

## HOME TO ADVENTURES

**East Neuk Festival continues to offer major artists the space to create unique, inventive and collaborative music in 2018**



The award-winning East Neuk Festival, now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year under the creative leadership of founding artistic director Svend McEwan-Brown, continues to build on its proven successes and to offer musicians exceptional opportunities to devise unique, inspiring and adventurous projects. Over the years, the artistic relationships it has built with such artists as **Christian Zacharias** (returning for the 7<sup>th</sup> time), **The Tallis Scholars**, **Renaud Garcia-Fons** and the **Elias String Quartet** have deepened, and each time they return they bring something new and extraordinary: performances they will give nowhere else. Complementing them, 2018 are ENF debuts by star cellist **Jean-Guihen Queyras**, prize-winning young pianist **Yeol Eum Son**, lutenist **Paula Chateauneuf**, Turkish kemençe-player **Derya Türkan** and two of France's top guitarists, **Thibault Cauvin** and **Thibaut Garcia**. Highlights include:

- **Zacharias in the Age of Enlightenment: Zacharias appears as solo pianist, chamber player, conductor and conversationalist in an exploration of the 18<sup>th</sup> century's giant composers.**
- **Big Day of Bach: celebrated French cellist Jean-Guihen Queyras performs all six solo cello suites in specially selected venues.**
- **Miserere settings by Allegri and Josquin at the heart of contrasting concerts by The Tallis Scholars.**
- **Mad Women, Queens and Lovers of the Baroque with Mhairi Lawson and Paula Chateauneuf.**
- **Elias String Quartet residency, including two classical concerts plus a traditional music double bill with Duncan Chisholm and his band.**
- **Castalian String Quartet performs Scottish premiere of Pulitzer prizewinning composer Caroline Shaw.**

McEwan-Brown comments: "Musicians love to return to the East Neuk Festival – the venues are intimate and special, the audience is fantastic and we always offer the opportunity to do something rich and strange. Where else will you hear The Tallis Scholars perform alongside a jazz bassist; or the eight cellos of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra play Arvo Pärt, Górecki and Steve Reich; or catch the classical Elias String Quartet in a traditional music double bill with fiddler Duncan Chisholm; or all six Bach cello suites in a single day; or hear the acclaimed Mozartian Christian Zacharias join forces with rising stars, the Castalian String Quartet? We welcome music lovers to come and delight in the music in this beautiful and historic part of Scotland."

### **CHRISTIAN ZACHARIAS in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century**

Music of the revolutionary 18<sup>th</sup> century is at the heart of this year's programme. In performances and a special talk, Zacharias traces the musical revolution of the age in works by Rameau, Bach, Scarlatti, Soler, Haydn and Mozart. Solo works by Bach and Haydn set the scene for Mozart's joyous 14<sup>th</sup> Piano Concerto with the young Castalian String Quartet, while a

selection from Scarlatti's 555 sonatas and music by Catalan composer Antonio Soler form the second part of a double-bill concert with Queyras on his *Big Day of Bach*. Finally, Zacharias conducts the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in his own arrangement of Rameau's exuberant *Les Indes Galantes Suite*, Mozart's Clarinet Concerto and Haydn's 'Farewell' Symphony.

### **BIG DAY OF BACH – JEAN-GUIHEN QUEYRAS – Friday 29 June**

Bach early, Bach in the afternoon and Bach late – Jean-Guihen Queyras presents all six suites for solo cello in one day. The sunniest suite, No 1 in G, starts the day in Crail Church, followed by an afternoon of varying moods in the intimate setting of St Monan's clifftop church with the tragic 2<sup>nd</sup> suite, the sensuous 3<sup>rd</sup> and the joyous 4<sup>th</sup>. At the close of day Queyras performs the last two compelling and profound suites in the near darkness of the sonorous interior of The Bowhouse barn – a venue tried and tested for the first time last year, with brilliant results. Further insight and context are offered by cellist **David Watkin**, whose passion and deep knowledge of Bach are the hallmarks of his talks on music. He is also highly acclaimed for his own award-winning recording of these suites.

