

Celebrating and supporting music
at St Martin-in-the-Fields



Music
Enriches
Everybody

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“St Martin’s is such an amazing hub of music making, and I believe we have a responsibility to use that position to help sustain and grow music for the decades ahead.”

Andrew Earis, Director of Music

“The greatest personal takeaway from my time as Composer-in-Residence is the feeling of empowerment to call myself a composer and to confidently inhabit that identity. I have been given the space and support to grow as a musician, with opportunities even beyond composing.”

Lucy Walker, Composer-in-Residence

“St Martin’s is such a special place for music, which is why we are delighted to be supporting the church. The whole ethos of St Martin’s chimes with our values: investing in new talent, commissioning new work, and providing a glorious setting for a broad range of music of the highest standard to be heard.”

Nick Bagge, Music Patron



Everybody

Overture

In the heart of Trafalgar Square, the doors of St Martin-in-the-Fields open daily to a city in constant motion...

Inside, another rhythm unfolds — the resonance of voices, the sweep of an organ's chords, the delicate interplay of new compositions with centuries-old repertoire. Music is not simply something that happens here; it is woven into the fabric of St Martin's life.

For 300 years, this church has been a meeting place for world-class musicians and those discovering their own artistic voice. Handel once performed beneath its splendid plasterwork ceiling; today, our choral ensembles are heard on radio stations across continents, and our Artist Development Programmes provide rare, sustained opportunities for emerging talent to grow.

This magazine offers a window into that musical world — from the professional singers and composers shaping the sound of tomorrow, to the projects and performances that bring people together week after week. It is a celebration of music in its many forms, and of the community of supporters that keeps it alive at St Martin-in-the-Fields.



Music at St Martin's Three Strands, One Voice

Music in Worship

Every Sunday and Wednesday, services are framed by live music. From traditional hymns to new compositions, the sound of voices and instruments shapes the rhythm of our worship life.

Concerts

Around 100 times a year, our own musicians take to the stage. These concerts bring together repertoire that spans centuries, from intimate chamber recitals to large choral works, and from Baroque to contemporary.

The Culture Programme

Our music events like Great Sacred Music and Choral Classics sit between a formal service and a concert. These blend words, music, and reflection, extending our reach through broadcasts, recordings and creative collaborations.

“ St Martin-in-the-Fields has a flourishing programme of choral and instrumental music.

It's led by St Martin's Voices, our flagship choral ensemble, which sings Great Sacred Music every Thursday and performs, tours, records and broadcasts with a growing international reputation. Our Sunday worship is accompanied by the Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields and the Junior Choir, while our weekday worship is led by our Choral Scholars. We also have a Chinese Choir and Community Choir and Chamber Ensemble. Meanwhile St Martin's hosts a range of prestigious visiting ensembles for its extensive concert programme and an increasing variety of other musical events such as jazz and silent disco among its 450 ticketed events per year.

Revd Dr Sam Wells, Vicar, St Martin-in-the-Fields





This year marks another exciting chapter in our 30 years history of fostering musical talent.

Voices

St Martin's Voices on the Move

This year marks another exciting chapter in our 30 years history of fostering musical talent, and providing young artists the opportunities they need to launch professional careers. Our Artist Development Programmes continue to offer exceptional training and work opportunities to young singers, composers and artists.

2024 — Notes Across the World and a New Chapter

From the coastal winds of Northumberland to the bustling streets of Dallas, 2024 was a year of music in motion for St Martin's Voices. In 2014, we took a leap across the pond and embarked on a US tour, performing at All Saints Episcopal Church in Austin and representing St Martin's at the American Choral Directors Association in Dallas.

Back home, St Martin's Voices filled the air at the St Aidan's Festival, a celebration where music met sea breeze and community spirit. Soon after, we opened an exciting new chapter in our story by appointing Imogen Whitehead as our very first Artist-in-Residence—her artistry bringing a new dimension to our sound.

“Being artist-in-residence has given me the chance to explore some really different repertoire. There's a lot of music written for trumpet and choir, but often the recordings are very old or don't exist at all, so it's been exciting to bring these pieces back to life for new audiences. I also love playing flugelhorn alongside the trumpet; its mellow, softer sound blends beautifully with the choir.”

