

Music in the State Chamber

Music in the State Chamber began as Music in the Crossing at 8pm on Sunday 16 May 1976 when the Southwell Singers gave a concert beneath the Minster's central tower. The concert was arranged by their baritone Alan Thorpe as a one-off fundraiser for the Minster Choir but a regular series quickly emerged, organised by Alan Thorpe for over twenty years.

In the 1990s concerts moved to the Great Hall (now referred to as the State Chamber) with six concerts each year on Sunday evenings at 8pm, usually for about an hour. Now held at the earlier time of 7.30pm with refreshments, the concerts are held to provide financial support to the Minster Choirs as part of the fundraising activity of the Southwell Minster Choir Association.

The series' artistic policy is to provide a platform for local musicians and especially for young artists.

Admission to all concerts is free with a retiring collection. Further information can be obtained from Jonathan Allsopp at adom@southwellminster.org.uk.

Why SMCA needs your support

It is increasingly difficult for cathedrals to maintain the choral foundations that are a unique part of Britain's heritage. Southwell is no exception.

The purpose of **Music in the State Chamber** is to raise funds for the **Southwell Minster Choir Association** (registered charity no. 1000584) whose activities support the continuation and development of the 1000-year-old choral tradition at the Minster.

This year's income will be used by SMCA to help with the care of the choristers in providing support for their singing lessons, travel bursaries and tours.

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 www.southwellminster.org

MUSIC ^{IN THE} STATE CHAMBER 2023



Supporting the work of Southwell Minster Choir Association

**Chamber concerts in the historic State Chamber
of the Archbishop's Palace**

Sundays at 7.30pm | Refreshments from 7pm

Free admission with retiring collection (Suggested donation £5)

14 May Illuminate Women's Music with Trio Sonorit 

Illuminate Women's Music was established in 2017 by composer Dr Angela Slater, and seeks to celebrate the creativity of women both as composers and performers, as well as demonstrating the rich historical legacy of music written by women. They join forces with Trio Sonorit  for a programme of works for piano trio that covers a large geographical and historical span, including four new works, and works from the US, Spain, and Lithuania. Trio Sonorit  have appeared in recitals for the Piano Trio Society, King's Lynn Music Society and given live performances and interviews as part of Classic Women Future Awards.

18 June Cathedral Choristers

We are all extremely proud of our Cathedral Choristers, who as well as singing at a professional standard several times a week, also play a wide variety of instruments. Join us for our annual showcase of our young musicians, which will include choral, vocal and instrumental items.

9 July Southwell String Quartet

The Southwell String Quartet (David Wood, Catharine Lester, Andrew Chadwick and Margaret Chadwick) return to explore the beginnings of the Classical and Romantic eras of quartet writing. They trace the journey of the string quartet from its origins with Alessandro Scarlatti in early eighteenth-century Italy, through Moravia and Joseph Haydn's Austria, to the Leipzig and Berlin of Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn, ending with the young Sergei Rachmaninoff's rare and rediscovered string quartet movements, composed towards the end of the nineteenth century. *Join us for a drinks reception from 6.30pm in the Walled Garden of the Archbishop's Palace (weather permitting).*

10 September Stephen Cooper *baritone*

Stephen Cooper is a member of Southwell Minster Choir, and an experienced recital and oratorio soloist. Paul Provost is Rector Chori at Southwell Minster, where he oversees the Minster's music provision. Their programme will include Claude Debussy's *Ariettes Oubli es*, the rarely performed *Moods of the Sea* by Ethel Smyth, and a world premiere live performance of Simon Mold's *A Peakland Suite*. Stephen and Paul recorded this song cycle in 2019 for a CD on the Heritage label. Four years on, they are delighted finally to be giving their first live recital together.

8 October Stephen Johnson *piano*

Stephen Johnson studied Music at Newcastle University and later at the Royal College of Music. Stephen's work has, since that time, combined freelance session work and teaching, along with accompanying Cantamus Girls' Training Choir. Now largely retired from session music, he remains an active teacher and pianist, working with many of his former students who are now themselves professional musicians. His programme includes works by Schubert, Chopin, and Beethoven's '*Appassionata*' *Sonata*.

12 November Chanting, Hunting and Parlour Songs: Music for Chapter House and State Chamber

David Machell (baritone and piano), Yvonne Gerrard (soprano and flute) and Katharine Dryden (mezzo-soprano) present a programme charting the history of music making at the Minster. They begin with some remarkable musical graffiti found in our Chapter House, before performing some hunting songs, reflecting the Archbishop's Palace's status as a popular royal hunting venue. They finish with exploring the re-emergence of music making in the Edwardian period, with songs and parlour songs, including three of Edward Elgar's *Sea Pictures*.

10 December Carols in the State Chamber

Join the Cathedral Choristers for an evening of carols in the atmospheric setting of the State Chamber. This ever-popular event will be accompanied by drinks and nibbles for the festive season, and everyone will have the chance to sing some Christmas favourites! Please note: this event is ticketed, and tickets will go on sale in the autumn.

