

15 November 2009

TRAVELS IN TIME AND PLACE

Monumental Works Written in Remarkable Times
Featured Composer Benjamin Britten
Plus a Star Turn for the East Neuk itself

30 JUNE – 4 JULY 2010



"You can hear the swing of the sea....East Neuk Festival is special because it's not in the city, not in concert halls, not in tents – it uses the local living landscape."

(Dr Richard Holloway at the East Neuk Festival 2009)

Despite leaner budgets this year the East Neuk Festival's persistently ambitious artistic director, Svend Brown, has again engaged a host of world class musicians for five days of music-making in the Kingdom of Fife, including the **Belcea and Elias Quartets, Tallis Scholars, London Winds**, Russian virtuoso pianist **Alexander Romanovsky**, **Scottish Chamber Orchestra**, French jazz star **Renaud Garcia Fons**, and pianist **Malcolm Martineau** with young singers **Katherine Broderick** and **Robin Tritschler**. Monumental works such as the *Victoria Requiem* and *Spem in Alium* for 40 voices anchor the 'ancient' programme, while a central strand of Benjamin Britten's themes and inspirations spans the centuries from Purcell to Schubert. The East Neuk itself is the subject of a specially commissioned film and exhibition.

MUSIC - Renaissance Polyphony to Jazz Combo

Benjamin Britten is the featured composer of the 2010 festival presented alongside his musical idols Schubert, Mozart and Purcell. *"I sense a strong kinship between Britten's beloved Suffolk and the East Neuk – and being in this lovely stretch of Scottish coastline can only enhance your pleasure in hearing his music"* comments Svend Brown. He has programmed the Festival with Britten's **folk song** arrangements and the **string quartets**, which stretch across the full scope of the composer's career from the early first two created in the 1940s to the poignant last in 1975 just before his death. The Elias String Quartet takes on this repertoire (which they are also releasing on CD in Spring 2010 on the Sonimage label), pairing each quartet with appropriately influential works by composers Schubert, Purcell and Mozart. Britten's much loved arrangements of British folk songs are performed by one of his finest interpreters, pianist Malcolm Martineau, with multi award-winning young singers Katherine Broderick and Robin Tritschler.

Britten is also obliquely laced into the Festival's centerpiece concert in the imposing Holy Trinity Church, St Andrews. **Arvo Pärt's Cantus in Memoriam Benjamin Britten** opens an evening of monumental works written in remarkable times including **Vaughan Williams's Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis**, a pinnacle of Renaissance polyphony **Spem in alium** for 40 solo voices and **Strauss's Metamorphosen** for 23 solo strings. The legion of superior soloists required for this programme comes from the peerless Tallis Scholars

joined by the East Neuk Singers (assembled and trained by James Waters), the renowned Belcea Quartet and Scottish Chamber Orchestra directed by violinist Alexander Janiczek.

Chamber music remains at the very heart of the East Neuk Festival, being entirely suited to the uniquely atmospheric churches in which it is performed. The esteemed Belcea Quartet follows in the venerable footsteps of previous East Neuk visitors such as the Alban Berg and Skampa Quartets with a concert featuring some of the brightest jewels of the classical repertoire including **Haydn, Szymanowski** and **Mozart**. They also team up with the London Winds for the Festival's richly Romantic opener which pairs **Brahms's second String Quartet** with **Schubert's Octet in F major**.

Another monumental work, **Beethoven's Diabelli Variations**, is showcased in splendid isolation by another young star of the piano world, young Russian virtuoso, Alexander Romanovsky who has already attracted the attention of Gergiev, Pletnev - and the Pope. His other recital delivers another single masterpiece, **Rachmaninov's Etudes-Tableaux, Op 39**.

Opening the window on the 21st century is the charismatic French bassist Renaud Garcia Fons and his ensemble of accordion, flamenco guitar and percussion. **Linea del Sur** is his latest project, a piece that reflects the many musical styles – **Latin, Mediterranean, flamenco and jazz** - that illuminated his childhood. With his customized five string bass he wraps up heart and soul with virtuosity and generous melodies, shared with his equally inspiring and individual fellow instrumentalists.

MUSIC AND WORDS

Dr Richard Holloway returns to the East Neuk Festival, blending his sonorous words with music of all kinds. In 2010 he reflects on life, loss, death and consolation in short interpolations to The Tallis Scholars' performance of the **Requiem** by Tomas Luis de Victoria.

FILM & EXHIBITON – The Holiday Line

If there is a sense of awe and grandeur in much of the Festival's classical music programme in 2010, this is balanced by a project which draws the public into the very fibre of the East Neuk's popularity. With its long stretches of sandy coastline, coastal walks, famous golf courses, fine dining, heritage sites and characterful churches, the region has always attracted holidaymakers. However, the closing of the regional railway - popularly known as 'The Holiday Line' - in the 1960s put paid to many annual family holidays. The current day relics of these prosperous times include crumbling railway arches and miles of disused line criss-crossing the countryside and fringing the coast. The East Neuk Festival has commissioned local artists Kenny Munro and Ed O'Donnelly to make a film tracing the enigmatic journey of the region from past to present, inter-cutting rare archive film with present day footage integrated with music and ambient sound. Free daytime screenings take place at Crail Community Hall where there will also be an exhibition of photographs and memorabilia curated from the general public.

Several of the concerts will again be recorded by BBC Radio 3 for later broadcast in its Lunchtime Concert Series.

Notes to editors:

General Festival information:

www.eastneukfestival.com

<http://twitter.com/EastNeukFest> East Neuk Festival **Facebook**

Please refer to enclosed brochure/attached pdf file for full programme details and dates.

Artist information:

Belcea Quartet: www.belceaquartet.com

Katherine Broderick: <http://www.maxinerobertson.com/content/artists/documents/kb-bio.pdf>

Elias String Quartet: www.eliasstringquartet.com

Renaud Garcia Fons: www.renaudgarciafons.com

Alexander Janiczek: <http://www.loganartsmanagement.com/artists/janiczek>

London Winds: www.hazardchase.co.uk/artists/london_winds

Malcolm Martineau: www.martineau.info/

Alexander Romanovsky: www.romanovsky.it

Scottish Chamber Orchestra: www.sco.org

Tallis Scholars: www.thetallisscholars.co.uk

Robin Trtischler: <http://www.askonasholt.co.uk/artists/singers/tenor/robin-tritschler>

Booking information: Hub Tickets

The Hub, Castlehill, Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH1 2NE

Tel: +44 (0)131 473 2000 Fax: +44 (0)131 473 2003

Web: www.hubtickets.co.uk

Priority booking opens on 16 November 2009

General booking opens on 30 November 2009

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