

Press release date: 21 April 2009

RECOGNITION & REPUTATION



Not yet five years old, the East Neuk Festival has been nominated for its **second Royal Philharmonic Society Award** in the *Concert Series and Festivals* category 2009. The winners will be announced on 12 May at the Dorchester Hotel in London at a ceremony hosted by BBC Radio 3 presenters Sean Rafferty and Catherine Bott. In 2007 the Festival won the RPS Award for Audience Development.

Further good news arrived on Festival artistic director Svend Brown's desk recently with continued commitment (and increased funds) from the Scottish Arts Council.

Brown acknowledges the kudos of recognition that comes with such nominations (the Festival was also short listed last year for a prestigious Thistle Award from Visit Scotland in acknowledgement of its contribution to tourism in the region):

"The very best way we can secure the future of our festival is to spread the news far and wide and bring people to the beautiful East Neuk of Fife to enjoy its world class music and literature events. Word of mouth is definitely the best way to do it – and award nominations like this are a little like *turbo-powered* word of mouth! "

And whilst on the subject of awards, the East Neuk Festival is pleased to congratulate one of its distinguished 2009 performers, Iraqi oud player **Ahmed Mukhtar** who won the Alhambra Award for Arts at the ninth Muslim News Awards for Excellence held in London on 31 March. The awards are given to artistic, sporting and political high achievers in the British Muslim community. Mukhtar's East Neuk oud recital is on the fourth of July at 10pm in the intimate setting of St Monan's Church as part of the festival's Strings By Candlelight series.

Further press information for East Neuk Festival:

Debra Boraston T 020 7483 1950 E debra@henrymoorestudio.co.uk
www.eastneukfestival.com

Notes to Editors:

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 include pianist Christian Zacharias, returning to the festival for the third time, Leopold String Trio, Doric String Quartet, Leipzig String Quartet, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, baritone Stephan Loges, harpist Catriona McKay, oud player Ahmed Mukhtar, lute player Jacob Heringman and the poetical Dr Richard Holloway. www.eastneukfestival.com

The RPS Music Awards are given for the finest live music making and are decided by independent panels comprised of members of the profession. Since 1989 the awards have recognised not only the calibre of today's classical musicians but also those who push creative boundaries to produce work which excites and engages audiences. The 13 individual awards honour a broad sweep of performers, composers, programmers, writers, broadcasters and inspirational outreach work. www.rpsmusicawards.com.