



St Martin-in-the-Fields announced as new London Home for the Monteverdi Choir & Orchestras

Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Founder and Artistic Director of the Monteverdi ensembles, to conduct three concerts in first season at St Martin-in-the-Fields.

St Martin-in-the-Fields today announce that it will be the London Home of the **Monteverdi Choir & Orchestras**. This marks the first time that the three ensembles – the **Monteverdi Choir**, **English Baroque Soloists** and **Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique** – will have a home in the UK capital.

The magnificent acoustic and central London location makes St Martin-in-the-Fields the ideal venue for the world-renowned Monteverdi ensembles. St Martin-in-the-Fields will present three concerts with Gardiner and his musicians this season, starting with a performance of Berlioz's beautiful Christmas oratorio *L'enfance du Christ*, 11 December, with soloists **Ann Hallenberg**, **Lionel Lhote** and **William Thomas**.

Members of the Monteverdi Apprentices Programme will be given performance opportunities during the season and the organisation will make use of the building's facilities to host a range of events and workshops.

Chris Denton, Chief Executive, St Martin-in-the-Fields, commented:

"St Martin-in-the-Fields is the ideal venue for historically-inspired performance and choral music, and is, therefore, delighted to welcome the Monteverdi Choir & Orchestras, a truly great body of musicians lead by their visionary founder John Eliot Gardiner. We look forward to many great performances to come, and to welcoming their Apprentices."

Dr Rosa Solinas, General Director & Chief Executive, MCO, commented:

"We are thankful to have been invited by St Martin-in-the-Fields to play a major role in their ambitious new venture. There is great synergy between our two organisations and – after many years of searching – we are thrilled to have a beautiful home in London from which to engage with our beloved audiences and supporters, and make meaningful and lasting connections with the next generation of musicians."

John Eliot Gardiner and MCO's other two concerts this season are a programme of Haydn and Mozart, 23 April 2022, and a performance of works by Bach, Schütz and Schein on 16 June 2022.

In addition to its partnership with the Monteverdi ensembles, St Martin-in-the-Fields has also unveiled its Christmas programme which is opened by The King's Singers performing a collection of festive favourites from around the world combined with lesser-known gems, 30 November. Other highlights include Stile Antico performing *A Renaissance Christmas*, 3 December; two performances of Handel's *Messiah*, the first with The Sixteen and Harry Christophers, 7 December, and the other with Academy of St Martin in the Fields and Andrew Earis, 16 December.

Tickets for the Christmas concerts are on sale via the St Martin-in-the-Fields website www.smitf.org

All press enquiries to Simon Millward at Premier PR
simon.millward@premiercomms.com | +44(0)7990507310

Notes to Editors

St Martin-in-the-Fields

St Martin-in-the-Fields is an architectural jewel sitting at the corner of one of the world's most famous squares. Presenting over 300 concerts each year, St Martin's is transforming its artistic and cultural offer, and attracting new audiences, as it broadens the roster of artists it presents (including early career artists) and the repertoire performed in the beautiful and acoustically superb setting of the church.

www.smitf.org

The Monteverdi Choir and Orchestras

The three Monteverdi ensembles – the Monteverdi Choir, English Baroque Soloists and Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique - are a leading force on the international music scene.

World-class instrumentalists and singers come together to share in the distinctive vision of its Founder and Artistic Director, John Eliot Gardiner, in ground-breaking projects that span eight centuries of musical masterpieces.

From the monumental to the intimate, from sacred music to opera, from early music to the 20th century, often in unexpected combinations, each project strives for excellence. Possessed of an instantly recognisable core sound, the three ensembles are in constant renewal and evolution.

Alongside its performance and project work, The Monteverdi Choir and Orchestras (MCO) is committed to providing opportunities for professional development and education, as part of a passionate belief in nurturing future generations of players and singers.

The Monteverdi Apprentice Programme enables outstanding young musicians to spend an entire year training and performing with MCO's three world-class ensembles, under the direction of John Eliot Gardiner.

<https://monteverdi.co.uk/>

HIGHLIGHTS OF ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME INCLUDE:

Tuesday 30 November

7.30pm

Christmas with the King's Singers

The King's Singers

Friday 3 December

7.00pm

A Renaissance Christmas

Stile Antico

Tuesday 7 December

7.00pm

Handel's Messiah

The Sixteen

Harry Christophers Conductor

Saturday 11 December

7.30pm

Berlioz – L'enfance du Christ

Monteverdi Choir

Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique

John Eliot Gardiner Conductor

Thursday 16 December

7.30pm

Handel's Messiah

St Martin's Voices

Academy of St Martin in the Fields

Andrew Earis Conductor

Friday 17 December

6.00pm and 8.00pm

Christmas with the Academy

St Martin's Voices

Academy of St Martin in the Fields

Andrew Earis Conductor

2022 CONCERTS WITH THE MONTEVERDI CHOIR AND ORCHESTRAS

Sat 23 April 2022

Sir John Eliot Gardiner conducts Mozart and Haydn

Haydn – Symphony No. 103 in E-flat major

Mozart – Sinfonia Concertante K.364

Mozart – Symphony No. 39 in E-flat major K.543

English Baroque Soloists

Sir John Eliot Gardiner conductor

Thursday 16 June 2022

Monteverdi Choir: Bach and his predecessors

Programme to include

Schein - Zion spricht, der Herr hat mich verlassen

Schein - Da Jakob vollendet (1623)

Schütz - Auf dem Gebirge, SWV 396 (1648)

Bach - Christ lag in Todesbanden, BWV 4

Schütz - Musikalische Exequien, SWV 279-81 (1635-6)

Monteverdi Choir

English Baroque Soloists
Sir John Eliot Gardiner conductor