



Handel

Athalia

Whitehall Choir : London Baroque Sinfonia
Paul Spicer

Tuesday 17 November 2015, 7pm
St John's Smith Square, SW1P 3HA

Emily Forrest (soprano)
Eve Daniell (soprano)
Abigail Broughton (soprano)
Tristram Cooke (counter tenor)
Will Blake (tenor)
Nicholas Mogg (bass)

Tickets £25, £22.50, £18, £10 from the St John's Smith Square
Box office, 020 7222 1061, www.sjss.org.uk or available through the Choir.
Further booking and The Footstool Restaurant details overleaf.

Athalia

The great Handel scholar Winton Dean asserted without reservation ‘Athalia is the first great English oratorio’. The libretto by Samuel Humphreys was based on Racine’s *Athalie* of 1691. The action takes place in Jerusalem in the temple precincts. The story is based around the deposing of a tyrannical monarch (Athalia) who demands that the Jewish people worship Baal rather than God. Intrigue abounds and eventually the rightful King is crowned, Athalia’s retinue abandon her and she is put to death. The first performance was given in the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford in July 1733 and was a huge success.



Whitehall Choir



Under its Musical Director, Paul Spicer, the Whitehall Choir, now in its 72nd season, aspires to the highest standards of performance in all its concerts. Members share a strong commitment and, besides attending weekly rehearsals on Tuesday evenings during the academic year in central London, take part in recordings, occasional tours abroad and choral workshops. For more details about the choir and future concerts, visit www.whitehallchoir.org.uk; also follow us on Facebook and Twitter or email joinus@whitehallchoir.org.uk. Whitehall Choir is a registered charity, number 280478.



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St John's Smith Square, London SW1P 3HA. Tickets: online: www.sjss.org.uk; telephone: 020 7222 1061; by post: please enclose SAE. Mastercard and Visa accepted. Booking fees: by phone £2 per transaction (£1.50 to Friends of St John's); online £1.50 per transaction. For advance booking, the Box Office is open from 10am to 5pm weekdays. The Footstool Restaurant in the Crypt is open from 5.30pm (telephone: 020 7222 2779). St John's Smith Square Charitable Trust, registered charity number 1045390. Registered in England. Company number 3028678.