

Spring into the long weekend

London is traditionally empty over Easter so take advantage and catch the best of the city's entertainments

London Aquarium

County Hall, SE1 (0871 423 2110, www.sealife.co.uk) adults £15.25, children £11.75

The revamped London Aquarium has been the source of much excitement among youngsters eager to catch a glimpse of real-life Nemos — clownfish — as well as the world's biggest captive shoal of cownose rays. The centre includes an underground walkway running through the main tropical tank which gives visitors visible access to the Shark Pool, teaming with tiger sharks, zebra sharks and extra-long nurse sharks.

Dan Zanes and Friends

Tomorrow-Easter Monday, shows 11am, 2pm and 5pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall, SE1 (www.southbankcentre.co.uk) £9

Dan Zanes, the world's first "kid rock superstar", brings his family-friendly wig-out of a show to London. Zanes performs amusing songs which somehow combine lyrics that appeal to the under-10s and

enough smart rock references to amuse their parents. His past surprise guests include Lou Reed and Debbie

Harry, and since David Byrne is in town for the Southbank Centre's Easter festival, don't rule out a surprise appearance ...

The Hendrick's Masked Ball

Tomorrow 10pm-4am, The Guildhall Vaults, 47 Chiswell Street, EC1 (www.thelasttuesdaysociety.org) £12.50

"Masks obligatory — clothes optional" declares the dress code of this genteel ball from the excellent Modern Times club, sponsored by the delicious Hendrick's gin. The Passion of Christ is the broad theme, and entertainments include amusing Twenties style

live bands, DJs, live erotic life drawing, bible-oke (karaoke's literary cousin), a "cinema of broken dreams" and burlesque acts including "Joshua Knowles as Jesus Christ in the Red

Hot Resurrection". There are prizes for the finest attire.

Handel's Messiah

Tomorrow 2.30pm, Royal Albert Hall, SW7 (020 7589 8212) £5.50-£30

Handel's Messiah is traditionally performed to herald the start of the Easter weekend — a ritual happily upheld at

the Albert Hall, where the Royal Choral Society and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra do the honours.

Star Wars: A Musical Journey

Tomorrow and Saturday 6.30pm, O2 Arena, SE10 (0844 856 0202; www.theo2.co.uk) £30-100

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

strikes back — two concerts of John Williams's score from all six Star Wars movies, accompanied by a choir, live narration and cinema footage. There's also an exhibition of memorabilia.

Spring at Kew

Daily 9.30am-6pm, Kew Gardens (020 8332 5655; www.kew.org) £13, under-17s free.

Where better to appreciate the majesty of spring than among the five million blooming bulbs at Kew? To add to the seasonal fecundity, there is currently a free children's petting farm on site (until 19 April) where children can encounter Shetland ponies. On Easter Sunday, 10am-2pm, there is an egg hunt.

Easter Cookery

Saturday, noon-4pm, InterContinental Hotel, 1 Hamilton Place, W1 (020 7318 8563) £39 adults, £14 children

Parents wanting a break from cooking should head to the Cook Book Café at the InterContinental hotel, Park Lane, for an unlimited brunch followed by



a children's baking session with Cookie Crumbles. Hungry brunchers will enjoy hot and cold dishes including sirloin beef and waffles with maple syrup and kids over three can ice bunny cakes and make chocolate nests, taking them all home afterwards.



Kid-rocker: Dan Zanes





Man and ray: the newly revamped London Aquarium includes an underground walkway running through the main tropical tank

