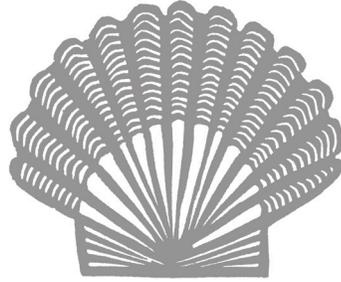


Press Release: 14 November 2007

*“...always intimate music-making, and a marvellous audience that rewards all the attention with rapt curiosity.”
(The Times 2007)*



East Neuk Festival

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2008 FESTIVAL PROGRAMME 2- 6 July

A summer visit to Scotland's East Neuk is fast becoming a *must* for classical music lovers who revel in hearing chamber music played by the world's top artists in some of the quirkiest and most obscure – yet creatively appropriate – venues. In 2008 a concert of mystical proportions in a HAS (Hardened Aircraft Shelter) on the base at RAF Leuchars might just supersede the notoriety of the 2006 festival evening in Scotland's Secret Bunker!

In the space of just three years the East Neuk Festival has quickly become an established player on the British summer music festival scene and presents an eclectic array of the world's leading musicians including the **Eroica** and **Skampa Quartets**, Anglo-Indian singer **Sheila Chandra**, **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** (SCO) players in various line-ups and acclaimed young Welsh pianist **Llyr Williams** as artist in residence.

Works from the giants of classical music composition - **Schubert, Beethoven, Weber, Bach, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Debussy** and **Arvo Pärt** - dominate the chamber music programming, along with a Bohemian theme featuring music from **Dvorak, Smetana, Suk** and **Janacek**. Vocal music spans everything from medieval chants, to Indian/western pop fusion, to Mongolian throat singing while folk enthusiasts can enjoy a whole day of fiddling at the Kinkell Byre (barns) from ensembles including the cult Finnish band **JPP** and Scotland's **Auld Reekie Band**.

The characterful churches at St Monan's, Crail, Dunino and Kilconquhar and the magnificent Holy Trinity Church at St Andrews are favourite concert venues from previous years, and artistic director Svend Brown has managed to source even more atmospheric stages for the festival's storytelling theme which is ghost stories: tiny tree-hidden **Cameron Kirk** is the setting for a tale of lonely vicar, while a room above the **Ship Inn** at Elie will hold listeners in the perfect place to hear about a lone traveller with a ghostly sleeping companion in a harbourside hostelry. The ancient, apparently haunted Kellie Castle is a most appropriate country mansion for the reading of Henry James's spooky classic *Turn of the Screw* while audiences will be offered both music and oratory at Crail Church – a

seascape of Debussy's *Preludes* played by Llyr Williams and extracts from Virginia Woolf's elegiac novel *The Waves* read by Scotland's most outspoken churchman, writer and broadcaster **Richard Holloway**.

Festival Trails and entertainment for families and children will also be enhanced in 2008 with an evening **Ceilidh** and day-long Saturday activities at the Kinkell Byre as well as a daily exhibition of an **ever- changing video installation** made up of digital images of the East Neuk community and visitors.

An audience survey last year highlighted a growing number of non-Scottish and overseas visitors , further validating the prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society Award for Audience Development presented to the Festival in 2007.

The full East Neuk Festival programme will be announced in January 2008 and tickets will be on sale from 1 February 2008.

East Neuk Festival gratefully acknowledges financial support from Fife Council, Event Scotland, Scottish Arts Council Scotland, and its many individual patrons and supporters.

Further information about the Festival:

T. +44 (0)131 556 0277
www.eastneukfestival.co.uk

Further press information and pictures:

Debra Boraston
T. +44 (0)20 7483 1950
E. debra@henrymoorestudio.co.uk

East Neuk (pronounced 'nuke') is to Edinburghers what the Hamptons is to New Yorkers: a fashionable leisure destination, just one hour's drive away. Famous for **golf** (St Andrews boasts some of the best links in the world), **fishing, food** (Peat Inn is legendary, along with relative newcomers St Andrews and St Monan's Seafood restaurants and, the best chippie in Scotland at Anstruther), **arts and crafts** (Pittenweem)...and now **high class music-making** every summer too!