

St  
Martin  
in  
the  
Fields

# Paddington Bear's

## First Concert



***St Martin's Players***  
***Ben Parry*** Conductor  
***Zeb Soanes*** Narrator

*Available to watch online from Saturday 22 May, and for 60 days.*

*St Martin-in-the-Fields*  
*Trafalgar Square*  
*London*  
*WC2N 4JJ*  
*020 7766 1100*  
*[www.smitf.org](http://www.smitf.org)*



## PROGRAMME

Paddington Bear's First Concert – Herbert Chappell (1934-2019)

### PROGRAMME NOTES

*by Sarah Maxted*

Paddington is a rather special bear, famous all over the world for his friendly manners and fondness for marmalade. His adventures have delighted generations of readers since Paddington's first appearance in the 1958 children's book *A Bear Called Paddington* by author Michael Bond. In 1974 Bond got in touch with British composer Herbert Chappell and asked him to write a tune for a cartoon film about Paddington. The composition went so well that it quickly led to a musical theatre version in London's West End and eventually developed into ***Paddington Bear's First Concert***. This wonderful piece for narrator and orchestra was first performed by the London Concert Orchestra in 1986 and has remained a firm family favourite for thirty-five years, attracting audiences of all ages together with their teddy bears!

The story begins in London's Paddington train station, where we are introduced to the characters Mr and Mrs Brown. They meet a strange bear on the railway platform, and we hear Paddington's theme tune for the first time. It is a bouncy, cheerful melody filled with personality and charm, just like the bear himself.

Paddington tells Mr and Mrs Brown he has travelled to London from his home far away in 'darkest' Peru. Listen out for the hovering, fluttering sound of the flute – which exotic rainforest creature could it represent? Next, there is a change of mood and we hear the energetic rhythms of a South American dance. Teddies are encouraged to dance along, of course!

The sights and sounds of Paddington Station are not at all like the mysterious rainforests of Peru. The station is busy with crowds of people, all rushing around, pushing trolleys of luggage and hurrying to catch their trains. You can hear the chug and whistle of trains setting off on their journeys. It is quite hectic!

Luckily, Mr and Mrs Brown invite Paddington to join them for a taxi ride to their home on the peaceful street of Windsor Gardens. On the way, Paddington tells them about his long boat journey from Peru to London and describes all the different countries he visited during the voyage. Can you hear the clicking castanets of the flamenco dancers Paddington saw in Spain?

Paddington settles happily into life with the Brown family, helping with the grocery shopping at Portobello Market and making friends with Mr Gruber, who owns a fascinating antique shop nearby. Paddington admires the curious objects and ticking clocks in the shop and he enjoys learning about Mr Gruber's home country of Hungary. We get the chance to hear an amazing Hungarian dance with wild melodies and foot-stamping rhythms.

The musical morning in Mr Gruber's shop leads to an exciting invitation – to see a concert at St Martin-in-the-Fields! When Paddington arrives at the concert hall, he is very impressed by the large size of the orchestra. He can see all the different groups of instruments, including the trumpets in the brass family, the flutes in the woodwind family, the bass drums in the percussion family, and the rows of violins and cellos in the string family. The orchestra is getting ready to play a marvellous programme which includes the Surprise Symphony by Classical composer Joseph Haydn and the early-Romantic Unfinished Symphony by Franz Schubert. However, once the concert begins, Paddington finds himself unexpectedly centre stage...







## PERFORMERS

### St Martin's Players

**Conductor** Ben Parry

**Narrator** Zeb Soanes

### *St Martin's Players*

**Flute**

Ian Mullin

**Oboe**

Lydia Griffiths

**Clarinet**

Andrew Harper

**Bassoon**

Dominic Tyler

**Horn**

Kira Docherty

**Double bass**

Jan Zahourek

**Timpani**

Tristan Fry

**Piano**

Jocelyn Freeman

**St Martin's Players** is a newly established ensemble bringing together some of London's finest musicians for concerts and broadcasts from St Martin-in-the-Fields, in the heart of the city. Since their premiere performances for the Sound of St Martin's inaugural Summer Online Festival in 2020, St Martin's Players have delighted audiences with their versatility and flair in programmes ranging from Haydn's *Nelson Mass* to Copland's *Appalachian Spring*. Through these performances, they have played a key role in the reimagining of concerts from St Martin's during the period of Covid-19 and lockdown, bringing digital engagement to the fore and championing creative programming and fresh musical arrangements.

Highlights have included concerts in collaboration with renowned broadcaster and author Zeb Soanes, as well as recording the Christmas Morning broadcast for BBC Radio 4 in December 2020. St Martin's Players also perform regularly in close partnership with St Martin's Voices, infusing larger scale choral works with chamber music vibrancy, including a special performance of Vivaldi's *Gloria* in its original arrangement for upper voices.



