

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, 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 2024



Supporting the work of Southwell Minster Choir Association

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

Sundays at 7.30pm

Free admission with retiring collection (Suggested donation £10)

12 May Sapphie Johnson *violin*, Fleur Mauxion *piano* and Sarah Huson-Whyte *cello*

Sapphie Johnson (age 12) is currently studying violin at the Royal Academy of Music Junior Department; she is a member of the National Children's Orchestra, and recently won the strings final of the Nottingham Young Musician of the Year. Fleur Mauxion (age 8) gave her first international performance on piano aged 7, has performed in Paris and Istanbul, and recently studied on the Chetham's Piano Summer School. These two outstanding young musicians are joined by local cellist Sarah Huson-Whyte, to perform solos and music for piano trio.

This concert will be preceded by a drinks reception from 6.30pm in the Walled Garden (accessed through the Archbishop's Palace), to which all are welcome.

9 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.

7 July Alex Bradford *piano*

Alex Bradford is currently studying piano at the Royal Northern College of Music with Frank Wibaut. He gave his first recital aged 14 at St Mary Magdalene in Newark, and recently returned to perform Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No 2*. He also enjoys singing, and recently sang Ligeti's *Requiem* as part of the RNCM Chamber Choir at the BBC Proms. His programme includes music by Kapustin, Prokofiev, and works from the Classical period.

8 September Benjamin Staniforth *baritone*

Benjamin Staniforth is a Nottingham-born tenor studying music at University of York. Formerly, Benjamin was a choral scholar at St. Mary's in the Lace Market, the winner of Nottingham Young Musician 2021 and the winner of Southwell Choral Society bursary 2021. He is currently focusing on his solo singing with a mind to becoming an opera singer in the future. His recital includes songs by Spanish composers, alongside other more well-known repertoire.

13 October James Beddoe *tenor*

Tenor James Beddoe (a former Southwell Chorister) joins Jonathan Allsopp to present Gerald Finzi's five-movement cycle *Dies natalis*: a rapturous setting of texts by the metaphysical poet Thomas Traherne that took the composer fifteen years to complete. They will begin the programme with a selection of songs featuring writers or drawing inspiration from the East Midlands.

10 November Matthew Spillett *tenor*

Currently a Lay Clerk at Southwell Minster, Matthew Spillett began singing as a chorister and choral scholar at Peterborough Cathedral, before training at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. He subsequently held posts at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, the Birmingham Oratory and Guildford Cathedral, alongside a career that has seen him perform throughout Europe and America. Matthew will present a programme of German and English song, including Beethoven's *An die ferne Geliebte*, Ian Venables's *Love's Voice* and Shiela McQuattie's *From the Percy Reliques*.

8 December Carols in the State Chamber

Join the Lay Clerks of the Cathedral Choir 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 (£12; U18 free) will go on sale from September; please email jonathan.allsopp@southwellminster.org.uk.

