

MAKING HEADROOM FOR MUSIC

1- 5 July 2009



Renowned for always finding quirky new venues for its programming in this charismatic corner of coastal Fife, the East Neuk Festival promises to take audiences to perhaps the quirkiest place of all in 2009 - right between the ears, inside their heads!

Composer and sound artist, **Martin Parker** has been commissioned to create three new pieces specifically for headphones, inspired by different East Neuk locations as part of the Festival's ***In the Dark and Out There*** programming strand. Audiences will be able to listen to the works in-situ on their own equipment (the music will be downloadable from the festival website) or on festival MP3 players on hire (see below for details).

"These days headphones are ubiquitous," comments Martin Parker. *"Wherever you go, people are 'plugged in' and living in their own worlds half the time. This opens up a whole new and very personal dimension to the act of composing, knowing that the listener is going to be in a unique, very private, individual space with the sounds literally inside their head."*

Parker's inspirational starting points are St Fillan's Cave in Pittenweem, a harbourside bench overlooking the bay at Elie and Dunino Den, a leafy dell resonating with ancient mysticism behind Dunino Kirk.



St FILLAN'S CAVE: an erstwhile smuggler's cache and Victorian rubbish dump, the cave has now been restored to honour the hermit-like saint that originally lived there and is considered to be one of the Church of Scotland's most holy sites.

As the most narrative of the three, this piece will begin at the door's threshold and progress down the slope into the heart of the rock to investigate the particular intimacy of this space. *'Expect 'interior' noises of shuffling, scuffling and mumbling ...'*

St Fillan's is also the setting for Dr Richard Holloway's personal choice of poetry and music with SCO* flautist Alison Mitchell on 2 and 4 July as part of the 'In a Wild Place' programming strand.

BEACH BENCH: the listener will be surrounded by the sounds 'outside' - lapping waves, seagull cries, anchored boats tugged by the breeze - then gradually be taken out to sea and the horizon by the music 'inside' their head. *'Meditative and generally still and soothing but will have its stormier moments...'*





DUNINO DEN is a mysterious leafy glade with a brook trickling between boulders decorated with ancient celtic carvings. The trees are hung with tinkling bells, ribbons, shells, coloured feathers and other offerings tied there by visitors and new age travellers who recognise the spiritual essence of this place. *'Ambient sounds of the stream, rustling leaves etc inform a piece that moves from being a trance-like dance to something of a tribal rave.'*

Dunino's ceremonial characteristics and its natural pulpit above also make it the perfect venue for Dr Richard Holloway's poetry and music event with SCO flautist Alison Mitchell on 2 July, 3pm).

So, whether you are seeking a circum-aural or supra-aural experience, pack your headsets, earbuds, stereophones or cans and make headroom for the music.

OUT THERE

MP3 downloads available from www.eastneukfestival.com from 24 June.

Pre-loaded MP3 players and headphones available from Pittenweem Scout Hut for £5 per 3- hour hire from 11am on Thursday 2 July to 3pm Sunday 5 July.

*SCO Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Notes to Editors:

MARTIN PARKER (www.tinpark.com) is a Staffordshire-born composer, improviser and soloist with laptop whose work focuses on encounters between computers, people and places. Based in Edinburgh, he has performed and collaborated internationally with theatre companies, symphony orchestras, visual artists and ensembles; recent projects include *filament*, an interactive sound installation commissioned by the ISCM in the Tyrol and a new piece for computer and instruments called *Grab* written for Joby Burgess' New Noise Ensemble. He is artistic director of Edinburgh's Dialogues Festival www.dialogues-festival.org and one third of free improvisation trio Lapslap www.lapslap.net. Martin studied composition at the University of Manchester and completed a Ph.D in Composition at the University of Edinburgh in 2003. He is Academic Director of the University of Edinburgh's Msc in Sound Design. Some of his music is available on Ein Klang records, www.einklangrecrods.com and www.leorecords.com. <http://sd.caad.ed.ac.uk/tinpark/files/eastneuk/Sites.html> - for pictures of Martin Parker taking sound readings in the East Neuk venues

The East Neuk Festival celebrates its fifth birthday in 2009 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 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**.

Latest festival news, programme and artist details: www.eastneukfestival.com

East Neuk Festival booking information: Hub Tickets

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