

17 November 2014

LAUNCH OF 2015 PROGRAMME

Strings Across the Centuries



EAST NEUK FESTIVAL (ENF) HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- 100 Festival debuts
- Time Travellers: nine living composers in dialogue with the past
- Spotlight on Strings: the world's finest soloists and ensembles, rising stars and acclaimed masters assemble in the East Neuk
- Championing young talent at the first ENF Retreat
- 32 Horns in world premiere of ENF commission from John Luther Adams
- *Littoral* develops into a focused weekend programme introducing burning issues and book club events

The East Neuk Festival leaps way ahead of the pack with the early announcement of its full 2015 music programme on 17 November 2014. Following the successful extended format of the 10th anniversary programme, next year's festival stretches over nine days (27 June to 5 July), beginning with a weekend of engaging *Littoral* events and evening jazz concerts, followed by an inventive music programme that unfolds during the week along a time-travelling theme with strings at its heart.

ENF begins its new decade with a host of first-time Festival artists, all of them world class performers: violinists **Hugo Ticiati** and **Alexander Sitkovetsky**, fiddler **Duncan Chisholm**, violist **Maxim Rysanov** and cellist **Philip Higham** are the featured strings soloists alongside two celebrated American string quartets, the world renowned **Brentano Quartet** and the acclaimed young **Calidore Quartet**, plus the young string players emerging from their musical immersion of the first **ENF Retreat**. Other ENF debut artists include the **Gwilym Simcock Trio**, **Budapest Café Orchestra**, accordionist **Andreas Borregaard**, soprano **Mhairi Lawson**, pianist **Ashley Wass**, the **Dunedin Consort** and **John Butt**. The Scottish Chamber Orchestra has always been the touchstone and heart of the Festival since it began and this year is no exception with the **SCO Strings**, violist **Jane Atkins**, clarinettist **Maximiliano Martín** and horn player **Alec Frank-Gemmill** all featuring prominently.

JAZZ WEEKEND

Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 June

Multi award-winning pianist and composer Gwilym Simcock moves effortlessly between jazz and classical and is inspired by a wide range of music from the likes of Keith Jarrett and Chick Corea to Maurice Ravel and Mark-Anthony Turnage. As the **Gwilym Simcock Trio**, he brings bass player Yuri Goloubev and drummer Asaf Sirkis to the East Neuk to launch the Festival with an evening of sophistication and originality.

The **Budapest Café Orchestra** (Christian Garrick, violin; Eddie Hession, accordion; Kelly Cantlon, double bass; Adrian Zolotuhin, guitar, saz, balalaika) proclaims a special interest in rural touring and Crail Community Hall is undoubtedly the perfect venue for their unique soundworld of rousing jazz, gypsy and folk.

TIME TRAVELLERS

The notion of time travel permeates the core Festival this year. Artistic Director, **Svend Brown**, has not only programmed music spanning hundreds of years, but also makes links at deeper levels with the introduction of music by composers directly inspired by their forebears: whether it be Tchaikovsky echoing Mozart, Piazzola responding to Vivaldi, Auerbach's *Sogno* which weaves in and out of Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, or Golijov's *Tenebrae* reflecting Couperin. As always at the East Neuk Festival, the distinctively individual churches - at Crail, Dunino, Kilconquhar, Kilrenny and St Monans - provide atmospheric settings that are perfect for such musical contemplation across the ages.

Brown also cites as a prompt for this theme a special 'guest artist': *"We have the privilege of having a Stradivarius violin for some of our Festival artists to play. It dates back 300 years to 1715, a time at the heart of the Italian luthier's 'golden period' when he created an astounding number of wonderful stringed instruments. Every single Strad is a time traveller. They have been passed from hand to hand over the ages; who knows what company they have kept, which great musicians have held and played them?"*

