

1944



2019

St Albans Choral Society  
– Celebrating 75 years –

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Saturday 23 November 2019 at 7.30pm  
Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, St Albans AL1 1BY



## St Alban and the Martyrs

**Richard James Harvey** The Martyrs' Call: A Cantata in Stone

*World premiere*

**Liz Lane** The Story of St Alban

**John Rutter** Gloria

**St Albans Choral Society**

**Specially invited chorus of St Albans schoolchildren**

**Orchestra Nova Ensemble**

**George Vass** conductor



## St Albans Choral Society – Celebrating 75 years –

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Founded in 1944, St Albans Choral Society marks the start of its 75th anniversary season with a special concert in St Albans Cathedral.

The programme features:

- The world premiere of *The Martyrs' Call: A Cantata in Stone*, by Richard James Harvey, inspired by the statues of the Seven Martyrs by sculptor Rory Young, which were installed in the medieval niches of the Cathedral's nave screen in 2015. The cantata was commissioned by the late Lady Jean Maitland, Rory Young's aunt, and her family
  - The first performance in the Cathedral of Liz Lane's *The Story of St Alban*, with a narrator and a specially invited chorus of St Albans schoolchildren joining the choir
  - John Rutter's *Gloria*, an exuberant and joyful setting for choir, brass, organ and percussion
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### **St Albans Choral Society**

The Choral Society performed its first concert during the Second World War in December 1944. In 2019, the Society celebrates not only its 75th anniversary but also George Vass' 25th year as Music Director and Richard Harvey's 20th year as Accompanist.