

Somerset Chamber Choir
with Musical and Amicable Society

7pm, Saturday 27 July
Wells Cathedral

JS Bach

St John Passion



Evangelist
James Gilchrist

Niall Anderson ♦
Rory Carver
Sophie Gallagher
Hamish McLaren
Harry Thatcher
Conductor Richard Laing

Tickets £10-25
Wells Cathedral Shop
01749 672773
Taunton Visitor Centre
01823 340470
someretchamberchoir.org

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“The aim and final reason of all music should be nothing else but the Glory of God and the refreshment of the spirit.” JS Bach

There can be few more powerfully expressive works than Bach’s **Passion according to St John**. Here is the story of Christ’s last days, told with more drama and musical ingenuity than any swords-and-sandals Hollywood epic. The baying mob portrayed by the chorus contrasts with the intimate and intensely moving arias of the soloists, and the whole is bound together by the poignant narration of the Evangelist, here sung by one of the world’s greatest interpreters of the role, **James Gilchrist**.

This is a work offering inspiration and solace in a troubled world; even those who struggle with the idea of organised religion find some spiritual comfort in the story and the music of the great Passions. As the English painter and critic Roger Fry commented, “Bach almost persuades me to be a Christian!”

This performance will be accompanied by the specialist baroque ensemble, the **Musical and Amicable Society**, playing authentic instruments that Bach would recognise. **Somerset Chamber Choir** and **James Gilchrist** are joined by **five rising stars** from the UK’s foremost conservatoires. In the uplifting setting of **Wells Cathedral** this promises to be a very special occasion.



Patron Dame Emma Kirkby
Conductor Emeritus Graham Caldbeck

Registered Charity 1003687

Tickets £10–25
Concessions for students and children
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