Stringed instruments and Bach are therefore the central threads in five *Time Travellers* concerts, delving back to Stradivarius's time and traversing the centuries to modern times, making connections with the music of living composers such as Rehnqvist and Gubaidulina, as well as juxtaposing classic strings with other instruments including bells, vibes, accordion and the fiddle of folk music. For example, the third concert in this series connects Bach's cello suites, played by **Philip Higham**, with Scottish tunes from the same period played by fiddler **Duncan Chisholm**. This connection brings Bach's great music in contact with the music of perhaps the most tumultuous period in Scottish history. In another time-textured concert **Hugo Ticciati's** baroque violin and the music of Bach mirror the sounds of ancient church bells of Gotland assembled in a Prix d'Italia winning composition by Swedish composer Karin Rehnqvist. Ticciati also joins up with viola-player **Jane Atkins** and the **SCO Strings** for a programme featuring Bach alongside Vivaldi arranged by Piazzola, Auerbach and Tchaikovsky, while Higham connects with accordionist **Andreas Borregaard** for a programme of Bach with Gubaidulina and Pärt. Rounding off the *Time Travellers* series **Maxim Rysanov** and **Alexander Sitkovetsky** glory in the contrasts of Bach, Bartok, Mozart and Handel.

Two American quartets grace the Festival this year, the renowned **Brentano Quartet** and the very up-and-coming **Calidore Quartet**. In their own individual showcase concerts they explore the works of different generations of distinguished quartet composers, including Mozart, Mendelssohn, Beethoven and Britten. In ENF tradition, they also come together with other Festival performers – the Brentanos with **Ashley Wass** and **Maxim Rysanov** for an evening of Schubert, and the Calidores with **Maximiliano Martín** and **Mhairi Lawson** for more Schubert plus Osvaldo Golijov and Mozart.

Staying firmly in the 18th century, the **Dunedin Consort** focuses on Bach and Handel for a big concert in Cambo's wondrously acoustic potato barn under the direction of **John Butt**, who also plays organ masterworks by these baroque contemporaries on the notable Harris & Harris organ at Crail Church.

NEW COMMISSION WORLD PREMIERE

Supported by Dunard Fund

The 2015 Festival finale is right back in the 21st century with the world premiere of a special ENF commission from Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer **John Luther Adams**. ENF presented the UK premiere of his *Inuksuit* for 30 percussionists in the walled garden at Cambo House in 2013 and the outstanding success and impact of this event inspired Artistic Director Svend Brown to initiate a new series of annual commissions for East Neuk Festival which will see major names create work for professional and community artists performing side by side, exploring themes of environment, nature and community. *From a Distance* is co-commissioned by the South Bank Centre and Glasgow Music and is written for 32 amateur and professional horn players led by **Alec Frank-Gemmill**, critically acclaimed young principal horn of the SCO. The grounds of Cambo Estate will provide the ambient environment for this promenade event.

ENF RETREAT

Supported by The Misses Barrie Trust

Since its inception, East Neuk Festival has provided valuable opportunities for young musicians to perform at the Festival to an appreciative and knowledgeable audience. By way of further nurturing emerging talent, the Festival launches its first ENF Retreat in 2015 to actively support and inspire young musicians in a focused, yet relaxed, environment. Held during the week leading up to Festival opening and led by violinist **Alexander Janiczek** and **Svend Brown**, a team of musical mentors including **Heime Müller** (Artemis Quartet), violist **Krzysztof Chorzelski** (Belcea Quartet), cellist **David Watkin** and pianist **Alexander Lonquich** will work intensively with ten young string players in preparation for two concerts during the Festival itself.

LITTORAL

27 & 28 June weekend, Crail and Cambo

Littoral is unique among literary events with its unwavering commitment to exploring fine writing and great ideas connected to nature, landscape and seascape, in keeping with the environment of the East Neuk. Curators **Jenny Brown** and **Catherine Lockerbie** have programmed a thought-provoking weekend of events at which 'burning issues' will ignite discussion and revelations from a host of talented authors, including **Helen Macdonald** who has just won the the UK's major award for non-fiction, the Samuel Johnson Prize, for her debut memoir *H is for Hawk*. The programme will also feature, for the first time, two book club-style events, inviting a fresh look at two masterpieces of Scottish nature writing, **Gavin Maxwell's *Ring of Bright Water*** and **Nan Shepherd's *The Living Mountain***. *Full details will be launched in March 2015.*

ART

Art at the East Neuk Festival is always on a big scale with the **Sand In Your Eye** team. Last year's sand drawing of **Schubert on the Beach** attracted the crowds and aroused worldwide media attention despite its short existence between the tides. For 2015 another visual adventure is planned.

Festival information www.eastneukfestival.com

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

General booking opens 1 December 2014

Further press information

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