



NEWS RELEASE

St George's Bristol secures new funds for development

[St George's Bristol](#) has today announced it has reached the halfway point in its major capital appeal to extend the venue as a result of confirmed grants of £300,000 from the [Garfield Weston Foundation](#) and £50,000 from the [J.Paul Getty Jr. Charitable Trust](#).

The project was kick-started by an initial pledge from [Arts Council England](#) of £1.95m, together with funds raised from a number of private donors. This will provide the world class music venue with a much needed expansion of space and facilities, transforming the visitor experience.

The 'Building a Sound Future' appeal will deliver the first extension to St George's since it was designed by Sir Robert Smirke (architect of the British Museum) and built in 1823. The new contemporary glass and stone extension by award winning architects, [Patel Taylor](#) will greatly improve facilities and provide full access to the venue for the first time.

Key features of the project are:

- A bold new contemporary extension to the core building, providing new visitor entrances
- Comprehensive remodelling of all backstage and artist facilities
- New garden facing café and bar
- New education and workshop spaces
- New ramped access directly into the main hall for the first time

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Of the total £5.5m required to fully realise the project, £2.68m has now been secured. Further major public and private sources of funds are currently in active negotiation and a public appeal to secure the remaining funds will be launched in early spring 2015.

Initial ground works for the construction of the new extension will begin in spring 2016, with St George's remaining open throughout the majority of the build. Completion is scheduled for autumn 2017.

Commenting on the latest funding awards, Suzanne Rolt, Director of St George's Bristol said: "We're delighted to receive these major grants, especially at this early stage of the appeal. The total funds raised so far signify a hugely valuable endorsement of our 'Building a Sound Future' plans for St George's Bristol, and take us a big step towards our final target."

"This project delivers our long held ambition to substantially upgrade our facilities for both artists and audiences, fully addressing the constraints of the current building, improving access and visibility, energizing artistic and educational programmes. In short it will be transformational: securing St George's future as a leading performance venue of national significance and fully supporting artistic and audience development for decades to come."

Ends

Notes to editors:

St George's Bristol

St George's Bristol is a world leading performance venue in an intimate Georgian setting. The exceptional acoustics of the hall are particularly loved by classical/chamber musicians but also suit contemporary music. The acoustic properties in the hall are so good that the BBC regularly records LIVE at St George's. Notable performances include BBC Radio 3's Brahms Experience as well as 'in conversation' events and musical ceremonies.

The concert hall attracts an array of world class artists representing a multitude of genres, cultures and continents. All artists have their excellent musicianship in common; from gamelan to guitar, piano to piccolo, tabla to tuba St George's plays host to diverse performance talent.

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We actively seek out exciting new, as well as established, artists and curate festivals with key partners to add to the already colourful cultural life of the city of Bristol. For example, the Festival of Ideas, Bristol New Music Festival, Bristol Americana Festival and Bristol Folk Festival. In addition, St George's presents inspiring performances and workshops for children and young people and the education department reaches out across the city to engage with local schools and communities.

Connect with St George's:

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