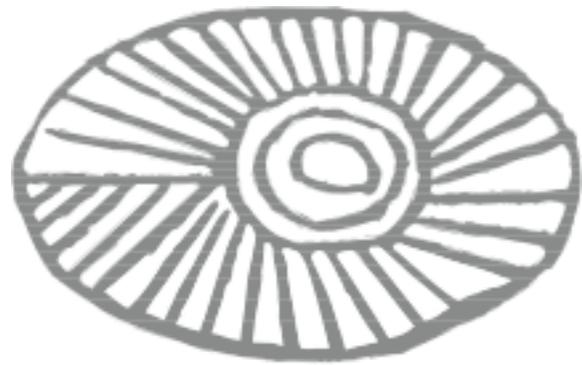


Press release: 28 February 2007

***Move over golf,
fishing and sailing
and make way for
Mozart...***

***Music-making
takes the lead for
Fife summer
festival***

27 June – 1 July 2007



**East Neuk
FESTIVAL**

www.eastneukfestival.co.uk

Living up to its promise of three years ago to develop and grow each year, the East Neuk Festival in 2007 boasts 24 events that cast the net even further beyond the core classical repertoire to world, folk and jazz-inspired music. The festival's first cabaret and first children's events, plus film, book club readings, pier & roadside innovations, and a packed Festival Trail Day complement a classical music programme of the highest international calibre to make this a five-day cultural feast.

Indeed, as a rural region with little musical infra-structure or specific venues, programming the festival is a cultural *feat* of significant proportions. Artistic director Svend Einar-Brown enthusiastically combines imaginative programming of both accessible and more challenging music with highly individual locations to give the festival its own distinctive character. Kellie Castle joins the list of magical venues this year while seven churches, ranging from the diminutive clifftop St Monan's and isolated Boarhills to the lofty Holy Trinity at St Andrews, provide the perfect intimacy and atmosphere for chamber music of all kinds.

Chamber Music Programme

World class classical music and musicians are the essence of the East Neuk Festival programme. This year the world famous **Alban Berg Quartet** makes a rare UK visit outside London to play repertoire that has made them justifiably famous including Beethoven, Haydn and Schoenberg. With the news that the quartet will disband after the next season, these two concerts probably represent both the first (for very many years) and last chance to see them perform in Scotland. Pianist **Christian Zacharias** (recently honoured as Artist of the Year at the 2007 Midem Classical Awards), who made such an impact with his residency at the 2005 festival, returns with a focus on composers he especially loves, including Scarlatti (his documentary film will also be shown), Schubert (with tenor **Christophe Pregardien**), Mozart and Ravel – all in his favourite Crail Church.

The Bach Trail was a popular theme of the Festival last year with violinist **Alexander Janiczek** playing three concerts featuring Bach's partitas juxtaposed with three 'counterpoint' pieces for solo instrument (flute, clarinet and guitar) by Steve Reich. Both composers create a rich sound world for the solo instrument with dance music as a significant inspiration. A link between these composers is further underlined by Reich's own emphatic comment: "*I became a composer because I loved Bach*".

Scottish cellist **Alasdair Tait**, celebrated violinist **Isabelle van Keulen** and violist **Dov Scheindlin** explore the chamber music world of Ravel, Schubert, Fauré, Schoenberg and Bach – as a trio and in larger ensembles with pianists Christian Zacharias and Aleksander Madzar. Their late night concert of Schoenberg's highly Romantic *Verklaerte Nacht* will undoubtedly be one of the festival highlights.

Pianist **Aleksander Madzar**, **SCO Winds** and the highly talented young **Amedeo Modigliani Quartet** all participate in the *Serenade* concerts in which Mozart is the featured composer. The music of men who loved Mozart and were inspired by him - including Tchaikovsky, Webern and Ravel - is played alongside Mozart's enduringly popular serenades.

The **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** is very much at the heart of the festival – in its entirety for the closing Serenade concert of Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* and Schubert's *Symphony No. 3 in D* and also in various component parts. The **SCO Wind Ensemble** opens the festival with a showcase for their talents including Reich's *Vermont Counterpoint*, Poulenc's *Sonata for clarinet and bassoon* and Barber's *Summer Music*, while the **SCO Strings** play Britten's *Variations on a theme of Frank Bridge*. The orchestra's talented soloists feature in the Bach Trail concerts, while the brass players and a wind trio entertain younger audiences.