Imogen Whitehead, Artist-in-Residence

As winter drew in, we joined Classic FM's Zeb Soanes for a festive carol celebration. Broadcast nationwide on Christmas Eve, it carried the warmth of St Martin's into homes across the country.

2025 — Collaboration in Harmony

The momentum carried into 2025, a year defined by recordings and remarkable stages. We released our second album with Resonus Classics, *Ned Rorem: Choral Works*, before stepping into the National Gallery for a performance marking the reopening of the Sainsbury Wing. We also performed at the Gallery for the rededication of the George Washington statue.

Another highlight of the year was the release of *Lucy Walker: Choral Works*, our third album with Resonus Classics, written by our Composer-in-Residence. It was a celebration not only of her artistry, but also of our commitment to commissioning and championing new music.

“Of all the pieces written for this album, 'Here home', is perhaps the most significant; the text is taken from a poem, commissioned by St Martin's, by former Poet Laureate Andrew Motion, which is inscribed on the lightwell in the church courtyard. Bringing to life a text which is part of the architecture of such a significant place was very special.”

Lucy Walker, Composer-in-Residence

The coming seasons will see the release of our Christmas collection album, followed by our fifth album with the Church of England, inspired by the Daily Prayer project. We'll also take to the road for a UK winter tour with performances at St Mary's Church Tetbury, Brecon Cathedral, Winchester Cathedral, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, and Norwich Cathedral alongside Classic FM presenter Zeb Soanes. And come December, we'll have a packed schedule of singing and celebration for Christmas.

As we look ahead, every note we sing and every stage we step onto is made possible by your generosity. From the first rehearsal to the final applause, you are part of each moment. Together, we're not only sustaining music at St Martin's, but also passing it on to the next generation of artists and audiences.

How can you support

£25

One off donation towards maintaining a vibrant and ambitious future for music at St Martin's

music at St Martin's?



£2500

Sponsor a month of Choral Classics performances. Share the joy of music and help keep us this unique series alive.

£250
a year

Become a Music Patron and make a lasting investment in the future of music at St Martin's. Your patronage will help us champion the next generation of musicians, composers and choral leaders, and inspire world-class musical excellence through concerts, education and outreach.

As a Music Patron, you will enjoy exclusive invitations to events, concerts, rehearsals and opportunity to meet our Director of Music and the music team. You'll be recognised in programmes and publications and receive regular insider updates. Most importantly, you'll know that your gift is directly nurturing the next generation of artists, sustaining world-class performances, and ensuring that music continues to flourish at the heart of St Martin's.

[stmartin-in-the-fields.org/
support-us/music-patrons](http://stmartin-in-the-fields.org/support-us/music-patrons)



Director of Music Andrew Earis on Music and Mentorship at St Martin's

"Our supporters truly are the glue that holds all of this together."

Music has been central to life at St Martin-in-the-Fields. Today, under Andrew Earis, that tradition is thriving through world-class performances and programmes that nurture the next generation of musicians. In this interview, Andrew reflects on what makes St Martin's music distinctive, its far-reaching impact, and why investing in the next generation of musicians is crucial.

What is unique about music at St Martin's?

I don't think such a distinctive music programme exists anywhere else, probably not even in the world, that brings together such a wide range of music-related activities under one roof, all valued equally, whether it is voluntary music, professional training, or the work of St Martin's Voices.

We are also unique in the way these elements intertwine, with each part feeding and supporting the others. For example, our choral scholars who join us for an intensive training programme as their first experience in London, also contribute to our Bread for the World service. It is a beautiful link between music and worship, and a demonstration of how our different programmes enrich one another.

Another unique aspect is our outreach beyond St Martin's itself. Since pandemic, we have expanded our role by providing resources such as recordings, publications, and choral leaders leadership programs to churches across the country.

Why is it important for us to invest in music and artist development programmes at St Martin's?

St Martin's is such an amazing hub of music making, and I believe we have a responsibility to use that position to help sustain and grow music for the decades ahead.

Our commitment to the artist development programmes is for the future of music really. We want to guarantee that these traditions continue evolve, develop and broaden. That's why it is so important for us to invest in the next generation of choral musicians, leaders and composers.



