

16 November 2008

A MATTER OF TIME AND PLACE

Music in dark, wild and mysterious places

Plus celebrated quintets for Festival's fifth birthday

1-5 July 2009



The East Neuk Festival celebrates its fifth birthday in 2009 (1-5 July) with an inspired programme of classical music dominated by some of the greatest quintets ever written (Brahms, Mozart, Schumann and Weber) plus newly-commissioned, electronica and world music performed in a range of atmospheric site-specific venues. World class artists and ensembles taking up residence in this captivating corner of Fife in 2009 include pianist **Christian Zacharias**, returning to the festival for the third time, **Leopold String Trio**, **Doric String Quartet**, **Leipzig String Quartet**, **Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO)**, baritone **Stephan Loges**, harpist **Catriona McKay**, oud player **Ahmed Mukhtar**, lute player **Jacob Heringman** and the poetical **Dr Richard Holloway**.

Venues

Festival Director **Svend Brown** manages every year to pull yet more rabbits out of the hat when it comes to finding interesting new venues in which audiences gain the utmost appreciation of the music and performers. Two more characterful churches in the parishes of **Kilrenny** and **Largo & Newburn** join the favourite kirks at Crail, Kilconquhar, Dunino, St Monan's and St Andrew's, while **Pittenweem Scout Hut**, **St Fillan's Cave** and **Dunino Den** provide atmospheric settings for programming strands entitled *In the Dark*, *Out There* and *In a Wild Place*.

▪ **In the Dark**

The entirely windowless scout hut becomes a magical chamber of darkness and mysterious space for total surround-sound submersion in short programmes of classic works by Stockhausen, Berio, Ligeti and Varese. The programme rolls all day from 11am until 17.30, every half hour, every full day of the festival. Candle-lit churches in the twilight zone also provide an ambient setting for late night concerts featuring the world's oldest known string instruments – the oud, lute and harp.

▪ **Out There**

Site-specific in the extreme are the three short sound works commissioned from Martin Parker to be enjoyed in the places that inspired them: a bench by the sea in Crail, the mystic woodland site of Dunino Den with its Druid well and ancient Celtic knot carvings and St Fillan's Cave, the legendary home of hermit and Patron Saint, St Fillan, which is regarded as one of the most significant sites of the Christian Church in Scotland. Festival visitors will be able to download the pieces along with a map locating the sites, or hire an MP3 player and map at any time during the festival.

- **In a Wild Place**

Dunino Den's natural pulpit is the perfect place for writer, broadcaster and former Bishop of Edinburgh, Dr Richard Holloway, to recite verse while the sounds of SCO flautist Alison Mitchell waft through the leaves in the dell below, alongside the sounds of the stream and rustlings of lucky charms that visitors to this spiritual site have hung on the trees. Holloway's voice and haunting music will also resonate in the depths of the Pittenweem cave for another programme of music and words of enlightenment specifically enhanced by the location.

Classical Chamber Music programme

The hallmark of the Festival's success has always been, and continues to be, the core programme of classical music performed by internationally renowned musicians in imaginative venues and apposite settings. Critically acclaimed pianist **Christian Zacharias** returns to the East Neuk for his third festival residency and, in addition to his solo performance (Schubert's *Sonata in A D959*), teams up with almost every other artist and ensemble in the festival for music by **Schubert, Poulenc, Mozart, Haydn** and **Schumann**. Likewise, the celebrated musicians of the **Leopold String Trio**, Isabelle van Keulen, Lawrence Power and Kate Gould, play a repertoire dominated by early **Beethoven** and late **Mozart** in solo, duo, trio and quartet combinations with other festival artists. The prizewinning young **Doric String Quartet** match **Haydn's** quartets with three great clarinet quintets by **Mozart, Weber** and **Brahms** in the company of SCO's star clarinetist **Maximiliano Martín**. The spacious Holy Trinity Church, St Andrew's hosts the full Scottish Chamber Orchestra directed by **Alexander Janiczek** with baritone **Stephan Loges** in an evening of serenades and arias and this year the finale concert moves to the beautiful setting of Crail Church with a programme of **Mozart** and **Schumann** played by Zacharias and the **Leipzig String Quartet**, undoubtedly one of Europe's finest quartets and absolutely in their element with this repertoire.

World Music

Following the huge success last year of Mongolian throat singers Huun Huur Tu and Anglo Indian singer Sheila Chandra, ENF again departs from the classical heartland of the festival with ancient music from different continents played by highly acclaimed musicians who are world leaders in their field: oud player **Ahmed Mukhtar** from Iraq where the instrument has an especially long tradition and is proclaimed for its healing and relaxing sounds; lutenist **Jacob Heringman**, "*arguably the most sensitive player in the business*" (Music Week), and harpist **Catriona McKay**, a leading light of Scotland's traditional music scene who, with her style and skill, has brought the clarsach (small or Celtic harp) from the 8th century to the cutting edge of 21st century contemporary harp music. Candle-lit kirks at Kilrenny, St Monan's and Dunino are the fitting venues for these late night concerts.

In recognition of its contribution to the tourism industry, the East Neuk Festival was a finalist this year in the prestigious Thistle Awards given by the Scottish tourism body, Visit Scotland. The 2008 Festival sold almost 6,000 tickets and achieved capacity audiences for the majority of concerts, while audience surveys showed that 92% of people asked said they would come back again in 2009.

“The Kingdom of Fife is rapidly turning into Scotland’s festival centre outside Edinburgh and East Neuk Festival is proud to be part of that” comments **Svend Brown**. *“The history and beauty of the region, not to mention its many places in which to make music, really do inspire every aspect of the programming. We’ve really entered the twilight zone for 2009 with both music and locations that are ancient, spiritual and enlightening – not just for the quirkier aspects of the programme, but also the core classical works.”*

Festival Chairman, **Donald MacDonald**: *“Audience surveys from the last two years show that our audiences totally trust the festival programming and have come to expect inspirational and enjoyable concerts all over the East Neuk where they will discover new places, music and performers. And we must be one of the few festivals able to present the full programme so far ahead of time!”*

Notes to editors:

General Festival information: www.eastneukfestival.com

Please refer to enclosed brochure/attached pdf file for full programme details and dates.

Artist information:

www.christianzacharias.com

www.stephanloges.com

www.catrionamckay.com

www.heringman.com

www.amukhtar.com

www.leopoldstringtrio.com

www.leipzigquartet.com

www.doricstringquartet.com

www.sco.org.uk (Scottish Chamber Orchestra)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Holloway

Booking information: Hub Tickets

The Hub, Castlehill, Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH1 2NE

Tel: +44 (0)131 473 2000 Fax: +44 (0)131 473 2003

Web: www.hubtickets.co.uk

Priority booking opens on 16 November 2008.

General booking opens on 8 December 2008.

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