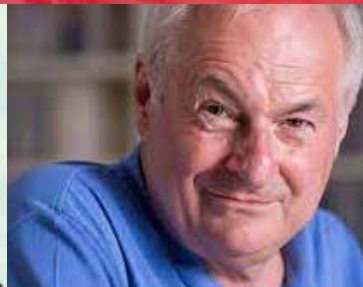


OSj ORCHESTRA
OF ST JOHN'S

The professional orchestra
resident at SJE Arts Oxford
and Dorchester Abbey

Spring and Summer Concerts

January to July 2024



osj.org.uk

Saturday 20 January, 6pm
Dorchester Abbey

Concert of classical and jazz music by autistic performers

We are delighted to present another inclusive concert featuring talented young performers from across the spectrum of neurodiversity, including the phenomenal pianist Derek Paravicini.

Derek Paravicini piano
Ashleigh Turley piano
Poppy McGhee violin

Saturday 17 February, 7pm
Dorchester Abbey

Themes of Childhood

Kodaly *Dances of Galanta*
Gliere *Concerto for coloratura soprano*
Gorecki *Symphony of sorrowful songs*
Ravel *Mother Goose*

Childhood inspires the music of tonight's concert. Kodaly's gypsy-folk inspired dances reflect his boyhood home, whilst Ravel's playful *Mother Goose Suite* has enchanted generations. Soprano Hannah Davey performs Gorecki's heartrending contemplation of the love between mother and child, alongside Gliere's astonishing vocal symphony which treats the voice as an instrument of boundless possibilities.

Hannah Davey soprano
Orchestra of St John's



Saturday 24 February, 6pm
SJE Arts, Oxford

Ravel

Debussy *Trois Chansons*
Gliere *Concerto for coloratura soprano*
Ravel *Trois Chansons*
Ravel *Le Tombeau de Couperin*

In this delightful evening of music and song, OSJ Voices perform two pieces for a cappella choir by Debussy and Ravel, whilst soprano Hannah Davey once again performs the vocal acrobatics of Gliere's incredible concerto. The evening ends with Ravel's poignant suite, composed between 1914 and 1917, each of the six movements is dedicated to friends killed at the front.

Hannah Davey soprano
OSJ Voices
Orchestra of St John's

THE MUSIC IN MY LIFE

Wednesday 6 March, 7pm
SJE Arts, Oxford

Prue Leith

Much-loved restaurateur and broadcaster Dame Prue Leith talks about her love of music, with her chosen pieces played live by the Orchestra of St John's.

Derek Paravicini piano
Hannah Davey soprano
Orchestra of St John's
supported by CRITCHLEYS



Saturday 23 March, 6pm
SJE Arts, Oxford

Saturday 30 March, 6pm Dorchester Abbey St Matthew Passion Bach

A highlight of our musical year, we celebrate Easter with our performances of JS Bach's sacred oratorio. Featuring some of Bach's most delicate chorales and rousing choruses, this depiction of the last few days of Jesus's life is as powerful today as it was when it was written nearly 300 years ago.

Evangelist Robert Jenkins
Christus George Roberts
Pilate Frazer Scott
Soprano Hannah Davey
Alto Charlotte Tetley
Tenor Xavier Hetherington
Bass (Arias) Jacob Harrison
OSJ Voices
Oxford Youth Choir
Orchestra of St John's

THE MUSIC IN MY LIFE



Thursday 4 April, 7pm
SJE Arts, Oxford
Ben Okri

Booker Prize-winning author and poet Sir Ben Okri discusses the importance of music in his life, accompanied by the Orchestra of St John's.

Hannah Davey soprano
Orchestra of St John's
supported by CRITCHLEYS

Saturday 13 April, 7pm
Dorchester Abbey

Gershwin and Tchaikovsky

Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue*
Gershwin *Porgy and Bess* excerpts
Tchaikovsky *Symphony no 4*

We guarantee a lot of fun at this evening's concert! Japanese pianist Maki Sekiya brings Gershwin's fabulous *Rhapsody in Blue* to life. She is joined by soprano Danielle Mahaillet and bass Chuma Sijeqa who will perform much-loved excerpts from *Porgy and Bess*. The evening is rounded off with Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony, this most dramatic of works representing fate and the search for happiness.

Maki Sekiya piano
Danielle Mahaillet soprano
Chuma Sijeqa bass
Orchestra of St John's

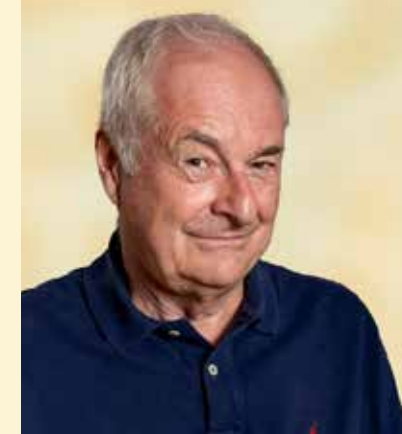
Saturday 27 April, 6pm
SJE Arts, Oxford

Mahler

Blumine from *Symphony no 1*
Songs of the Wayfarer
Im Abendrot for choir
Symphony No 9 4th movement

The genius of Gustav Mahler is celebrated with four pieces spanning his lifetime. Movements from his first and final symphonies go hand in hand with *Songs of the Wayfarer*, composed in his early

THE MUSIC IN MY LIFE



Thursday 2 May, 7pm
SJE Arts, Oxford
Paul Gambaccini

Radio and television presenter Paul Gambaccini joins us in conversation, with the Orchestra of St John's playing the pieces that mean the most to him.

