



ST. JAMES'S PALACE

I send warm greetings and best wishes to all connected with this evening's performance of the oratorio "Becket - The Kiss of Peace" at Canterbury Cathedral, the scene of Thomas Becket's martyrdom as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1170.

"The Kiss of Peace" is an appropriate symbol of the bonding between us all as human beings. Becket expressed his own love of humanity through his unswerving belief in Christianity. That same love is now interpreted more widely and encompasses many different faiths. David Reeves' reflection on the turbulent events of Becket's time is no less relevant today.

I am delighted that this evening's performance of the David Reeves oratorio is in association with the Prince's Trust. And I congratulate the Festival Director, Mark Deller, and the sponsor who commissioned the oratorio, James Hudleston, for realising the dramatic performance you will see and hear tonight. I hope that you will all enjoy it.

Charles
