



# Surrey Network

## Exploring Johann Sebastian Bach’s St Matthew Passion

A Study Day on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 at The Menuhin Hall, Stoke d’Abernon

### Speaker – Sandy Burnett

Especially appropriate for the lead up to Easter, Sandy Burnett joins us for a special presentation on Johann Sebastian Bach’s Matthew Passion, a masterful work which combines tunefulness, craftsmanship, dramatic power and spirituality in equal measure. Initially composed for a Good Friday service in Bach’s Leipzig, the St Matthew Passion has since been performed infinitely more often than it ever was in Bach’s own lifetime. During the course of this study day, Sandy explains why this work is so special; he guides us through music examples, picks out details in the score, examines Bach’s autograph manuscripts, and reflects on the extraordinarily vivid Passion texts. After an overview of Bach’s life and work, we explore each dramatic stage of the Passiontide drama, before reflecting on the work’s context as one of the greatest Western art works of all.

#### Programme

- 9.30 Registration
- 10.00 **Session one: Johann Sebastian Bach’s life in context, and the St Matthew Passion’s opening chorus**
- 11.00 Coffee / Tea
- 11.30 **Session two: Part One of the St Matthew Passion, continued**
- 12.30 Lunch – Bring-Your-Own – Tea / Coffee available
- 1.30 **Session three: Part Two of the St Matthew Passion**
- 2.30 Tea / Coffee
- 3.00 **Session four: Part Two of the St Matthew Passion, continued, and the work’s legacy and reception.**
- 4.00 Departure

**To Book – Send the slip below by 18<sup>th</sup> March** with a cheque for Member £12, Guest £15, Online £7, payable to Surrey u3a Network, to Denise Dobbs – u3a, 5 Aldridge Rise, New Malden KT3 5RJ, Phone 07964 798791. Enclose an SAE or an email address for confirmation. **Or make a bank transfer** to HSBC Account No. 11519018 Sort Code 40-27-07, Event Ref. Mar2025, and send an email to [surreyu3astudyday@outlook.com](mailto:surreyu3astudyday@outlook.com) with the booking information below. **Or on day pay at door £15.**

**BACH PASSION Member £12 Guest £15 At Door £15 Online £7 21<sup>ST</sup> March 2025**

**Please Tick – Attend Hall**  **or Virtually**  ; **Email**  **or SAE**  ; **Cheque**  **or BankTrsf** .

Title .....First Name ..... Surname ..... Name of u3a .....

House Number/Name. . . . . Post Code . . . . . Phone. . . . .

E-mail Address .....

If you need disabled parking, tick  and give a car registration number .....

If you need a wheelchair space in the hall, tick  or a step-free seat, tick .

If you would like to receive details about future study days by email, please tick here .

## Biographical Information about our Speaker

Sandy Burnett is one of the UK's most versatile music commentators, enjoying a career that combines broadcasting, performing and lecturing. After studying at St Catharine's College, Cambridge and working as music director for the RSC, National Theatre and in London's West End, Sandy Burnett spent a decade as one of the core team of presenters on BBC Radio 3. Unusually co-inhabiting the worlds of both classical and improvising music, and equally committed to both performing music and evangelising about it, he has directed a complete performing cycle of Bach's sacred cantatas and is a first-call double bass player on the London jazz scene. He was appointed the Academy of Ancient Music's Hogwood Fellow for the 2018-19 season. Since 2013 he has devised and led cultural holidays all over the world, taking music lovers to venues as diverse as the opulent Leipzig Opera House and the intimate jazz clubs of New Orleans. He runs an online classical music appreciation Listening Club and is the author of the *Idler Guide to Classical Music*.

