

A Welcome from tonight's conductor

Dear Friends

Bach's St Matthew Passion is a foundation stone of Western classical culture. Though Bach wrote several other Passions, the St Matthew was always referred to in his own household as 'the great Passion', and is surely one of his finest achievements.

We are greatly privileged to be able to present this astonishing work together with leading period ensemble The Parley of Instruments and some of the world's finest soloists, here in the glorious setting of Bath Abbey.

This performance has been made possible by the generosity of our private and corporate sponsors, to whom we are profoundly grateful. Through their help, we will be able to make a meaningful contribution towards the work of Dorothy House Hospice Care.

Dorothy House does a phenomenal job of supporting patients and their families through the most difficult times of their lives. Nothing speaks more to the conflicting emotions death arouses than Bach's magnificent music – this piece seems to emerge from the deepest places in the human psyche, and for that reason it makes a perfect connection with the work of Dorothy House.

Dorothy House Hospice Care supports around 700 families affected by cancer, motor neurone disease and other life-threatening conditions every year.

It is the major charity providing free specialist nursing care at home for people with life-threatening illness over a 700-square-mile area, including Bath, north and west Wiltshire and part of Somerset. Most of the hospice's care is provided in people's own homes, as that is where most patients prefer to be. Short-term care, out-patient and day patient services are provided at the hospice in Winsley, near Bath. To make sure patients have the best possible quality of life, pain and symptom relief, respite for carers, emotional and spiritual support and day care are all provided free of charge.

Should you feel moved to contribute further to this most valuable cause, a collection will be taken at the door at the end of the concert.

With respect and appreciation for your presence,



Gavin Carr