### **THE TALLIS SCHOLARS – MISERERE x 2**

Peter Phillips and The Tallis Scholars take the opportunity of their residency at ENF to create two programmes focusing on *Miserere* settings by Allegri (surely one of the most famous pieces of music of any time and place) and also an earlier, immense and powerful setting by Josquin. In the atmospheric Bowhouse barn, Josquin will be complemented by Renaissance masters, Byrd and Carver. For the second concert, The Tallis Scholars are joined by one of the world's most versatile bassists, Renaud Garcia-Fons, and eight of Scotland's finest cellists to set Allegri among improvisations and music by Arvo Pärt, Henryk Górecki, Steve Reich and John Tavener.

### **QUARTETS and PREMIERES**

The **Castalian String Quartet** was immediately re-invited to this year's Festival following its debut last year. As well as collaborating with Zacharias for Mozart, the Quartet presents its own characteristically spirited programme of pieces by Schumann and Haydn, plus the Scottish premiere of *Entr'acte* by composer Caroline Shaw, groundbreaking star of New York's classical scene, youngest ever winner of the Pulitzer Prize, and a prolific composer of chamber works for strings.

The **Elias String Quartet** has established itself as one of the foremost exponents of Beethoven's quartets since its major project of discovery a few years ago. For its ENF concerts, the Quartet presents powerful pairings of Beethoven quartets with those of Mendelssohn and Shostakovich, and then breaks the mould in a trad-quartet fusion created by its own violinist (and fiddler and composer), Donald Grant, in a double bill with fiddler Duncan Chisholm and his acclaimed band.

### **MAD WOMEN, QUEENS AND LOVERS**

In a specially created new programme, dramatic Scottish soprano **Mhairi Lawson** explores a cast of characters including Mary Queen of Scots, Mad Bess, Venus and Juno, as depicted by Purcell, Dowland, Monteverdi and Carissimi. In addition, she steps into the shoes of a female wonder of the Italian Baroque, Francesca Caccini, who composed and sang her own songs and was fondly known as 'La Cecchina'. Renowned early music instrumentalist **Paula Chateauneuf** accompanies.

### **MORE BOUNDARY-BREAKING MUSIC**

ENF's classical roots grow and flourish into 20<sup>th</sup> century jazz and world sounds for several concerts with an array of world-class virtuosos.

Young Korean pianist **Yeol Eum Son** is making a name for herself worldwide with her dynamic performances and programmes, both sparky and thoughtful. For her ENF debut she showcases tour-de-force masterworks from three great 20<sup>th</sup> century pianist composers who influenced each other: Gershwin, Ravel and Stravinsky.

French/Spanish bass player **Renaud Garcia-Fons** crosses a world of musical genres and cultural territories and appeals to an immensely wide audience. As well as improvisational interludes within The Tallis Scholars' programme of Pärt, he also teams up with Turkish virtuoso **Derya Türkan** for a *Silk Moon* evening of Mediterranean, eastern and western jazz sounds.

Two remarkable French guitarists **Thibault Cauvin** and **Thibaut Garcia** come to Scotland for ENF debuts with programmes ranging across classical, flamenco, jazz, Baroque and Romantic music for this immensely versatile instrument.

Following the success of last year's brass band project, **Festivallaround** returns in 2018 with three outdoor jamboree concerts with the Tullis Russell Mills band.

### ENF RETREAT

Each year since 2015, the Festival invites talented young professional musicians from all over the world to its Retreat. Under the directorship of violinist **Alexander Janiczek**, they are mentored by several of the world's finest musicians and tutors, including clarinettist Michael Collins who will coach the players for the Brahms Clarinet Quintet as part of one of the two Retreat showcase performances.

### THE BIG PROJECT

ENF's Big Projects aim to explore local heritage and embrace neighbourhood communities in creative events led by internationally renowned composers, artists and performers. For 2018, ENF will pay tribute to the fishing communities of Anstruther and Cellardyke and the role they played in the First World War. Art, storytelling and music will all play a part in the exploration of how their lives and work were affected. More details to follow.

#### Further information:

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**General booking opens Thursday 15 February**

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#### Notes to Editors

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