

9 February 2014

MOST AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME YET FOR SPECIAL 10-DAY FESTIVAL

Classical Music, Jazz, Literature and Art



EAST NEUK FESTIVAL (ENF) HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Opening Classic Jazz weekend starring Julian Bliss, Renaud Garcia-Fons and Martin Taylor.
- Closing weekend *Schubertiad* featuring Christian Zacharias, Llŷr Williams, Belcea Quartet, Gould Piano Trio, Malin Christensson and Scottish Chamber Orchestra.
- Young artists pay tribute to masters in a series of homages: Julian Bliss to Benny Goodman, Sean Shibe to Segovia and Bream, Euan Stevenson to Ellington and Bill Evans.
- Scottish premiere of *Piano Trio No 2* by James MacMillan (Festival co-commission).
- Festival debut artists: Gould Piano Trio, Kristian Bezuidenhout, Ensemble Marsyas, Allan Clayton, Malin Christensson, Clemens Schuldt, Julian Bliss and Martin Taylor.
- Robert Macfarlane leads heavyweight bill for *Littoral*: two 'location' days of nature-focused *Littoral* events each weekend at Crail and Cambo including renowned writers and broadcasters Sally Magnusson, Richard Holloway and Kirsty Wark.
- Crail Family Day – interactive creative day of painting, composing, singing, dancing and storytelling on the theme of the high seas.
- *Fife in the Frame* – an exhibition of Fife landscapes by the Scottish Colourists and others from the Fleming-Wyfold Art Collection.
- Part of *Homecoming Scotland 2014*.

Past, present and future are entwined in the programming for this tenth anniversary Festival which welcomes back many of the musicians who have contributed to its first decade of success, while also still looking forward and introducing new works, artists and venues.

Foremost among the returning musical luminaries is pianist and conductor **Christian Zacharias** (back for his sixth residency), plus the **Belcea**, **Ebène** and **Elias** string quartets, pianist **Llŷr Williams**, guitarist **Sean Shibe**, bassist **Renaud Garcia-Fons** and the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra**. New to the Festival this year are fortepianist **Kristian Bezuidenhout**, **Ensemble Marsyas**, **Gould Piano Trio**, tenor **Allan Clayton**, soprano **Malin Christensson**, conductor **Clemens Schuldt**, clarinettist **Julian Bliss** and jazz guitarist **Martin Taylor**.

Littoral, the writing and ideas festival within the Festival, now motors into its third year with literary supremos **Jenny Brown** and **Catherine Lockerbie** firmly in the driving seat. With nature and landscape still at the heart of the programme, themes of journeys, pathways and memories are explored by eminent writers **John Burnside**, **Artemis Cooper**, **Richard Holloway**, **Sally Magnusson** and **Graham Robb**, while notions of gardens and wilderness and the balance of control and conservation are subjects to contemplate with **Jennifer Potter**, **Kirsty Wark**, **Carina Contini**, **Tim Dee** and **Robert Macfarlane**.

The very landscape and chosen venues of the East Neuk have always played a vital role in the programming of the Festival, lending their characteristics and ambience to the attraction of events both inside and outdoors. The seaside village of **Crail** is always a hotspot, never more so than in 2014. Crail Church hosts key chamber music concerts and *Littoral* events, which also take place in the Church of the Most Holy Trinity; the Community Hall is the centre for the opening weekend jazz events and Family Day; Crail Church Hall is both gallery for the East Neuk Festival graphics and picnic pick-up point, and the Honey-pot Tearoom forecourt in the High Street proudly showcases the ever-popular sand sculpture created by the team at Sand In Your Eye. **Cambo House** is again an important Festival hub; its historic drawing room provides intimacy and ambience for the *Littoral* sessions – several of which break out into the gardens for author-accompanied walks – while the sonorous interior of the potato barn is now the ideal setting for dramatic large-scale concerts. Distinctive churches at **Kilrenny**, **St Monans**, **Kilconquhar** and **Largo & Newburn** also play their part.

