

Canterbury Festival

15-29 OCTOBER 2011

Kent's International Arts Festival

www.canterburyfestival.co.uk



NEWS RELEASE

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A sneaky peak at Canterbury Festival's highlights

Canterbury Festival is Kent's International Arts Festival and will take place between 15 - 29 October this year. The programme includes over two hundred events in two weeks all across the art forms - from classical music, theatre and dance, to world music, comedy and talks, visual arts, walks and the youth driven Festival Fringe. The Festival offers a great variety of quality performances and activities to suit all ages, tastes and budgets.

While it doesn't seem that long ago that we've heard the closing notes of Beethoven's 9th Symphony on the last night of the Festival at the end of October, Rosie Turner, Festival Director, is looking firmly ahead and provides a sneak preview of this year's highlights ahead of announcing the full programme in July:

At Canterbury Cathedral the inspirational Soweto Gospel Choir, hailed by the New York Times as 'meticulous and unstoppable...spirited and spectacular' will open proceedings. The 52-strong choir, under the direction of Beverly Bryer, draws on the best talent from the many churches in and around Soweto and has shared the joy of African Gospel music since 2002 to great acclaim with audiences all over the world.

In contrast, one of the world's finest vocal chamber groups The Hilliard Ensemble brings its distinctive style and excellent musicianship to the Cathedral. They are joined by Norwegian saxophonist Jan Garbarek, promising an atmospheric musical experience.

The Grammy nominated Trondheim Soloists are set to make a return to the Festival where their combination of youthful vigour and lively enthusiasm for the music will add further delight to the Festival programme.

Pianist Lucy Parham joined by actors Harriet Walter and Martin Jarvis will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Hungarian composer Franz Liszt with *Odyssey of Love*. Drawn largely from his prolific and colourful letters and interspersed with some of his most ecstatic and expressive piano music, *Odyssey of Love* is a portrait of his relationship with the two most important women in the composer's life: the aristocratic freethinking rebel and mother of his three children, Marie d'Agoult and the bizarre cigar-smoking intellectual Princess Carolyne von Sayn Wittgenstein.

The full programme will be announced in July with information and tickets available online at www.canterburyfestival.co.uk and from the Festival Box Office on 01227 787787 in early August.

Ends.

Canterbury Festival | 15-29 October 2011 | www.canterburyfestival.co.uk

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Notes to Editors:

- Canterbury Festival 2011 runs from 15-29 October in and around Canterbury, Kent.
- Full details of the programme of events will be announced in July and will be available in the Festival brochure online at www.canterburyfestival.co.uk and from the Festival Office.
- Booking for the general public opens on Monday 8 August, with a priority booking period of min. 2 weeks for Friends of the Festival prior to that. Tickets will be available online at www.canterburyfestival.co.uk or from the Festival Box Office in the Canterbury Visitor Information Centre in person or by phone 01227 787787.