



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Bite-Sized Baroque at St Martin-in-the-Fields January - April 2006

St Martin-in-the-Fields presents a new concert series for the New Year. On the last Tuesday of the month, from January to April, London's best musicians will serve a digestible chunk of music from the undiscovered byways of the Baroque repertoire in the magnificent splendour of St Martin's.

Each concert starts at **6.30pm**, lasts **one hour** and is specifically designed to offer commuters a musical respite after a hard day at work. Immediately following the performance, concert goers will have the opportunity to meet the musicians and enjoy a delicious meal in the award winning Café in the Crypt.

Karen Price, Concerts Manager at St Martin's, says "This is a new direction for St Martin's, but one which we believe will be very popular and become a regular feature of our concert series, attracting commuters who regularly pass St Martin's on their way to Charing Cross. One hour of good quality music-making is the perfect length and what better way to finish off the evening than dining in our wonderful Café in the Crypt. Our chefs are busy conjuring up mouth-watering themed dishes. Think Handel Hot Pot and Bach Bangers and Mash!"

The first concert takes place on **Tuesday 31 January** and features Katy Bircher, baroque flute and James Johnstone, harpsichord performing a fascinating selection of French rarities by Couperin, Hotteterre and Duphy together with Bach's stunning *Italian Concerto* and *Sonata for Flute and Harpsichord in A*.

On **Tuesday 28 February** the New London Singers conducted by Ivor Setterfield performs a programme of Baroque choral masterworks including Bach's monumental motet *Jesu meine Freude*, Schütz's *Magnificat*, and works by Purcell and Monteverdi.

The third concert in the series on **Tuesday 28 March** is given by virtuoso recorder player and period instrument specialist Martin Feinstein directing his ensemble

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS

the Feinstein Ensemble in a performance of *Trio Sonatas* by Bach and Vivaldi and Concertos by Telemann and Vivaldi.

The series ends on **Tuesday 25 April** when the Belmont Ensemble of London conducted by Peter Gilbert Dyson performs Vivaldi's *La Tempesta di Mare* Violin Concerto, excerpts from Vivaldi's Motet *Nisi Dominus*, his Flute Concerto *La Notte* and Handel's *Water Music Suite in G*.

Combined concert and dinner tickets include a complimentary glass of wine and offer unbeatable value for money at £17. They can be bought online at www.smitf.org or via the Box Office on 020 7839 8362. Concert-only tickets cost £10.

Full series programme:

Tuesday 31 January

6.30pm

Bite-Sized Baroque

Jacques Hotteterre - Prelude in G for Flute, 'Dans ces déserts paisibles' (In these tranquil deserts)

Jacques Hotteterre - Prelude in G minor for Flute and Continuo, 'Pourquoi doux Rossignol?' (Why, sweet nightingale?)

François Couperin - 'Le Rossignol en amour' for Flute and Harpsichord (the enamoured nightingale)

Jacques Duphy - 'La du Tailly', 'La de Casaubon', 'La de Drummond' for Flute and Harpsichord

Louis Couperin - Passacaille in G minor for Harpsichord

J S Bach - Italian Concerto in F for Harpsichord

J S Bach - Sonata for Flute and Harpsichord in A

Katy Bircher Baroque Flute

James Johnstone Harpsichord

Tuesday 28 February

6.30pm

Bite-Sized Baroque

A programme of Baroque choral masterworks including Bach's monumental motet *Jesu meine Freude*, Schütz's *Magnificat*, and works by Purcell and Monteverdi

New London Singers

Ivor Setterfield Conductor

Tuesday 28 March

6.30pm

Bite-Sized Baroque

Bach - Trio Sonata for Flute, Violin and Continuo in D

Handel - Trio Sonata for Flute, Violin and Continuo in B minor

Vivaldi - Concerto for Recorder and Oboe in G minor

Telemann - Concerto for Recorder, Oboe and Violin in A minor

Vivaldi - Concerto for Flute and Violin in D

Feinstein Ensemble

Martin Feinstein Flute/Recorder/Director

Tuesday 25 April

6.30pm

Bite-Sized Baroque

Handel - Water Music Suite in G

Vivaldi - Violin Concerto 'La Tempesta di Mare'

Vivaldi - Flute Concerto 'La Notte'

Vivaldi - excerpts from Motet 'Nisi Dominus'

Belmont Ensemble of London

Peter Gilbert-Dyson Conductor

For more information, images of the church and performances and enquiries about press tickets please contact Quintilla Hughes on quintilla.hughes@smitf.org or 020 7766 1130.