The Festival Trail

Festival Saturday (30 June) is crammed with concerts, events and activities from morning to night time, all competitively priced and lasting just under an hour to enable festival-goers to plan their day and create their own Festival trail round the East Neuk. Children's events are programmed for the first time with the **Bear Hunt** at Kellie Castle kicking off the day at 10.30am: a wind trio from the SCO leads a series of musical adventures based on Michael Rosen's classic children's story with a specially composed song by Alec Roth to enrapture little ones. Older children and their families can participate in **The Big Noise** in which five SCO brass players explore how noisy – and how quiet – their instruments can be. 'Children' of all ages will be attracted to the sound installations **On the Road** and **On the Lawn**, devised by sonic wizards Ian Dearden and David Sheppard of Sound Intermedia. Their special composition will be played through speakers set up along a stretch of the main coastal road through East Neuk... but the sound coming out will depend entirely on the speed at which the listener travels through it – by foot, bike or car. A similar arrangement will be set up in the garden at Kellie Castle.

Inbetween concerts festival goers can '**Meet the Towns**' of St Monans, Elie and Crail with guides including the local vicar and historical society members to escort leisurely walks through these historic locations. Literary types can also enjoy several Festival book club sessions (also on Sunday) with celebrated authors including **James Robertson** (the Scottish Parliament's first Writer in Residence), Glasgow-born **Andrew O'Hagan**, St Monans-reared **Christopher Rush** and English author **Tessa Hadley**.

Broader Range of Music

The Festival Trail Day is also the day on which the musical programming stretches into new territories. Traditional Hungarian dances are played by fiddle supremo **Janos Lang** alongside Bartók's *Divertimento* (played by SCO Strings), highlighting the composer's passionate love of folk music and how it influenced his own music. Tango, jazz and jingles, along with the world premiere of a specially commissioned piece by **Gavin Bryars** all fall into the Festival's cabaret spot on Saturday evening in Crail's Church Hall: highly praised and highly accomplished **Mr McFall's Chamber** was founded in the late 1990s by a group of SCO musicians who decided to take a walk on the wild side, stride through barriers separating popular and 'art' music and stir up a new melting pot of creative musical activity. Their zany mix of fine musicianship and adventurous programming also includes vocalist Valentina Montoya-Martinez who is passionate about Argentine tango, and music from Frank Zappa and cartoon composer Raymond Scott.

Average ticket prices for the majority of concerts and events are £5-£10.

Refer to the enclosed brochure for full details of programmes, dates, times, ticket prices etc or go to www.eastneukfestival.co.uk

Booking: Opens 1 March 2007

Tickets and information T. 01334 475000 boxoffice@byretheatre.com

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Notes:

- The East Neuk Festival acknowledges the generous support of EventScotland, Fife Council and the Scottish Arts Council.
- East Neuk (pronounced 'nuke') can be generally described as being to Edinburghers what The Hamptons are to New Yorkers and is just an hour's drive from the city.
- Launched in 2005 "*The East Neuk Festival must be one of the most interesting and instantly successful new arts events to hit Scotland in recent years.*" (The Scotsman July 2006)

Further biographical information:

Alban Berg Quartet www.intermusica.co.uk/artists/string-quartet/alban-berg-quartet/biography

Christian Zacharias www.christianzacharias.com

Isabelle van Keulen www.kdschmid.de/englisch/02kuenst/1kuenstler.php3?k_id=178

Alasdair Tait http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alasdair_Tait

Dov Scheindlin www.andoverchambermusic.org/biodovscheindlin.html

Amedeo Modigliani Quartet www.yca.org/modigliani.html

Mr McFall's Chamber www.mcfalls.co.uk

Janos Lang <http://www.scottishculture.org/content/view/62/61/>

Alexander Janiczek <http://sco.test.poptel.org.uk/concerts/artistinfo.aspx?aid=163>

Scottish Chamber Orchestra www.sco.org.uk