Festival founder and chairman, **Donald MacDonald**, comments: *“A date like a 10th birthday is a moment to reflect on how far we have come and to think about where we would like to go. Remembering the first festival – with its nine events, a total attendance of 700 and a production team of four – it is quite something to consider the 10th: 34 events and three exhibitions which will reach around 25,000 and be presented by a team of around 50. Just think what could happen by the 20th birthday!”*

Festival founder and artistic director, **Svend Brown**, adds: *“This is a quintessential ENF programme to celebrate our 10th birthday. We believe in long and rewarding relationships with artists, and it has been a special pleasure to invite back so many of the artists this year who have given the ENF such memorable performances in the last decade. But ENF is also about constant evolution and exploration and taking fresh risks every year: here are new artists, new works, new ventures, new formats, new venues. It is thanks to the loyalty of our many supporters that we can do this and I thank them wholeheartedly – first among them, Donald and Louise MacDonald. We will need them all more than ever as we head into our second decade in this time when the future is far from rosy for arts funding in general.”*

Culture Secretary, **Fiona Hyslop**, says: *“Over the last 10 years the East Neuk Festival has earned a respected position on Scotland’s arts calendar. I’m pleased that through Homecoming Scotland, we can support the Festival and make it an important part of Scotland’s 2014 celebrations. The East Neuk Festival’s cosmopolitan and eclectic programme is exciting and one which reflects Scotland’s world class arts and culture scene as a whole.”*

THE MUSIC

CLASSIC JAZZ

The rhythm of *swingtime*, the sophistication of Paris and the sheer brilliance of virtuoso guitar light up the opening weekend (27-29 June) with clarinettist **Julian Bliss** and his tribute to King of Swing Benny Goodman, bassist **Renaud Garcia-Fons** and his nostalgic love song to Paris, and **Martin Taylor’s** inimitable solo jazz guitar. Weaving amidst these greats is Scottish pianist **Euan Stevenson** (Emerging Artist 2013 at the Scottish Jazz Awards) and his trio with their homage to the likes of Ellington and Brubeck.

CLASSICAL

For this special birthday year the musicians have been invited to bring their own special projects – their gifts to the Festival – and the result is artistic encounters and collaborations unique to the time and place of the 2014 event. The **Belcea** and **Elias Quartets** join forces for Brahms and Strauss and members of the Belcea Quartet feature throughout the **Schubertiad** weekend (5 & 6 July) led by Christian Zacharias; Schubert's works for singers, instrumentalists, theatre and symphony are at its heart, from his landmark Piano Trio in E flat D929, performed by the Gould Piano Trio, to his Symphony No 8 in B flat "Unfinished", performed by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra conducted by Christian Zacharias.

Award-winning young guitarist **Sean Shibe** celebrates two giants of the guitar world, Segovia and Julian Bream, in two concert programmes inspired by their unique personalities and musical legacy, ranging from the gutsy Spanish and South American music of Villa Lobos and Barrios to influential works by Britten and Maxwell Davies.

Beethoven features prominently in the concerts of the **Elias String Quartet** and **Quatuor Ebène**, both of which have been showcased as rising stars in the past and are now well established as two of the foremost quartets of their generation. Making their Festival debuts are the highly praised fortepianist **Kristian Bezuidenhout** with **Ensemble Marsyas**, playing Mozart and Beethoven on period instruments, and the **Gould Piano Trio** which gives the Scottish premiere of a new work for piano trio by James MacMillan. Other ENF first-timers include prizewinning young conductor **Clemens Schuldt** with the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** in a landscape-themed concert of works by MacMillan, Luther Adams, Britten and Sibelius, plus acclaimed young tenor **Allan Clayton** singing Britten and Swedish soprano **Malin Christensson** singing Schubert.

