



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Mozart 250

Tuesday 24 – Saturday 28 January 2006

St Martin-in-the-Fields celebrates the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth with a week of special concerts that will pay homage to the composer and demonstrate why his music above all others has stood the test of time. Karen Price, Concerts Manager at St Martin's, says "Many venues will be celebrating this anniversary but with arguably the best acoustics in London, St Martin's is the perfect place to hear the great variety of Mozart's music from his youthful and playful Flute Quartets to his great unfinished masterpiece, the *Requiem*. And as Mozart performed on the St Martin's original organ, we have a rare and special connection with the composer."

Beginning on Tuesday 24 January, period instrument specialists the **Feinstein Ensemble**, directed by virtuoso flautist Martin Feinstein, performs Mozart's Flute Quartets:

Tuesday 24 January, 7.30pm

Mozart 250: Flute Quartets

Mozart - Flute Quartet in C

Bach - Fugues from the Art of Fugue

Mozart - Divertimento No 1 in D

Mozart - Flute Quartet in G

Purcell - Chacony in G minor

Mozart - Flute Quartet in D

Tickets: £15 £12 £8

On Thursday 26 January the **Rautio Piano Trio** and members of the **New London Soloists Orchestra**, conducted by **Ivor Setterfield**, perform a variety of Mozart's chamber music including the Piano and Oboe Quartets, *Piano Trio in C* and *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*:

Thursday 26 January, 7.30pm

Mozart 250: Mozart by Candlelight

Mozart - Piano Trio in C

Mozart - Eine kleine Nachtmusik

Mozart - Piano Concerto No 13

Mozart - Oboe Quartet

Mozart - Piano Quartet

Tickets: £18 £15 £12 £8 £6

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS

On Friday 27 January, Mozart's birthday, **London Octave** with flautist William Bennett, Marisa Robles (harp), Lorraine McAslan (violin), Norbert Blume (viola) and Dietrich Bethge (director) perform some of his greatest orchestral masterpieces including the ever popular *Symphony No 40 in G minor* and the *Sinfonia Concertante for Violin, Viola and Orchestra in E flat*. Donald Sumpter will give readings from Mozart's letters to introduce each piece. Holders of £22.50 and £18.50 tickets will be able to celebrate with a complimentary glass of wine in the Café in the Crypt during the interval or after the concert.

Friday 27 January, 7.30pm

Mozart 250: Celebrating the Anniversary of Mozart's Birth

With Donald Sumpter as Mozart

Mozart - Readings from his Letters

Mozart - Symphony No 40 in G minor

Mozart - Andantino from Concerto for Flute and Harp in C

Mozart - Sinfonia Concertante for Violin, Viola & Orchestra in E flat

Mozart - Flute Concerto in G

Tickets: £22.50 £18.50 £14 £10 £6

The festival closes in appropriate fashion on **Saturday 28 January** with the composer's unfinished masterpiece, the moving and tragic *Requiem*, performed by the **Belmont Ensemble of London** and **English Chamber Choir** conducted by **Peter Gilbert-Dyson**:

Saturday 28 January, 7.30pm

Mozart 250: Requiem

Mozart - Overture from The Marriage of Figaro

Mozart - Piano Concerto No 21 in C 'Elvira Madigan'

Mozart - Requiem

English Chamber Choir

Belmont Ensemble of London

Sam Haywood Piano

Peter Gilbert-Dyson Conductor

Tickets: £22 £18 £14 £10 £6

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.

ENDS

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

- 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.
- Formed in 2004, The **Rautio Piano Trio** is emerging as one of the finest young ensembles of its generation. The Trio was chosen to join the Tillett Trust's *Young Artists' Platform* scheme in February 2005. They hold a Leverhulme Chamber Music Fellowship at the Royal Academy of Music and have recently won an MBF Ensemble Award.

Already well known in their own right as soloists, they hold an array of awards that include the Musicians Benevolent Fund, Worshipful Company of Musicians, Countess of Munster Trust and Philharmonia Award/Martin Musical Scholarship Fund and are recipients of scholarships and numerous prizes at the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music.

The Trio has performed at venues throughout the UK, including the Harrogate Festival, National Portrait Gallery, Fairfield Hall, Holywell Music Room and St. James's Piccadilly. Their busy forthcoming schedule includes appearances at St John's Smith Square, St. Georges Brandon Hill, Leeds International Concert Season, Warwick, Crediton, Honiton festivals and Duffield Festival where they will be premiering a new work by composer Thomas Hyde.

- Founded by cellist **Dietrich Bethge** in 1988 from London's leading musicians, **London Octave** aims to approach the Baroque and Classical repertoire in a fresh and vital manner, often without a conductor. Through their regular London season at St Martin-in-the-Fields, the South Bank and on BBC Radio 3, London Octave has attracted a loyal following of concert goers. London Octave's recent CD, *Better Baroque*, featuring well known Baroque masterpieces, was described as, "an absolute gem full of sparkle and wit" in Metro. Soloists appearing with the ensemble during this and last season include James Bowman, William Bennett, Yvgeny Sudbin, Neil Black, Marisa Robles, Crispian Steele Perkins, Lorraine McAslan.
- 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 National Federation of Music Societies*. 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, attracting large international audiences to their concerts; 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.