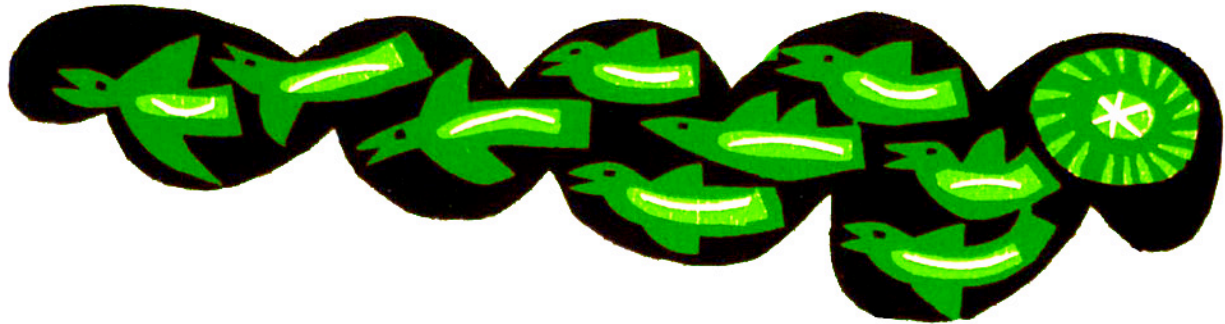


EAST NEUK FESTIVAL 3-7 JULY 2013
VARIOUS VENUES IN THE KINGDOM OF FIFE, SCOTLAND



BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER

*Festival of words and music to celebrate wildlife, landscapes
and seascapes of the East Neuk of Scotland*

The beautiful south eastern, coastal corner of Scotland - known as the East Neuk - is home to an award-winning annual chamber music festival where culture and nature go hand in hand. Now in its ninth year, the East Neuk Festival recently spread its wings to include *Littoral*, a writing and ideas programme featuring some of the UK's leading travel and nature writers.

With its rich heritage, wide sandy beaches, picturesque villages, arts communities, award-winning golf courses and top class restaurants, the East Neuk has long been an attraction to visitors. Festival director Svend Brown's assured and imaginative programming always embraces the spirit of the locality, with its rolling landscapes, far-reaching seascapes, and distinctive flora and fauna. And with its big skies in mind, birds and birdsong are especially prominent in 2013's music and *Littoral* programmes.

A highpoint of the five-day festival will be **Saturday at Cambo**, a day of indoor and outdoor events in and around the picturesque estate and home of Sir Peter and Lady Catherine Erskine - ranging from the creation of unique musical soundworlds in all corners of Cambo's famous walled garden and the sonorous interior of the estate's huge potato barn, to children's storytelling in the stables, foraging in the woodlands and along the shoreline, and readings and discussions about all manner of wildlife - from badgers and otters to goshawks and crows - in the grand rooms of Cambo House.

If *Song of the Rolling Earth*, the evocative title of the acclaimed book by esteemed naturalist and *Littoral* participant, **Sir John Lister-Kaye**, sums up the essence of the East Neuk Festival, then the music of experimentalist composer **John Luther Adams** is the expression of it. Inspired by nature and the ecosystems of his Alaskan home, Adams' wondrous *Inuksuit* for 30 percussionists gets its UK premiere performance in the Cambo garden, along with his magical *Songbirdsongs* for woodwind and percussion in the barn, which will be lit to resemble a dappled woodland.

Renowned for the consistently high calibre of its music programming and international performers, the East Neuk Festival line-up this year includes pianist and conductor **Christian Zacharias**, the acclaimed **Scottish Chamber Orchestra**, **Tallis Scholars** and the **Elias and Tokyo String Quartets** playing classical repertoire from Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert to Messiaen,

Poulenc, Ravel and more. Recitals take place in the ambient interiors of churches dotted along the coastline from Crail to St Monans as well as the cavernous Cambo Potato Barn with its extraordinary acoustic.

Littoral authors include acclaimed travel writer and Antarctic explorer, **Gavin Francis**; sea and birdlife illustrator and observer **Keith Brockie**; rescuer of 'unloved' birds (e.g. crows and magpies) **Esther Woolfson**; leading RSPB naturalist **Conor Mark Jameson**; Guardian journalist and badger enthusiast **Patrick Barkham**; otter-obsessed **Miriam Darlington** and always adventurous poet and author **Andrew Greig** who is also joined by guest musician **Mike Heron**, a founding member of the seminal '60s group The Incredible String Band.

And **ART** joins the East Neuk Festival's avian worlds of music and words with an exhibition of Galloway-based artist **Lisa Hooper's** distinctive linocuts, prints and engravings of birds and wildlife on display every day at Crail Church Hall.

Market research has shown that the Festival has visitors flocking to the region from far and wide and has helpfully extended its website this year to include much more information on places to eat, walk and stay in the East Neuk as part of the Festival experience. Every day is a grand day out at the East Neuk Festival and everything you need to know about the programme and its environment is online at www.eastneukfestival.com

Box Office: Hub Tickets T. 0131 473 2000 www.hubtickets.co.uk
Festival information www.eastneukfestival.com
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Notes to editors

- East Neuk (pronounced 'nuke') is approximately a one hour drive from Edinburgh (less from Edinburgh airport) – over the Forth Bridge and turn right! On the south coast it stretches from Largo to Crail, by way of St Monans, Elie, Anstruther and Pittenweem.
- Other attractions include Kellie Castle, Scotland's Secret Bunker, Cambo House and the ancient university town of St Andrews just to the north. The East Neuk Festival *Littoral* session with Keith Brockie will enlighten audiences to the Isle of May, whose bird and sealife are the subjects of his hugely popular, beautifully illustrated books, *One Man's Island* and *One Man's Island Revisited*. Boats to the Island leave from Anstruther pier.
- There is a wealth of holiday accommodation available, from friendly B&Bs and cottages, to opulent 5-star hotels.

The East Neuk Festival gratefully acknowledges support from Creative Scotland, Fife Council and Dunard Fund.

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