**Ben Parry** has a busy career as a conductor, composer, arranger, singer and producer in both classical and light music fields. He has made well over 100 CD recordings and his compositions and arrangements are published by Oxford University Press, Peters Edition and Faber Music, including the popular Faber Carol Book. He collaborates regularly with the writer Garth Bardsley: their choral piece *Flame* was performed by a choir of 300 singers at the Royal Albert Hall in the 2012 BBC Proms and their carol *Three Angels* by King's College Choir on BBC TV's *Carols from King's*. Major commissions include the Cathedral Choral

Society of Washington DC, St John's College Cambridge, Chelmsford, Norwich, Ely and Sheffield Cathedrals, BBC Singers and the Aldeburgh Festival. Ben's music also featured in the 1st episode of the hit US TV series, *Glee*. He has composed many track for the production music company, Audio Network, whose music can be heard throughout the world on radio and TV.

Ben is Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, and was a course director for the Rodolfus Choral Courses for 20 years, as well as former Director of Music at St Paul's School and the Junior Royal Academy of Music in London. As Director of the professional choir London Voices, he has performed in concert halls and festivals worldwide. He worked closely with Sir Paul McCartney on his classical choral work, *Ecce Cor Meum*, as well as conducting on the soundtracks of major films such as *The Hobbit*, *Avengers* and *Harry Potter*. London Voices performed the premiere of Stockhausen's *Mittwoch* for the 2012 Cultural Olympiad in Birmingham Festival and Berio's *Sinfonia* with the National Youth Orchestra in 2009 and at the BBC Proms in 2014 and 2018. He is also Assistant Director of Music and Bye-Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, where he directs the mixed choir, King's Voices.

Ben studied Music and History of Art at Cambridge University, where he was a member of King's College Choir. Later he was musical director and singer with The Swingle Singers, with whom he toured the world and performed with some of the greatest musicians, including Pierre Boulez, Stephane Grappelli and Dizzy Gillespie. He composed and arranged over fifty pieces for the group and co-produced their albums for Virgin Classics and EMI.

For eight years he lived in Scotland, where he co-founded the distinguished ensemble Dunedin Consort, and was also Director of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra Chorus and Director of Choral Music at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. As an orchestral conductor he was worked with the Academy of Ancient Music, Britten Sinfonia, London Mozart Players, London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Academy of Ancient Music, Royal Symphony Orchestra of Seville, The Scottish Ensemble and the Vancouver Youth Symphony. He conducted five productions from 1999 as Music Director of Haddo House Opera. He has sung with the Gabrieli Consort, Taverner Consort and Tenebrae, as well as on countless film and TV soundtracks. He appeared on the West End stage in the UK premiere of Cy Colman's musical *City of Angels* in 1994.

Ben was made an Honorary Associate of the Royal Academy of Music in 2014 for his services to the music industry.



**Zeb Soanes** is a trusted newsreader and reassuring voice of the Shipping Forecast to millions of listeners on BBC Radio 4. He is a regular on *The News Quiz*, has reported for *From Our Own Correspondent* and read for *Poetry Please*. *Sunday Times* readers voted him their favourite male voice on UK radio. On television he launched BBC Four, where he presented the *BBC Proms*.

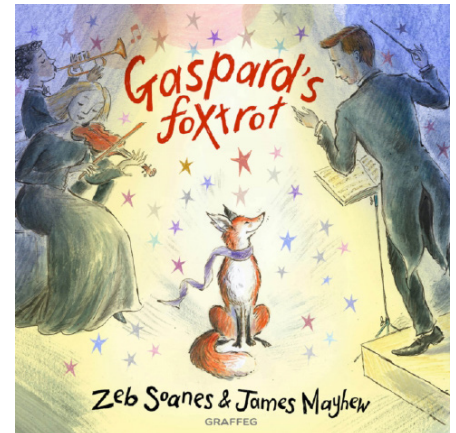
He studied Creative Writing and Drama at UEA and has written for *The Observer*, *Country Life* and *The Literary Review*. His best-selling first book for children, *Gaspard the Fox*, illustrated by James Mayhew, began a series of stories inspired by his remarkable encounters with a real urban fox, for which he was made the first patron of The Mammal Society.

He trained as an actor and has earned a reputation as ‘the go-to person for music narration’ (Daily Telegraph) performing favourite works for children with the UK’s leading orchestras, including *Peter and the Wolf*, *Babar the Elephant* and *Paddington*; his third book in the Gaspard series, *Gaspard’s Foxtrot*, has been adapted as a major new concert work by Jonathan Dove, touring the UK in 2021.

