

Press Release

Top actors star in evening of music and poetry at St Paul's

Wednesday, 5th September 2012

Two of England's best-known and most-loved actors will give the first ever reading of a newly commissioned poem for St Paul's at an evening of music and verse at the Cathedral.

[Sheila Hancock, CBE](#) and [Sam West](#) will come to the Cathedral for the *Touching Eternity* concert on Wednesday 26 September, when they will perform alongside St Paul's Cathedral Choir.

The evening will include the reading of *Resurgam*, a poem written by former Poet Laureate Sir Andrew Motion, commissioned especially for the 300th anniversary of the completion of St Paul's, celebrated last year.

The four-part poem focuses on the history of the Cathedral Church and the place it has in the nation's heart. The final part of the poem, *Whispering Gallery*, has been set to music by Master of the Queen's Music, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies and will be sung by the Cathedral Choir.

The concert also features a programme of choral music including *Jubilate in C* by Benjamin Britten, excerpts from Franz Josef Haydn's *The Creation* and C Hubert H Parry's Coronation anthem, *I was Glad*. The Cathedral Choir will be led by Director of Music Andrew Carwood and accompanied by Organist Simon Johnson.

The Reverend Canon Michael Hampel, Precentor of St Paul's Cathedral said: "We are incredibly excited at the prospect of this new work being delivered by two such fine actors as well as the setting of the final section by one of this country's leading composers and performed by one of its very best choirs. The name of this concert, *Touching Eternity*, is inspired by a phrase from this new poem written by Sir Andrew Motion, and it wonderfully reflects the principal role of this remarkable church as a place of worship."

Tickets for the concert are available through www.timeout.com/stpaulscathedral at the discounted price of £8, £6 and £3. They are also available on the door priced at £10, £8 and £5. Doors open at 5.45pm for a 6.30pm start.

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For more information please contact Ed Holmes, Press and Communications Manager, St Paul's Cathedral on 020 7246 8321 or email ed@stpaulscathedral.org.uk

St Paul's Cathedral

St Paul's is the cathedral church of the diocese of London, which it has served for over 1,400 years. The current building has become a potent symbol of the life of a nation and is one of the world's most beautiful buildings. Designed by Sir Christopher Wren in the late seventeenth century, its stones have absorbed the hopes, fears, sorrows and joys of generations and stand as an enduring symbol of our communion with those gone before and those still to come. Each year nearly two million people flock to the cathedral for services, concerts, debates, educational events, performing arts and sightseeing. All are most welcome.

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