

Attracting audiences / ticket sales

Music for All @ SMSG will advertise events on its website and on poster displays outside the church. Groups hiring the venue must arrange their own publicity and ticketing and provide their own programmes. We ask that you promote **Music for All @ SMSG** in your publicity materials, using resources our Publicity Officer will provide.

Arrangements on the day

Our volunteer Events Manager ensures that each Event has a nominated Event Leader in attendance before, during and after an event.

Our nominated Event Leader will make arrangements with you to:

- Open up at agreed times for rehearsal and concert
- Arrange for seating adjustments as agreed and return seating after concert
- Familiarise you with lighting control and sound equipment
- Organise heating as appropriate
- Agree any other requirements

Refreshments

A refreshment service for events can be provided if required. Proceeds go to support the ongoing restoration of the venue.

Charges

Music for All @ SMSG takes responsibility for the future maintenance of the musical facilities and also contribute to the Church's running costs and restoration projects, which together cost many thousands of pounds a year. Many of our users choose to contribute all their profits to support our work. Where this is not suitable we make the venue accessible with a simple minimum hire charge of £100 combined with a profit share agreed in advance with the event promoters (see Tariff Handout). Please request details when making a booking.

Booking

If you would like to hold a concert or recital here, please contact our volunteer Events Team who will do all they can to support you to put on your event in this unique historic venue for classical music.

Music for All @ SMSG Events events@musicforallmsg.org

St Mary & St Giles Church as a music venue: What you need to know



The church and its hall are available to hire by amateur, student and professional performers.

Music for All @ SMSG has hosted hundreds of events in support of the organ restoration and future development of music in this place.

Music for All @ SMSG is run by volunteers who are passionate about music, its importance in our daily lives, and its impact on wellbeing. We look forward to welcoming you to this wonderful performance space.

Location

St Mary & St Giles Church is attractively located in the middle of the busy High Street in the historic coaching town of Stony Stratford, in the northern part of Milton Keynes.

The town has a wide range of good local restaurants, pubs, shops and pleasant town and riverside walks.

The church has attractive gardens and ample local free parking.

www.stonystratford.co.uk

Performance space

The church is light and bright, with a Strawberry Gothic interior, soaring slender columns and an unusual three-sided gallery surrounding the Nave which provides an uplifting and rewarding space for performers and audience.

The acoustic in the church is warm and rich and has been judged by many over the years to be “wonderful”, and “good enough for recording”.

Performers are usually positioned within the semi-circular Chancel or immediately in front of it in the Nave.

Seating style and capacity

There is a maximum seating capacity of 398 using both the downstairs space and the upstairs gallery.

Modern chairs are available for providing informal cafe style seating at tables and/or for providing additional seating capacity downstairs.

- **Downstairs** - 182 linked cushioned seats in the Nave, plus the use of 116 additional chairs in the side aisles – facing sideways and usually for choral singers when not singing – and other locations, up to a maximum of 314.
- **Upstairs gallery** - Wooden benches on three sides (36 by window alcoves each side, 12 at west end by organ console) seat a maximum 84 audience/performers.

Please note that access to the gallery on either side is by steep stairs; some seating downstairs has restricted views.

The Organ

We have a wonderful fully-restored, historic Father Willis three manual organ, dating originally from 1882. The restoration project has been undertaken over a ten year period, funded (at a cost of £250,000) by a huge voluntary effort and grants, focussed around musical activity and the promotion of music to all ages and across many genres. The restoration has repaired what existed and completed an extension of the organ begun in 1932. A full specification can be found via our web site www.musicforallsmg.org.

The Grand Piano

The grand piano is a Reid-Sohn, 6 foot, and was made around 2001. It is fitted with a humidity controller and is regularly tuned. The piano is normally locked in position at the west end of the church and can be moved by prior arrangement.

Facilities for performers & audiences

There is wheelchair access via the Hall side doors.

There are two toilets in the lobby between the hall and church and a kitchen at the west end of the church with cooker, hot drinking water boiler, fridge, washing up facilities, crockery and cutlery which can be used for serving hot and cold refreshments.

The Parish Hall (built 2010) on the north side of the church provides refreshment and/or green room and/or rehearsal space with its own kitchen facilities, under-floor heating, a ceiling mounted projector and screen and sound system for audio and DVDs.

The new Parish Hall can also be hired independently of the church for small events. It seats up to 50 people theatre style.

There is an adjustable conductor's podium (60cm x 90cm x 40cm high) with a step and a back safety rail. There is also a conductor's stand with light and three music stands.

The church has a modern heating system and is suitably heated throughout the year for rehearsal and performance.

It has a hearing loop, speech and CD player PA system.

A drinks licence (Temporary Event Notice) can be arranged with 21 days' notice subject to local authority Licence regulations annual limit and SMSG's licence plans for the year.