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Notes to Editors

- St Martin-in-the-Fields, with over 350 concerts a year, is one of the busiest venues in the country. St Martin's **Concerts by Candlelight** series is world-renowned, drawing visitors from all over the world who are attracted by St Martin's superb acoustics, intimate and yet impressive surroundings and outstanding musicians. Concerts take place on Tuesdays and every Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7.30pm and include Early and Baroque Music, chamber and world music, song and piano recitals. For more information on St Martin-in-the-Fields go to www.smitf.org
- **James Johnstone (Harpisichord)** has recorded and performed throughout Europe and the United States as a soloist and continuo player. In recent years he has given recitals in the UK, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Israel, Denmark and Colombia. He has recorded four solo CDs - 'John Blow's Anthology', Orlando Gibbons (Deutsche Schallplattenkritik Prize), Bach Organ Works on the Müller organ, Waalse Kerk, Amsterdam, and Ercole Pasquini complete keyboard works. He directs his own chamber group, Ciaccona, and recently joined the UK based chamber ensemble Florilegium. He teaches early keyboards at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and Trinity College of Music in London.
- **Katy Bircher (Baroque Flute/Recorder)** read music at Magdalen College, Oxford and completed her studies with Lisa Beznosiuk at the Royal College of Music where she won the Century Prize for Early Music. She is now well established as a specialist of early flutes, performing in the UK, the United States and the Far East as orchestral musician and soloist. She appears regularly with such groups as the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the Gabrieli Consort, La Serenissima and the English Concert.
- Playing on both modern and period instruments, the **Feinstein Ensemble's** performances and recordings of the Baroque repertoire have been acclaimed internationally. The ensemble performs a regular season of London concerts, broadcasts for BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM and has toured in most parts of the world. They have recorded CDs for NAXOS and BLACK BOX MUSIC and have just completed a groundbreaking recording of Bach's six **Brandenburg Concerti** for BBC Television.
- **Martin Feinstein** is establishing himself as one of this country's leading flautists and recorder players. Following studies at the Royal College of Music, Martin won a German Government Scholarship to complete his training in Hamburg with the great German flautist Karlheinz Zoeller. While in Germany, Martin was able to develop his already keen interest in the study of

Baroque performance. After working in Hamburg and Frankfurt with the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra and Ensemble Modern, he returned to London to form the Feinstein Ensemble and now works full-time with his group, touring, broadcasting and recording.

- **New London Singers**, founded in 1963, comprises about 30 talented amateur singers who have built a reputation for singing a wide-ranging repertoire of both 'a cappella' and accompanied music from the medieval period to the present day. The Choir has won major prizes in competitions such as 'Rencontres Internationales de Chant Choral' in Tours and 'Let the People Sing' in the UK.

Together with their conductor and musical director, **Ivor Setterfield**, the choir released its first CD in 2000, Rachmaninov Vespers, which was recorded after an exhilarating performance of the work given in the Greek Orthodox Cathedral in London. They have also recorded a collection of Christmas Choral Music, 'Sweet was the Song', and most recently released a critically acclaimed recording of Martin's Mass for Double Choir and Pizzetti's Requiem.

- The **Belmont Ensemble of London** was founded by its Musical Director **Peter Gilbert-Dyson**, and made its highly successful debut at St John's, Smith Square in 1991, winning instant critical acclaim "An impressive and enjoyable evening". The Ensemble celebrated its tenth anniversary year in 2001, and yet receives no subsidies, relying purely on enterprising programming and box office receipts. Belmont Ensemble was pioneering in its performances of Baroque Music at St Martin-in-the-Fields in the early 1990s where they have now given literally hundreds of concerts and attract a large international audiences; they are also regular performers at London's South Bank Centre. As well as performing in the capital, the Ensemble has appeared at numerous Festivals and Music Societies around the country, from Somerset to Sussex and Ludlow to Northampton. They have broadcast on BBC Radio 3, Classic FM and Channel 4 Television and have several CD recordings to their credit.