***Gaspard’s Foxtrot*** is available to purchase for £12.99 from our [online shop](#).

*Gaspard* accidentally boards the Number 38 bus and has a thrilling fox-eye view of the sights, sounds and smells of London, but how will he ever get home? At Hyde Park he finds himself at a classical concert celebrating the city’s wildlife, and becomes front-page news when he trots out on stage.

*‘The wonderful thing about Gaspard the Fox is that it’s hard to imagine a time when he was never there.*



Our thanks to The National Lottery Heritage Fund, for supporting the ReSound concert series at St Martin-in-the-Fields.

This concert was pre-recorded on Friday 23 April 2021 and edited together before broadcast. The performers, technical crew and front of house staff carefully adhere to all current government regulations for COVID-19.



# RESOUND

**ReSound** is a brand new concert series from St Martin-in-the-Fields, aiming to put St Martin's at the heart of music-making in the capital. Set across six themed weekends running from 20 May to 30 June 2021, the series offers a mix of live in-person audience events together with online content all from the beautiful surroundings of St Martin-in-the-Fields church.

Explore our range of in-person and online events by visiting the links below.



## **St Martin's Voices: Brahms Requiem**

Online, from Tuesday 25 May, 7.30pm

## **Rachel Podger: The Guardian Angel**

Online, from Monday 24 May, 7.30pm



## **Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Concert: Mozart and Janáček**

In-person only, Saturday 22 May, 12.30pm

## **St Martin's Voices and Will Todd Ensemble: Songs of Love**

Online only, Friday 28 May



## **Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir: Joyful Noise**

In-person, Saturday 29 May, 4.00pm and 6.00pm

Online, from Tuesday 1 June, 7.30pm

## **Art Deco Trio: Gershwinicity**

In-person only, Monday 31 May, 3.00pm





### **Academy of St Martin in the Fields: Miniatures**

In-person, Thursday 3 June, 7.00pm

Online, from Tuesday 8 June, 7.30pm

### **Benson Wilson and Julian Drake**

In-person, Saturday 5 June, 7.00pm

Online, from Monday 7 June, from 7.30pm



### **St Martin's Voices: Brahms Liebeslieder Waltzes**

In-person, Friday 11 June, 7.00pm

Online, from Tuesday 15 June, 7.30pm

### **Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Concert: Duets, Trios and Quartets**

In-person only, Saturday 12 June, 12.30pm



### **Quartet for the End of Time:**

#### **Melvyn Tan and Friends**

In-person, Saturday 19 June, 7.00pm

Online, from Tuesday 22 June, 7.30pm

### **St Martin's Voices with Anna Lapwood: Upon your heart**

In-person, Monday 21 June, 7.00pm

Online, from Wednesday 23 June, from 7.30pm



### **I Fagiolini: The ache, the bite and the banger**

In-person, Thursday 24 June, 7.00pm

Online, Wednesday 30 June, 7.30pm





## **The Hermes Experiment**

In-person, Friday 25 June, 7.00pm

Online, from Monday 28 June, 7.30pm

## **Vivaldi and the Osperia del Pieta**

In-person, Saturday 26 June, 7.00pm

Online, from Tuesday 29 June, 7.30pm



## **Other online events**

**Voices in the Crypt**, available online only from Saturday 22 May

*St Martin's Voices with Simon Russell Beale*



**Shall I compare thee to a Summer's day**

**Love bade me welcome**

**Long live fair Oriana**

**Paddington Bear's First Concert**

Online only, from Saturday 22 May



**The Wind in the Willows**

Online only, from Monday 31 May



## Organ Recitals

**Rachel Mahon & Ben Giddens**

Online only

Available from Saturday 26 June



## **Free, non-ticketed events**

**The Song and The Story**, in-person only, Sundays, 3.30pm



**Standing as I do before God**, Sunday 23 May

**With thee there is light**, Sunday 30 May

**Choral Miniatures**, Sunday 6 June

**Innocence and Experience**, Sunday 13 June

**The Passing of the Year**, Sunday 20 June

**In youth is pleasure**, Sunday 27 June

**St Martin's Chorus:  
Music for joy and living**

In-person only, Saturday 26 June, 12.30pm



**Festival Evensong with the  
Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields**

In-person, Sunday 27 June, 5.00pm,  
and live-streamed

As the impact of COVID-19 continues, we need people like you to keep supporting us and helping the musicians we work with.

To help us keep playing on, please consider making a donation today: [www.smitf.org/donate](http://www.smitf.org/donate)

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