

WIDE OPEN TO THE WORLD ROOTED IN FIFE

ROMANTIC COMPOSERS AND REMEMBRANCE



- Mendelssohn and Schumann lead in Romantic music programme
- ENF undertakes its largest ever project to mark the centenary of the Battle of the Somme with specially commissioned new work from Oscar-nominated American composer David Lang
- Festival debuts: Joseph Moog, Julian Steckel, SCO Chorus, Classic Jazz Orchestra, David Orłowsky Trio, Kosmos Ensemble, Nizar Rohana
- Returning artists: Christian Zacharias, Pavel Haas Quartet, Paul Hillier's Theatre of Voices, Calidore String Quartet, Scottish Chamber Orchestra
- Second East Neuk Festival Retreat for young string players

2016 is a Romantic year for the East Neuk Festival with the music of Mendelssohn, Schumann, Chopin, Liszt, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov weaving prominently through its core chamber music programme. It is also a year of Remembrance with the world premiere of a special new commission and nationwide community project to mark the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme on the last day of the Festival. There is no hint of solemnness at the start of the Festival though: the opening weekend of 25/26 June features classic jazz and rhythmic fusions of world music and is soon followed by the accomplished young musicians of the ENF Retreat in two showcase concerts on 28 and 30 June.

SCHUMANN AND ZACHARIAS: Classical music is always at the heart of ENF, performed by celebrated musicians who come to this beautiful coastal corner (*neuk*) of Fife from all over the world to perform both solo and in new partnerships, creating various chamber music ensembles during their residency. Pianist and conductor **Christian Zacharias** comes to the Festival for the sixth time - this year, with the music of his beloved Schumann, which he has explored and performed for five decades. On his Schumann journey, Zacharias begins as soloist with the dramatic piano work *Kreisleriana*, moving on to the Piano Quintet (with Pavel Haas Quartet) and then conducting Symphony No 2 with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Throughout the Festival programme, the friendship of Schumann and Mendelssohn is explored and celebrated (indeed, it was Mendelssohn who premiered Schumann's Piano Quintet and second symphony).

MENDELSSOHN: The music of Mendelssohn is put into a context of the '**20 Amazing Years**' in which he composed his string quartets (1827-47), all of which will be performed by the impassioned young **Calidore String Quartet** which made its highly successful ENF debut last year and has a particular affinity

with the composer. For Mendelssohn these two decades encompassed the soaring joy of youth and success as well as sorrow and bereavement. The composer is also the subject of two Music Talks in which the Calidores join **Richard Wigmore** to discuss their insight into the quartets, and cellist **David Watkin** and ENF director Svend Brown seek to dispel the myth of Mendelssohn as the purveyor of pretty Victoriana.

The Romantic era is also surveyed by cellist **Julian Steckel** and pianist **Joseph Moog**, two young musicians well-established in their highly successful careers and making their ENF debuts. As well as piano works of Beethoven, Debussy, Haydn and Tchaikovsky, Moog performs Liszt's show-stopping *Hexameron* comprising six variations on a theme by leading composers of the 1830s. Steckel is on the bill in three varied concerts, playing Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov with Moog, a Bach Suite alongside the Calidores' Mendelssohn, and Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No 1 with Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

The **Pavel Haas Quartet** appeared at ENF in 2007 as rising young stars and has since earned its reputation as one of the world's foremost quartets. Their Czech inheritance brings vivid colour to the works of Dvořák and Martinů and they also join with Zacharias for the Schumann Piano Quintet. The sound worlds and character of both Calidore and Pavel Haas Quartets are fine exemplars for the third Music Talk that explores the intrinsic qualities of a successful string quartet.

ENF RETREAT: Following the resounding success of last year's inaugural event **Alexander Janiczek**, Retreat Music Director, is currently selecting talented young musicians for this year's events. Beginning on 22 June the participants are immersed in intense study and practice of inspirational and challenging masterpieces of the chamber music repertoire. As well as Janiczek, their teachers and mentors will be violist **Krzysztof Chorzelski** (Belcea Quartet) and cellists **Ursula Smith** (Zehetmair Quartet), **Valentin Erben** (the legendary Alban Berg Quartet which performed at ENF in 2007) and **David Watkin**. The culmination of their intense study will be two showcase concerts of great works, including Schubert's String Quintet in C.

MEMORIAL GROUND: In remembrance of the Battle of the Somme 100 years ago, ENF has co-commissioned a new work (with 14-18 NOW and the support of Creative Scotland), *Memorial Ground*, from American composer **David Lang** which will premiere at the Festival and then develop into a nationwide series of choral events as part of the 14-18 NOW year-long programme. In Cambo Barn on 2 July the world premiere performance will be directed by **Paul Hillier** and performed by his acclaimed vocal ensemble **Theatre of Voices** and the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra Chorus** (under **Gregory Batsleer**), plus **Fife choirs** comprising 150 singers. Paired with this new work, the concert also features music from 1916 with Hubert Parry's poignant *Songs of Farewell*.

Following the ENF premiere, Lang's full score, plus background information, audio and visual material will be available for download online to choirs and singing groups to tell their own stories of remembrance and create their own versions of *Memorial Ground*. The goal is for choirs all over the country to perform their versions over the weekend of 11-13 November (incorporating Remembrance Day). The duration of the project, from premiere to nationwide choral projects, mirrors the duration of the Battle of the Somme - 1 July to 18 November 1916. Registration, advice and guidance available now at

www.memorialground2016.com

STORYTELLING: Stories of a different kind are sung by **Paul Hillier's Theatre of Voices** (back at ENF for the third time) in a concert of dramatic and sometimes quirky pieces - from David Lang's Pulitzer prize-winning *The Little Match Girl Passion* inspired by the Hans Christian Anderson's tragic fairy tale and Bach's St Matthew Passion (originally premiered and recorded by Theatre of Voices), to Cathy Berberian's comic *Stripsody* from the 1960s with its graphic score of cartoon noises, words and scenarios. The spoken word also becomes song in Ernst Toch's *Gesprochene Musik*, famous for its showstopping *Geographical Fugue* movement; this performance will be the UK premiere of the work in its entirety.

JAZZ AND WORLD MUSIC WEEKEND 25-27 June: The opening days of the Festival at Crail Community Hall are a weekend of musical adventures with global fusions of jazz and traditional music. The **Classic Jazz Orchestra** under the leadership of drummer **Ken Mathieson** brings a new show of rousing music from the golden age of jazz including Bix Beiderbecke, while the **Kosmos Trio** presents two wild afternoon gigs of musical synthesis across the continents including Celtic, folk, klezmer and tango. A packed double bill features the award winning 'klezmer kings' of the **David Orlowsky Trio** making their UK debut and Palestinian oud player **Nizar Rohan** and his jazz trio (**Matyas Szandai** on percussion and **Wassim Halal** on bass). Rohan's mastery of the oud is also in the spotlight for a solo concert in the small and intimate Dunino Church; his unique improvisations, played on this most ancient of instruments, breathe the spirit of the 21st century into the ancient Arabic music that fascinates him.

As ever, the East Neuk region weaves its own magic into the programme with an array of inspirational venues, including the many churches dotted along the coastline from Crail to Elie, and the Cambo Estate's remarkable potato barn (always uniquely dressed for the occasion).

News of the ENF Retreat participants, sand sculptures and sand drawings will follow.

This year ENF has also introduced special £5 tickets for 7-18 year olds across the whole concert programme. Adult ticket prices range from £7 to £25.

Full programme information, day by day www.eastneukfestival.com

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