

**osj**  
ORCHESTRA OF ST JOHN'S

ORCHESTRATING AUTISTIC LIVES



# Spring Concerts

January to May 2025

**ALEXANDER  
ARMSTRONG**

**The Music in my Life**

Tuesday 8 April

Sheldonian Theatre

[osj.org.uk](http://osj.org.uk)

Saturday 18 January, 7pm  
Dorchester Abbey

## Vivaldi

*Gloria in d major RV589*  
The Seasons

Join us for all Seasons.

*"Springtime is upon us. The birds celebrate her return with festive song, and murmuring streams are softly caressed by the breezes"*

*"We hear the cuckoo's voice; Then sweet songs of the turtle dove and finch are heard. Soft breezes stir the air"*

*"The peasant celebrates with song and dance the harvest safely gathered in. The cup of Bacchus flows freely, and many find their relief in deep slumber"*

*"We feel the chill north winds course through the home despite the locked and bolted doors... this is winter, which nonetheless brings its own delights"*

Plus Vivaldi's dazzling *Gloria cantata*-mass, central to the choral repertoire.

Hannah Davey soprano  
Hannah Fraser-Mackenzie mezzo  
Deniz Sensoy violin  
OSJ Voices  
Orchestra of St John's



Saturday 8 February, 6pm  
Dorchester Abbey

## Concert of classical and jazz music by autistic performers

Following the great success of this concert last year, another inclusive evening with Derek Paravicini and friends featuring young performers across the spectrum of neurodiversity.

Guest appearances  
Michael Howell from Channel 4's 'The Piano'  
Derek Paravicini piano  
Ashleigh Turley piano with  
Hannah Davey soprano  
Poppy McGhee violin



Braimah Kanneh-Mason

Saturday 15 February, 7pm  
Dorchester Abbey

## Mendelssohn

*Violin concerto*  
*Hebrides Overture*  
*Italian Symphony*

*"Music is not made for the eyes, it is made for the ears."*

*"The essence of music is not to be found in notes and rhythms, but in emotions and feelings."*

*"Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent."*

A Classic lineup of three masterpieces by Mendelssohn. Starring in the violin concerto is Braimah Kanneh-Mason, the second oldest of the Kanneh-Masons, the prodigious clan from Nottingham.

Braimah Kanneh-Mason violin  
Orchestra of St John's

Saturday 15 March, 7pm  
Dorchester Abbey

## France and Spain

Sarasate *Zigeunerweisen*  
Rodrigo concerto for Aranjuez  
De Falla *El amor brujo*  
Ravel *Bolero*

Ravel's most famous composition *Bolero*, Spanish-flavoured ballet score from 1928, is paired with the 1939 *Concerto for Aranjuez*, by far Rodrigo's best-known work.

De Falla's characterful 1925 ballet *El Amor Brujo* (*Love, the Magician*) is paired with Sarasate's *Gypsy Airs*; featuring Hungarian folk themes, it is the most popular of his pieces, containing both dazzling technical hurdles and sensuous melodies that have captivated violinists and audiences since it was first performed in 1878.

Poppy McGhee violin  
Nathaniel Merkies guitar  
Suzie Purkis soprano  
Orchestra of St John's



