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## Details

### Fiddler on the Roof to launch St George's Bristol extension appeal today

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#### Description:

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St George's Bristol will today, Friday 30 January, launch the public phase of Building a Sound Future, a £5.5 million development project to build a new extension to the world class music venue and will celebrate with an eye catching musical event/performance from the roof of the Grade II\* listed former church.

Thomas Gould, acclaimed violinist and leader of Aurora Orchestra, will become the Fiddler on the Roof, performing the well known and rousing Hungarian folk tune Csárdás by Vittorio Monti at the dizzying height of 20 metres as an example of the world class live music that is performed inside St George's every week.

At the same time, to celebrate the launch of the public appeal and reach out to new visitors, there will be a balloon release with free tickets for concerts at the venue attached to each balloon.

The Building a Sound Future appeal was kick started by an initial pledge of £1.95 million from the Arts Council England and reached the halfway point towards the end of 2014 following grants of £300,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation and £50,000 from the J.Paul Getty Jr. Charitable Trust. A recent voluntary settlement from Sir Seigmund Warburg takes the total raised so far to £2.75 million.

Suzanne Rolt, director, St George's Bristol, says: "We already have a world class hall loved by artists and audiences, but we've run out of the space to accommodate the thousands of people who come through our doors each year. Our project is about creating an inspiring new space with the world class facilities we need to ensure everyone has a great experience when they come here. We are delighted with the support we have already received from the Arts Council England and our new funding partners".

Appeal events and activities taking place across 2015 include 120 Years of the Steinway on 24 February, a Meet the Architects event on 03 March, the Aurora Orchestra Jitterbug Flash Mob on 20 May and a Carnevale Veneziano Fundraising Gala on 12 June.

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 has been designed by award winning architects Patel Taylor and will greatly improve facilities while providing full access to the venue for the first time.

Key features include 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; and new ramped access directly into the main hall for the first time.

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 any interested parties should contact Simon Farley, head of fundraising, St George's Bristol.

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

For further information visit [www.stgeorgesbristol.co.uk](http://www.stgeorgesbristol.co.uk)

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Thomas Gould