



East Neuk Festival

29 June – 3 July 2011

Musical Journeys for Musical Giants Bach, Beethoven and Brahms

“There’s enough shoreline between Orkney and Aldeburgh to leave room for another festival within a whiff of the sea, especially when it’s as inventive and invigorating an event as the five-day East Neuk Festival... a distinctive asset to Scotland’s cultural scene.”

(Independent on Sunday 11.07.10)

Within just six years Scotland’s little gem of a chamber music festival in the East Neuk region of Fife has already come of age and is frequently mentioned alongside the legendary Aldeburgh Festival (coming up for 64 years old) and St Magnus Festival (34). Visitors from all over the UK flock to the charming villages and beaches of Crail, Elie, Pittenweem and St Monan’s to enjoy five days of top-notch, imaginatively programmed concerts performed in intimately atmospheric churches dotted along the coastline. The performers are among the world’s most renowned classical musicians and ensembles and the kaleidoscope of music on offer mirrors centuries of masterpieces, from medieval masses to 20th century classics, via Beethoven, Bach and Brahms.

“Ascending...” is the title of this year’s grand-scale concert at the impressive Younger Hall in St Andrews: **Richard Egarr** conducts the acclaimed **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** and soloist **Isabelle van Keulen**. The programme is quite literally intended as a journey heavenwards, starting with Bach’s earthy Violin Concerto in E and ending with the transcendental beauty of Vaughan Williams’ *Lark Ascending*, by way of Schubert’s ‘Unfinished’ Symphony, Ives’ *Unanswered Question* and John Adams’ vigorous *Shaker Loops*.

From the joyousness of Bach in the afternoon to the calm and spirituality of a late-night, candle-lit requiem from ancient times, there are concerts on offer to suit all tastes. Beethoven features prominently 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 Bach's famous *Goldberg Variations* is played on harpsichord by the "Bernstein of early music" **Richard Egarr** and the Bach *Partitas* are performed in their entirety by the brilliant Serbian pianist **Aleksander Madžar**. The rest of the Festival programme is laced with Debussy, Mozart, Mendelssohn and Schubert among others and Zacharias shines a spotlight on the Brahms sound in recital and lecture hall.

And, in between the music, the traditional holiday fun of building sandcastles takes on magical proportions with sand sculptor Jamie Wardley and his team, Sand In Your Eye. Last year the crowds flocked to see his monumental sand sculpture of a steam train take shape outside the Honeypot Tearoom on Crail High Street. This year he has been commissioned to style a huge bust of a famous composer featured at the Festival (the first person to guess correctly as it takes shape will win concert tickets). On Sunday afternoon, 3 July, Jamie and his team will oversee the creation of a huge sand drawing on Elie Beach, built by as many volunteers as want to join in - before the tide rushes in to reclaim it. It will be filmed from the air!

**Booking is open now at Hub Tickets T. 0131 473 2000 www.hubtickets.co.uk
Festival information www.eastneukfestival.com**

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