## THE MUSIC IN MY LIFE

Tuesday 8 April, 7pm  
Sheldonian Theatre

Supported by CRITCHLEYS

## Alexander Armstrong

Sue Cooke Interviewer

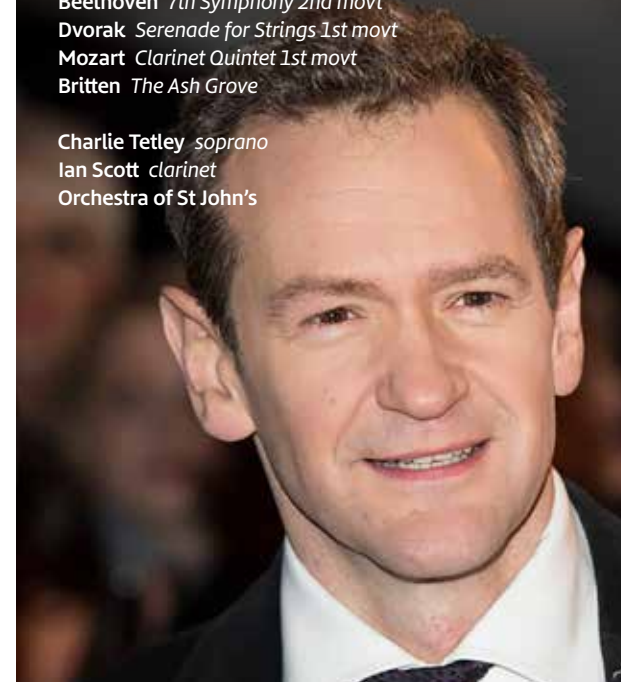
*"A terrific blend of fascinating conversation with varied, wonderfully-performed music"*

National treasure **Alexander Armstrong** is interviewed by **Sue Cook** (Crimewatch, Nationwide, Children in Need)

Alexander is a well-known face on television and radio all over the country thanks to his long-running successful career as a presenter and broadcaster. He's perhaps best known as the lead host of BBC quiz show, *Pointless*, and regularly pops up on our screens thanks to panel shows such as *Have I Got News For You* and *Would I Lie to You?* He's also adored for his comedy career and he's one half of the funny duo, *Armstrong and Miller*, alongside Ben Miller. He is also the much-loved Narrator of *Duggee* for pre-schoolers.

Bach *Erbarme Dich*  
Beethoven *7th Symphony 2nd movt*  
Dvorak *Serenade for Strings 1st movt*  
Mozart *Clarinet Quintet 1st movt*  
Britten *The Ash Grove*

Charlie Tetley soprano  
Ian Scott clarinet  
Orchestra of St John's



Alexander Armstrong

**Good Friday 18 April, 7pm**

Dorchester Abbey

**Saturday 19 April, 7pm**

SJE Arts, Oxford

## Fauré and Bach

**Fauré** *Cantique de Jean Racine*

**Bach** *Cantata 82 Ich habe genug*

**Fauré** *Requiem*



Fauré was a precociously brilliant composer. By his late teens, he had already developed his own unique and utterly assured musical voice. Nowhere is this better demonstrated than in his *Cantique de Jean Racine*. Composed in 1865, when Fauré was just twenty, it's very much a precursor to the *Requiem*.

Among the most widely performed choral works in the repertoire, the *Requiem* is generally considered the greatest achievement of its highly influential French composer.

*Ich habe genug*, a solo cantata for bass voice, was first performed in Leipzig in 1727 for the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is one of five cantatas written for this now little-known feast day.

**Belinda Gifford-Guy** *soprano*

**Alex Jones** *bass*

**OSJ Voices**

**Orchestra of St John's**

**Saturday 17 May, 7pm**

Dorchester Abbey

## Bach

**Brandenburg concerto no 3**

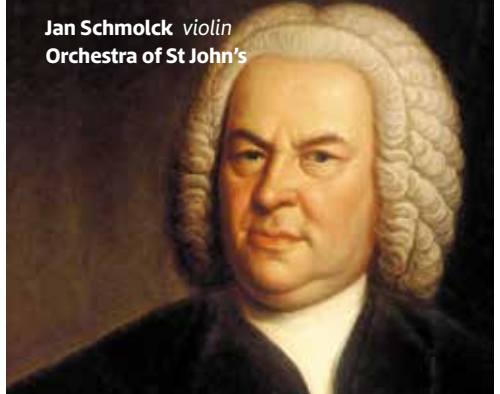
**Violin concerto in e major**

**Violin concerto in a minor**

**Brandenburg concerto no 6**

Near-supernatural in inspiration, and groundbreaking in their diversity of invention, Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos* stand among the greatest creative achievements of the 18th century. The two *Violin Concertos* feature OSJ's longtime leader, Jan Schmolck.

**Jan Schmolck** *violin*  
**Orchestra of St John's**



# OSJ

ORCHESTRA OF ST JOHN'S

*"Our aim is to bring 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 Peagram, 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.

Tickets: [www.osj.org.uk](http://www.osj.org.uk)

[admin@osj.org.uk](mailto:admin@osj.org.uk)

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

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