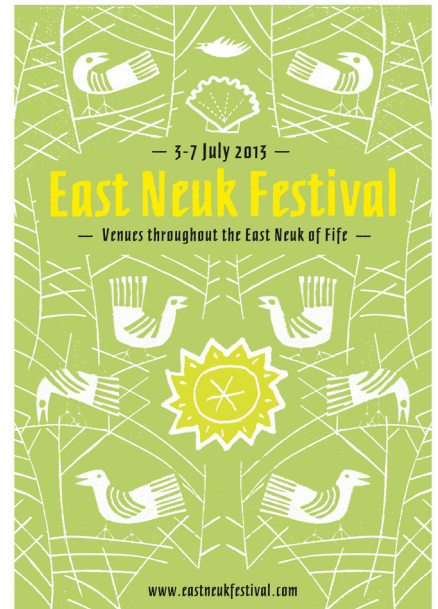


EAST NEUK FESTIVAL

Creating a dawn chorus for community celebration of birdsong

7 July 2013

www.eastneukfestival.com



It's time to listen, look up and capture the sweet sound of birdsong for the East Neuk Festival's unique creation of a chorus of twittering, tweeting, chirping, cheeping and warbling. The Festival, which is celebrating birds and birdsong across its whole programme of music, literature, art and sculpture this year (3-7 July 2013), is inviting the public to make recordings of the birds they hear and send them to the Festival for inclusion in a massive 'dawn chorus' which will be played at the Festival finale on Sunday 7 July. Symphony or cacophony, it will be a triumphant celebration of nature at the end of the closing concert of works by great composers inspired by birdsong – Beethoven, Messiaen and Ravel - in the lofty resonant interior of Cambo Potato Barn.

"In the back garden, in an urban park, by the seashore or in a nature reserve – birdsong can be heard in many places. We just need to listen," comments Festival director Svend Brown. *"But we also need to be aware that the melodious sound of birds is nevertheless diminishing – succumbing inexorably to the dangers of pesticides, loss of habitat and climate change.*

"Obviously, we planned our Festival programming over a year ago, but it seems we couldn't have come up with a more apposite theme than birdsong. The plight of nature and wildlife and its battle with humankind is in the news every day and the dawn chorus these days is nowhere near as raucous as it was."

Littoral, the writing and ideas strand of the East Neuk Festival, is wholeheartedly embracing the new wave of nature writers whose personal reflections and reactions interweave with the stories of the natural world they observe; **Keith Brockie**, **Gavin Francis** and **Conor Mark Jameson** are just some of the authors who will be appearing in talks and discussions. **Littoral** closes on the Sunday morning on a poignant note with an open debate - *Silent Summer?* - hosted by esteemed historian **Professor T.C. Smout**, environmentalist **Sir John Lister-Kaye** and author **Esther Woolfson**, at which the legacy of Rachel Carson's seminal exposé of 50 years ago on the threats to birdlife, *Silent Spring*, will be examined.

As well as the final concert and 'community dawn chorus', two iconic works by renowned American composer and environmentalist John Luther Adams, *Inuksuit* and *songbirdsongs*, will form the musical centerpiece of a concentrated day of Festival events focused on nature and culture on the Cambo estate on Saturday 6 July.

Birdsong recordings can be made on any recording device and sent as a sound file (in any file format) by 24 June 2013 to: Siobhan@eastneukfestival.com

The best times to record are when there is no traffic noise or strong wind.

Further press information: Debra Boraston T. 020 7483 1950 / 07989 434388
E. debra@henrymoorestudio.co.uk

Notes to Editors

Visit the website for full programme information: www.eastneukfestival.com

Closing Concert, Sunday 7 July 5pm, Cambo Barn

Scottish Chamber Orchestra conducted by **Christian Zacharias**

Messiaen: *Appel Interstellaire*

Honegger: *Pastorale d'été*

Ravel: *Ma Mère L'Oye (Suite)*

Beethoven: *Symphony No 6 "Pastoral"*

The East Neuk Dawn Chorus

Tickets £15.

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

The **East Neuk Festival** and **Littoral** run 3-7 July. Venues throughout the East Neuk from St Monans to Crail, feature chamber music across six centuries performed by the world's finest musicians including Scottish Chamber Orchestra, pianist Christian Zacharias, cellist Thomas Carroll, The Tallis Scholars, Tokyo String Quartet, Elias String Quartet, London Conchord Ensemble and Red Note Ensemble. *Littoral*, the writing and ideas strand of the East Neuk Festival, seeks to celebrate, explore and inquire into the natural world around us through the work of celebrated authors and poets.

Press release first sent 30 May 2013