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CONCERT VENUE

Hall hits halfway mark in appeal for funds

ST George's, the concert hall that hosts world class music in the heart of Bristol, has reached the halfway mark in its appeal to raise funds to extend the venue.

The £5.5million glass and stone extension will be the first to be carried out at the venue off Park Street since it was first built in 1823.

The focal point of the work will be new visitor entrances.

But there will also be remodelling of the backstage facilities, a new cafe and bar facing the garden, new education and workshop spaces, and a new ramped access into the main hall.

An initial pledge of £1.95million from Arts Council England

was followed by grants of £300,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation and £50,000 from the J.Paul Getty Jr Charitable Trust.

A public appeal is due to be launched in the spring next year to raise the remaining funds required.

It is planned to start work in the spring, 2016 and complete the pro-

ject in autumn, 2017.

St George's will remain open throughout the majority of the construction work.

Suzanne Rolt, director of St George's Bristol said: "This project delivers our long held ambition to substantially upgrade our facilities for both artists and audiences."