Distinguished pianist and conductor **Christian Zacharias** was at the heart of the very first Festival and remains so in this, his sixth, Festival residency. He is at the helm conducting the closing concert with Scottish Chamber Orchestra as well as leading the *Schubertiad*, which also features pianist **Llŷr Williams**, returning to the Festival fold for the third time.

LITTORAL

Littoral is unique among literary festivals for its open-minded approach to writing and ideas on the themes of nature and environment. The rolling seascapes and landscapes of the East Neuk are the perfect setting for audiences to ponder the themes of travel and the natural world with some of today's most celebrated writers. For 2014, the *Littoral* events are concentrated into two weekends plus a special closing event on the last day with eminent travel writer **Robert MacFarlane**.

In Crail on Saturday 28 June, journeys, pathways and memories frame the sessions. Acclaimed biographer **Artemis Cooper** presents a vivid portrait of pioneering travel writer and charmer Patrick Leigh Fermor, and historian and travel writer **Graham Robb** reveals a lost map of the Celts whose pathways crossed Europe. Exploring deeply spiritual journeys and memories are **Sally Magnusson**, who has chronicled her mother's long struggle with dementia, and **Richard Holloway**, renowned for his sensitivity and candour, who reads from his most beloved writers. Finally, Fife-born professor, essayist, novelist, poet and passionate environmentalist **John Burnside** shares his deep love of nature.

The *Littoral* sessions at Cambo on the following Saturday (5 July) have gardens as the central theme, ranging from microcosmic to the massive wilderness. Horticultural historian **Jennifer Potter** presents a study of seven culturally symbolic flowers, **Kirsty Wark** muses on a beloved house and garden that is the centrepiece of her first novel and, in a second session, talks to well-known restaurateur **Carina Contini** about her restoration of a walled kitchen garden. At the other end of the scale, two

leading nature writers **Robert Macfarlane** and **Tim Dee** explore the legacy of John Muir, Scottish conservationist and founding father of the vast national parks of America, and ask how far the human race has managed the delicate balance between controlling, protecting and accepting the wilderness. *Littoral* ends on a high with another session led by Robert Macfarlane, undoubtedly one of the finest writers of his generation – a final thought-provoking discussion of our responses, literary and human, to the many pathways and landscapes of the natural world.

ART

In association with Fife Arts Trust and the **Fleming-Wyfold Art Foundation** – the finest private collection of Scottish art and paintings – East Neuk Festival also presents an exhibition of major landscape paintings of Fife and the East Neuk region by the likes of Hunter, Walton and Gillies. *Fife in the Frame* will be on show at St Andrews Museum from 31 May to 24 August.

The charming woodcuts and drawings of local landmarks by Pittenweem-based artist **Hilke MacIntyre** and the design skills of **Andy McGregor** have come together every year in varying vibrant colours and themes to create the distinctive, much-admired style and graphic identity of the East Neuk Festival. The full range of the decade's promotional material will be on display at Crail Church Hall every day from 11:00-16:00 for the duration of the Festival (entrance free).

For the past four years the **Sand In Your Eye** team has transformed a huge block of sand into a giant sculpture in keeping with the themes of the Festival, intriguing and delighting locals and visitors of all ages. Past masterworks have included a bust of Beethoven and a steam engine... the 2014 subject remains a secret.

FAMILY DAY

Saturday 28 June, 10:30-16:00

Crail Community Hall

Storytelling, music, dancing and painting are all on offer throughout the day, a jamboree of creativity for all ages. Multi-instrumentalist and songwriter **Michael John McCarthy** pools his musical talents with charismatic children's author **Vivian French** and dancer **Joan Clevillé** to engage youngsters in creating their own shows, while storytellers **Claire** and **Fergus McNicol** capture imaginations young and old with their tales of exploring the Isle of May. In between sessions children can also contribute to a giant seascape mural.

The East Neuk Festival gratefully acknowledges support from Creative Scotland, Fife Council, Homecoming Scotland 2014 and numerous private donors and trusts.

Festival information www.eastneukfestival.com

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

General booking opens 20 February 2014

Further press information:

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