



East Neuk Festival

29 June – 3 July 2011

PROFILING BEETHOVEN

Music and Sand

The musical life of Beethoven is introduced in 2011 as an ongoing East Neuk Festival theme that will build and develop through to 2013. This year works from his early to later years feature in the concert programmes of distinguished pianist **Christian Zacharias**, the dynamic young ensembles **Quatuor Ebène** and **Elias String Quartet** and the acclaimed **Leopold String Trio**, while the **Orlando Consort**, early music supremo **Richard Egarr**, Serbian pianist **Aleksander Madžar**, violinist **Isabelle van Keulen** and the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** bring a kaleidoscope of music across the centuries, from the ancient Machaut *Messe de Notre Dame* to John Adams' *Shaker Loops* by way of Bach, Mozart, Brahms, Ives, Schubert and more.

Artistic director **Svend Brown** has discovered yet more distinctive new venues, including a fascinating pair of buildings in St Andrews - the **Younger Hall**, named after its founder Dr James Younger of Mount Melville and **All Saint's Church**, commissioned in the 1920s by his wife, Annie, from the same architect.

Late Beethoven represents something of a departure for **Christian Zacharias**, who performed the composer's Op.110 for the first time last year at his 60th Birthday concerts. He plays it again, at his beloved Crail Church, along with the early Op.10 No.2. Brahms, too, has become increasingly important to Zacharias recently. As he says: *Getting older (at 60 you are approaching Brahms' life-span) I start accepting the profound melancholy and even depression in his works. As somebody in his circle put it: "When Brahms is in a good humour he sings 'the grave is my joy'".* Zacharias includes much Brahms in his festival concerts this year and also gives one of his superb lectures, reflecting on what gives Brahms' music its distinctive 'Brahms sound'.

Early Beethoven comes from the **Leopold String Trio** which plays his Trio in D Op.9 No.2, while the **Elias String Quartet** pairs his middle period quartets with two of Mendelssohn's, and **Quatuor Ebène** performs his later quartets alongside Borodin, Debussy and Mozart.



The late night sanctum of two atmospheric churches is the perfect setting for the **Orlando Consort's** candlelit concerts: Guillaume de Machaut's incomparable *Messe de Notre Dame* from the 14th century in St Monan's Church (built in Machaut's lifetime) and Ockeghem's *Requiem*, a towering masterpiece of the 15th century, interspersed with works by Mouton, Anchieta, Compere and other of his contemporaries in the intimate All Saint's Church tucked away in a St Andrew's back street.

Baroque enthusiasts should not miss the Festival's opening concert of the *Goldberg Variations* performed on the harpsichord by the 'Bernstein of Early Music' **Richard Egarr**, renowned for his joyful sense of adventure and a keen, enquiring mind in all his music-making. More Bach comes from Serbian pianist **Aleksander Madžar** who embarks on his own rite of passage to play all six partitas in their entirety for the first time.

Richard Egarr appears in conductor role with the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** and soloist **Isabelle van Keulen** for "Ascending...", the large-scale concert at the heart of this year's Festival in the Younger Hall. Beginning with more Bach – the earthy Violin Concerto in E – this musical journey traces the evolution of orchestral music in a heavenward direction to the transcendental beauty of Vaughan Williams' *Lark Ascending* by way of Schubert's 'Unfinished' Symphony and John Adams' vigorous *Shaker Loops*.

Following on from last year's hugely successful sand trains by the award winning team, Sand In Your Eye, the Festival has commissioned another huge sand sculpture that will take shape over the course of the Festival on Crail High Street outside the Honey Pot Tearoom. The subject is a closely guarded secret, still under discussion, but there will be a clear clue in the programme!

The East Neuk Festival gratefully acknowledges financial assistance from Fife Council, Creative Scotland and thanks many private donors and sponsors for their loyal support.

BBC Radio 3 will be at the Festival again this year to record four live concerts for future broadcast.

**Box Office: Hub Tickets T. 0131 473 2000 www.hubtickets.co.uk
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