Hannah Davey soprano
Orchestra of St John's
supported by CRITCHLEYS

twenties, and *Im Abendrot* for a cappella choir. British baritone Alexander Bower-Brown joins the Orchestra and OSJ Voices to perform this most resplendent of music.

Alexander Bower-Brown bass
Orchestra of St John's
OSJ Voices

Saturday 11 May, 6pm
SJE Arts, Oxford

Schumann and Wagner

Mozart *Marriage of Figaro* overture
Schumann *Piano concerto*
Wagner *Siegfried Idyll*

Inspired by his wife Clara, Schumann's tender piano concerto was a true labour of love, written over a four-year period. His only completed concerto for the instrument, it remains one of his most popular works and tonight will be played by OSJ Artist in Residence Rupert Egerton-Smith. The evening culminates with the ever-wonderful *Siegfried Idyll*.

Rupert Egerton-Smith piano
Orchestra of St John's

Saturday 18 May, 7pm
Dorchester Abbey

Schumann and Mozart

Mozart *Marriage of Figaro* overture

Schumann *Piano concerto*

Mozart *Symphony No 41 'Jupiter'*

Mozart's popular operatic overture sits hand-in-hand with his triumphant final symphony, a work of huge breadth which showcases his sheer brilliance at every turn. OSJ Artist in Residence Rupert Egerton-Smith performs **Schumann's** only piano concerto, a glorious piece where the composer's great love for his wife Clara shines through.

Rupert Egerton-Smith *piano*
Orchestra of St John's

Saturday 8 June, 7pm
Dorchester Abbey

Brahms and Glazunov

Glazunov *Autumn from 'The Seasons'*

Glazunov *Violin concerto*

Brahms *Symphony No 1*

Famously described as 'Beethoven's Tenth', **Brahms'** masterful first symphony took him at least 14 years to write. This powerful work sits alongside two pieces from the Russian composer **Alexander Glazunov**, including Autumn from his ballet *The Seasons*. Gifted young performer Elodie Chousmer-Howelles showcases the technical brilliance required for **Glazunov's** dazzling *Violin Concerto*.

Elodie Chousmer-Howelles *violin*
Orchestra of St John's

Saturday 15 June, 6pm
SJE Arts, Oxford

Tchaikovsky and Glazunov

Glazunov *Autumn from 'The Seasons'*

Glazunov *Violin concerto*

Tchaikovsky *Autumn from 'The Seasons'*

Tchaikovsky *Nutcracker Suite*

Great friends **Glazunov** and **Tchaikovsky** both conjured the changing of the seasons in these two delightful works inspired by the Russian autumn. Gifted young performer Elodie Chousmer-Howelles performs **Glazunov's** awe-inspiring Violin Concerto, and the evening is rounded off with **Tchaikovsky's** much-loved *Nutcracker Suite*.

Elodie Chousmer-Howelles *violin*
Orchestra of St John's

Saturday 13 July, 7pm
Town Hall, Oxford

Carmina Burana Youth Music Twinning Concert

We are very pleased to announce OSJ's inaugural Youth Music Twinning Project; a celebration of youth, music and friendship. In this new collaboration, gifted musicians aged 12 to 23 from Oxford and from Oxford's twin cities past and present will come together for a week of music making, led throughout by John Lubbock.

The project will culminate in a performance of *Carmina Burana* with the OSJ Voices in Oxford Town Hall. Keep an eye on our website for updates.

OSJ Voices
Orchestra of St John's

OSJ ORCHESTRA OF ST JOHN'S

Tickets: www.osj.org.uk

Email: admin@osj.org.uk

Support OSJ

When you buy a ticket, please consider adding a donation to support our Music for Autism, hospital Serenading and Young Artists programmes.

FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR DISABLED AND FOR NHS STAFF.
PLEASE EMAIL admin@osj.org.uk

"Our aim is to bring orchestral music of the highest quality to a wide range of different audiences, especially to those who don't have easy access to it. The best has to be there for all."

John Lubbock OBE, Artistic Director

We are enormously grateful to our sponsors: David and Marie-Jane Barnett, Alex and William De Winton, Rick and Amanda Rowse, Ian and Caroline Laing, Michael Pearnag, Sir Martin and Lady Elise Smith, Bernard and Sarah Taylor, and we thank Critchleys for their support of our new 'The Music in my Life' series.