What opportunities do donations from our supporters make possible that could not happen otherwise?

It's the breadth and scope of the music programme that is entirely made possible by our supporters. Their contributions have enabled us to expand touring, commission new works, and nurture young composers. For example, having Lucy Walker as our composer-in-residence for the past two years and shaping our future strategy for music commissioning, would not be possible without this vital support. Our supporters truly are the glue that holds everything together.

What inspires you as the Director of Music at St Martin's?

There are two main sources of inspiration for me. One is the energy that I gain from working with singers, particularly young singers at the start of their careers, and being able to support their growth. And the other thing that inspires me is the opportunity to shape the overall programming at St Martin's, aligning it with our artist development initiatives and broader collaborations. Seeing these two elements come together to create a cohesive and impactful year is truly motivating.

What are you the most excited about the year ahead?

There are quite a lot of interesting new activities and changes that we are looking forward to, both within St Martin's and outside. The biggest one is that we are putting a lot of new energy into our young people's music provision. We're expanding our junior choir, launching a youth choir, and introducing a new monthly all-age service at noon on Sundays, featuring music created and performed by young people.

Beyond the church, we have two new recordings coming out in the autumn: a Christmas album with Resonus Classics and another with the Church of England as part of the Daily Prayer project.

We also have a busy performance schedule, including a winter tour in St Edmundsbury, Winchester, and Norwich Cathedral. So yes, an exciting period is definitely ahead.

Great Sacred Music

Since 2013, this 35-minute gathering has offered space for reflection, weaving words and music around themes that connect faith, culture, and the rhythms of daily life.

What began in the building has now grown into something much larger. Since 2020, Great Sacred Music has been livestreamed each week, reaching people far beyond Trafalgar Square. Alongside the services, a companion book, written by Sam and Andrew during the pandemic, now serves as a guide to the breadth and beauty of this tradition.

Themes That Speak to Today

At the start of each year, Director of Music Andrew Earis and Revd Dr Sam Wells sit down to map out the season. The result is a tapestry of themes that touch on both the sacred calendar and the wider world. One week might reflect on Advent or Easter; another might mark International Moon Day or celebrate the life of a poet or hymn writer. Some weeks centre on timeless human themes like love, hope, journeying or faith.

“We always say that Great Sacred Music is about Sam giving me a theology lesson and me giving him a music lesson. The beauty of what we do in the Great Sacred Music is saying that all music is valuable – within a single theme like love, you might hear everything from a Renaissance anthem to a contemporary pop song, and it all fits with integrity.”

Andrew Earis, Director of Music

A Space Where We Gather

Great Sacred Music is not just about listening; it's about belonging. It creates a rhythm in the week that brings people together. For many, it has become a touchstone: a place and time to pause, reconnect, and carry something uplifting back into daily life.

“For us, Thursday is an oasis in the week. We look forward to the singing, the enthusiasm and the chance to find out background knowledge of composers. We love the ‘themes’ each week and the opportunity to sing our favourite hymns. Now we have a number of ‘regular’ friends, so we feel part of the congregation. We also like occasionally the chance to talk to the Voices in a social setting. Long may it continue.”

Phyllis Fisher, Music Patron

For our St Martin’s Voices singers too, it’s about community. Standing before the congregation week by week, they don’t just perform—they recognise faces, exchange words afterwards, and feel part of something larger.

“One of my favourite moments of my week is when I have the opportunity to sing at Great Sacred Music. I walk out, and look into the congregation and see so many, smiling, familiar faces. I only know these people from having performed in front of them at St Martin’s, and yet, we always end up having a conversation after the service or performance.

How rare is this, that you can be so welcomed into a community, in a world where people are busy with their own lives, rushing from thing to thing? This is what it means to me to be a part of the St Martins team: community. And it's so, so special.”

Natalie Houlston, St Martin’s Voices



Every Thursday at 1pm, St Martin-in-the-Fields opens its doors to something quietly remarkable...



