J.S. BACH’S CHRISTMAS ORATORIO
Conducted by Timothy Byram-Wigfield

8 December at 7:30pm (doors open 6:30pm)

Bach’s Christmas Oratorio was conceived as a set of six separate Cantatas written to celebrate the whole period of the Christmas festivities of 1734-35 in Leipzig, starting with Part I on Christmas Day, and ending with Part VI on Epiphany (January 6th). The performances were divided between the two churches for which he was Musical Director; Parts I, II, IV and VI were given at the Thomaskirche, and Parts III and V at the Nicolaikirche.

For this performance the Choir of St George’s Chapel will perform Parts I, II and III, and will be joined by the internationally renowned Charivari Agréable Simfonie, Musical Director Kah-Ming Ng and Soprano soloist Eleanor Bowers-Jolly. All other solos will be performed by members of the Choir.

Performance time will be approximately three hours with one interval.

FESTIVO
An evening of seasonal music and words introduced by Martin Stanford, Anchorman for Sky News.
15 December at 7:30pm (doors open 6:30pm)

St George’s Chapel Choir will perform carols by Cornelius, Gardner, Manz, Rutter and Whitacre amongst others, and will be joined by Staines Brass, performing as both a ten piece ensemble and as a full brass band under the direction of Melvin White. This year we feature Darren Hardy on the Northumbrian Pipes playing medieval carols. The concert centre piece will be extracts from Handel’s Messiah and by popular request, more ‘carols for all’ are included in the programme, that will run without an interval to end at approximately 9:20pm.

Christmas Services, recorded information 01753 865538
Pre-performance events will take place on each evening in the Vicars' Hall.

**CHRISTMAS ORATORIO** – Pre-performance talk 8 December from 6:30pm

Dr Tom Czepiel BMus, DPhil (Oxon), PGDipLATHE (Oxon), a distinguished musicologist and Professor of the history of music at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, will give a talk on Bach’s Christmas Oratorio at 6:45pm.

Attendees will be served Christmas punch, or non alcoholic equivalent, and warm mince pies.

Tickets are £7.50 – concessions do not apply.

**FESTIVO** – Pre-performance reception 15 December from 6:30pm

This popular way to begin the St George’s concert experience enables you to enjoy the warmth of the ancient Vicars’ Hall whilst you have a glass of hot mulled wine, or non alcoholic equivalent, with hot and cold canapés and warm mince pies. Whilst you browse the contents of your concert programme (on sale from the voluntary stewards), seasonal music will be played on the grand piano by the Organ Scholar, Adam Mathias. Tickets are £12.50 – concessions do not apply.

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Programmes purchased at these Concerts will contain a Chapel Shop 10% discount voucher for goods purchased on the night. Also a 5% additional discount voucher on tickets for Bach’s St Matthew Passion to be performed at 7pm on 24 March 2012.