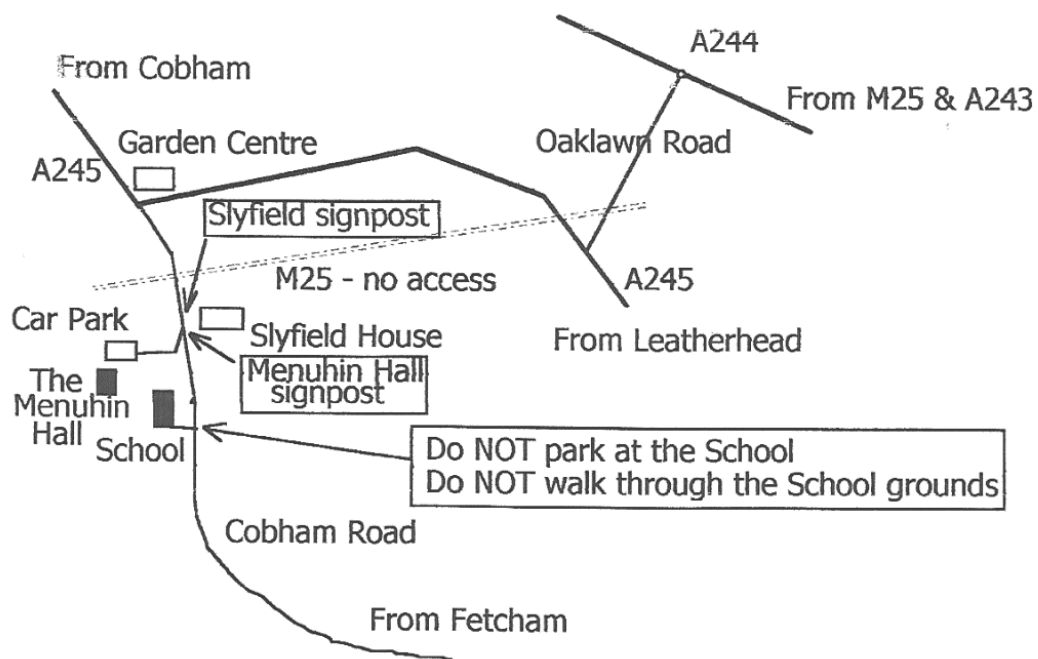
## Location & Contact Details for Study Day

The Menuhin Hall, Cobham Road, Stoke d'Abernon, Surrey KT11 3QQ

Map Ref: TQ 132 579 on Landranger 187 & Explorer 146

Telephone 07763 805046 (Emergency - On-Day-Only) or Menuhin Hall Office 08700 842020

There is a Garden Centre (01932 862530), about 800 metres to the north of the Menuhin Hall where light lunches are available. Reservations are not required.



**The Menuhin School** was founded in 1962 in London and moved to its present site in 1964. It has around eighty pupils learning to play stringed instruments including piano and is financed, in part, by the DfE. Lord Menuhin was born in New York on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1916 and died on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1999 in Berlin. His parents had come from Russia. His first public concert was in March 1924 and his first in Europe, in Paris, in 1927. His performance of Elgar's Violin Concerto was recorded at the Abbey Road Studios in 1932. The Hall, designed by Mark Foley, was conceived as a memorial to Yehudi and was handed over to the school on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2005. The official opening was on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2006. Yehudi is buried by the stone pillar in front of the Hall. Nearby is an oak which he planted on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Hall was first used for a Surrey Network Study Day on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2005.

## Study Days at the Menuhin Hall

**Surrey Network Study Days** – We welcome members and guests to our study days in the Menuhin Hall, while since the pandemic also making it possible to view the study days remotely.

**Advertising & Booking** – The practice of applying by post or by email continues, with booking responses being sent as members chose, while payment can be made by cheque or bank transfer. We advertise the study days with full details and booking forms on our website – <http://u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork/> and circulate the information electronically to all u3as in Surrey Network and surrounding areas. We also electronically circulate a poster suitable for advertising the future programme on display boards or websites.

**Nut Allergies** – The Menuhin School has pupils who have an allergic reaction to nuts and the staff have taken the decision to make the school and the Menuhin Hall a nut-free environment. Please ensure that your lunch does not contain any trace of nuts.

**Disabled Parking** – There are six spaces behind the hall and there are more in the main car park. If you have a blue badge and need level access to the hall, then tick Disabled Parking on the booking slip; you will then be allocated a space at the back of the hall and sent a permit. There is a drop-off space where disabled members have level access to the hall.

**Wheelchair Spaces** – If you need a seat removed in the hall to accommodate a wheelchair then tick Wheelchair on the booking slip.

**Support for Network Committee** – The study days have been running successfully for twenty years. New volunteers with ideas for the future programme and the commitment to help run future study days will be made very welcome. Please contact Surrey Network Chairman, Caroline Sawers, on 01483 560590 with offers of help.

# *Surrey u3a Network*

## *Study Day*

### **Exploring Johann Sebastian Bach's St Matthew Passion Presented by Sandy Burnett**



**The Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon  
On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025  
9.30am Registration for 10am Start**

To book Members should send a completed booking slip with a cheque for a Member £12, for a Guest £15, or for Online £7, payable to Surrey U3A Network, to Denise Dobbs at u3a, 5 Aldridge Rise, New Malden KT3 5RJ, Phone 07964 798791, by Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February or make a bank transfer to HSBC Sort Code 40-27-07 Account Number 11519018, Event Reference Mar2025, and email booking information to [surreyu3astudyday@outlook.com](mailto:surreyu3astudyday@outlook.com) .