Community

St Martin-in-the-Fields Trust
5 St Martin's Place
Trafalgar Square, London
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development@smif.org
020 7766 1132

Scan here
to support
and donate



Nurturing young voices

At St Martin-in-the-Fields, music is at the heart of our community, and our choirs reflect the richness and diversity of that musical life. From the powerful harmonies of the Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields to the inclusive joy of the Community Choir, singers of all ages – from seven to eighty – find their voice within these walls.

Among these ensembles, the Junior Choir holds a special place. Open to children aged 7 to 13, it is led by the talented Polina Sosnina and rehearses weekly during term time. For many children, joining the Junior Choir is the first step in a lifelong journey with choral music.

Since its founding in 2022, the Junior Choir has grown steadily, becoming a hub of energy and musical adventure.

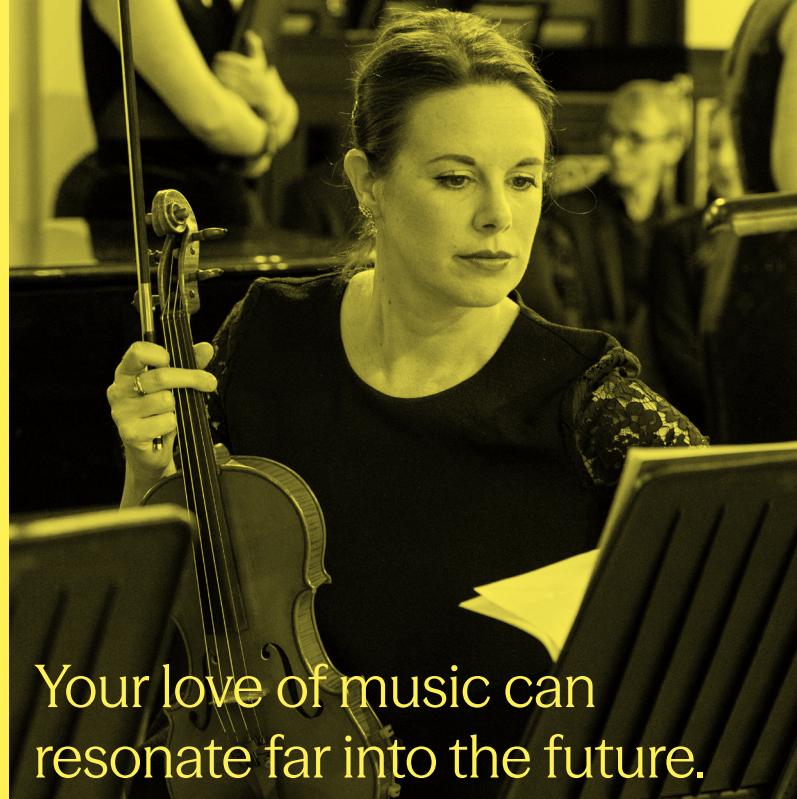
“The Christmas concerts are my favourite concerts. It's fun to travel into London with my mum after school on a Monday for our rehearsals. And they give us biscuits!”
Madeleine, Junior Choir

A dedicated group of up to fifteen children sing for midweek services and participate in performances, gaining confidence and joy in making music together.

“For Madeleine, joining the Junior Choir has been a fantastic opportunity. I've watched her confidence grow, her skills improve, and she's made lovely friends along the way. The choir has exposed her to high-quality music that she wouldn't normally get to sing at school. I love seeing her perform so well in such an iconic London venue.”

Kristin, Madeleine's mother

Exciting plans for September 2025 include Junior Choir leading a new monthly Sunday service, offering young singers a chance to shine in worship and concert settings. Plans are also underway to expand the Junior Choir to 30 children and to develop a youth choir for ages 12-18, creating a clear progression from first singing experiences to advanced choral training. Outreach to local schools will ensure that children from all socio-economic backgrounds have the opportunity to join, making this a truly inclusive programme.



Your love of music can
resonate far into the future.

By leaving a gift in your Will to St Martin-in-the-Fields Trust (charity number 1110406), you can help ensure our music continues to inspire audiences and nurture the next generation of musicians.

To discuss leaving a gift in your Will for music at St Martin-in-the-Fields, please contact bhawna.saini@smif.org or visit smartin-in-the-fields.org/support-us/legacies



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