

16 November 2008

EAST NEUK FESTIVAL ENTERS THE TWILIGHT ZONE

**Music in dark, wild and mysterious places
Plus celebrated quintets for Festival's fifth birthday**



1-5 July 2009

At the annual East Neuk Festival it's always *music* that leads to the interesting new discovery of places off the beaten track - and 2009 is no exception. Beyond the cries of the seagulls, the lapping of the waves and the chatter on the golf courses the Kingdom of Fife resonates with a magical heritage deeply rooted in mystic sites and secret places. Whether in the deep recesses of an ancient cave, an eerie woodland dell, a candle-lit cliff-top church or the windowless dark of a local scout hut, audiences will find themselves in the perfect place to appreciate and immerse themselves in the music on offer – from electronica to classical, from Stockhausen to Beethoven and Brahms.

The coastal region of this easternmost corner (*neuk*) of Fife is scattered with fishing villages and long sandy beaches and boasts some of Scotland's best restaurants and unrivalled golf courses - all just one-hour's drive from Edinburgh. For the last four summers the East Neuk Festival has added music of the highest calibre, played by some of the world's foremost musicians, to this list of attractions.

In 2009 the festival will mark its fifth birthday with performances of the classical repertoire's most loved quintets – by Brahms, Mozart, Weber and Schumann – and a host of serenades, arias, sonatas, divertimentos and more played by world famous artists and ensembles including pianist Christian Zacharias, the Leopold String Trio, Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Leipzig and Doric String Quartets.

Festival Director **Svend Brown** manages every year to pull yet more rabbits out of the hat when it comes to finding new venues for innovative programming: 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**

With only the projection of a moon to see, the scout hut becomes a magical chamber of complete darkness 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 some of the world's most ancient string instruments, the oud, lute and harp.

- **Out There**
 'Site-specific' is the ultimate definition of three short works commissioned from sound artist 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, in full poetic mode while the sounds of 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 strains of 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.

The East Neuk Festival has already won prizes: a prestigious **Royal Philharmonic Society Award** for Audience Development in 2007, to which has been added the accolade of being a finalist in the 2008 **Thistle Awards** given by the Scottish tourism organization, **Visit Scotland**, to organizations and events making a significant impact on tourism development. The festival programme has previously captured the interest of visitors with acclaimed concerts in venues such as Scotland's Secret Bunker and a huge aircraft shelter at RAF Leuchars and has already established a loyal following: a survey carried out at the 2008 festival showed that 92% of people asked said they would come back again in 2009.

Notes to editors:

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

General Festival information: www.eastneukfestival.com

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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