunes Garcia Missa Pastoril
(excerpts)
Salazar Salga el torillo hosquillo
Zéspedes Convidando esta la noche
Zipoli Missa San Ignacio (excerpts)

Ex Cathedra Consort
Baroque Ensemble
Jeffrey Skidmore conductor

Friday 21 March
Academy of St Martin in the
Fields with Alexandra Dariescu

Clara Schumann Three Romances
for violin and piano, Op.22
Boulanger 3 Pieces for cello and
piano
Clara Schumann Concerto for Piano
Mozart Rondo in D for piano &
orchestra
Anna Clyne Within Her Arms

Alexandra Dariescu piano

Thursday 10 April
SANSARA & Fretwork

Arvo Pärt Fratres
Arvo Pärt Solfeggio
Arvo Pärt Summa
Arvo Pärt Nunc Dimittis
Caroline Shaw and the swallow
Arvo Pärt Stabat Mater
Robert White Lamentations a 5
Arvo Pärt Dona Nobis Pacem

SANSARA
Fretwork
Tom Herring conductor

Friday 11 April
Anthony Roth Costanzo, counter-
tenor, with Academy of St Martin
in the Fields

Saturday 12 April
The Gesualdo Six: Lux Aeterna

Morales Parce mihi, Domine

Tavener Funeral Ikos
Tallis In jejunio et fletu
Byrd Peccantem me quotidie
Howard Skempton And there was war in heaven
Donna McKevitt Lumen (Nunc Dimittis)
Guerrero In passione positus Jesus
Judith Bingham Watch with me
Joanna Marsh I take thee
Morales Lux aeterna (Communio)
Richard Rodney Bennett A Good-Night

The Gesualdo Six
Owain Park director

Tuesday 15 April
Tenebrae: Tallis Lamentations for Holy Week

De Monte Super flumina Babylonis
Byrd Mass for 4 Voices
Byrd Ne irascaris Domine
Poulenc Quatre motets pour un temps de pénitence
Tallis Lamentations I
MacMillan Jesum tradidit impius
Tallis Lamentations II
MacMillan Miserere

Tenebrae
Nigel Short conductor

Friday 18 April
Bach: St John Passion

Soloists TBC
St Martin's Voices
Academy of St Martin in the Fields

Andrew Earis conductor

Tuesday 29 April
English Baroque Soloists: Mozart Double Piano Concertos

Mozart Concerto for 2 pianos K.316
Mozart Concerto (revised for 2 pianos) K.242
Mozart Symphony No.38, 'Prague' K.504

Maria João Pires & Kristian Bezuidenhout piano
English Baroque Soloists

Monday 5 May
Academy of St Martin in the Fields with Augustin Hadelich

Mozart Serenade No.6 in D major, 'Serenata Notturna'
Shostakovich Sonata in G major, Op.134 arr. Zinman/Pushkarev
Tchaikovsky Elegy
Bologne Concerto for Violin in A major, Op.5 No.2

Augustin Hadelich violin

Thursday 26 June
Academy of St Martin in the Fields with Timothy Ridout

Programme to include:
Mozart Sinfonia concertante
Hummel Potpourri

Timothy Ridout viola

St Martin's is also famous for its progressive work with homeless and vulnerable people – providing a place of opportunity, sanctuary and support for everyone. The revenue generated from our concert series and other commercial activities plays a vital part in helping us sustain this important work.

For more information on any of the above, please contact:

Nicky Thomas Media

Unit 12 The Stableyard, Broomgrove Rd, London SW9 9TL

+44 (0)20 3714 7594 | +44 (0)7768 566 530

info@nickythomasmedia.com

www.nickythomasmedia.com