

Canterbury Festival

15-29 OCTOBER 2011

Kent's International Arts Festival

www.canterburyfestival.co.uk



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canterbury Festival 2011

A fascinating journey with destination Canterbury

The full programme has just been released for this year's Canterbury Festival which runs 15-29 October. As in previous years, the Festival that promises "something for everyone" offers an amazing range of classical, popular and world music, theatre, talks, walks and exhibitions – but for the first time this year ventures into the fascinating realm of Science and the Arts.

Launched by **Lord Robert Winston** with a thought provoking insight into the relationship between science, society and religion, there are six more captivating events worth exploring. They include stand up mathematician Matt Parker in *Your Days are Numbered* and rock physicist Dr Mark Lewney who provides a guided guitar tour through the science of music making in *Music: An Explanation by a Guitar Hero*.

The magnificent Canterbury Cathedral provides the atmospheric setting for the Opening Day concert of inspirational traditional and popular African gospel music by the 24 singers, musicians and dancers of multi Grammy Award winning **Soweto Gospel Choir** offering a joyful spectacular of song and dance. From Norway, the **Trondheim Soloists**, a dynamic young chamber orchestra, are back by popular demand, and saxophonist **Jan Garbarek** joins forces with the **Hilliard Ensemble** to explore the Cathedral Nave's acoustics.

The first Festival event in the newly re-built Marlowe Theatre will be the concert by the **Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra** during the opening weekend. The 103 strong ensemble under the baton of **Yuri Botnari** is joined by prodigiously talented violinist **Nikita Boriso-Glebsky** for a dazzling Russian programme.

The Dark Entry, a site specific play commissioned by Canterbury Festival and based on a story from the *Ingoldsby Legends* will give the audience access to secret spaces of Canterbury's King's School in a spine tingling promenade performance led by Thomas Ingoldsby himself.

The Festival's Opening Day with its free events for all the family just got bigger and bolder: The **Carnival Parade** takes to the city streets with beautiful colourful paper and light sculptures made from recycled materials, music and movement, and featuring over 300 local school pupils and members of community groups. The day ends with a stunning finale in Toddlers Cove where – in return for getting involved – the audience will get a sneak preview of the new show by The World Famous, Kent's pyrotechnic experts. *All Hands* relies on audience power, so come along and get involved!

Throughout Festival fortnight the dedicated **Family programme** offers entertaining performances and workshops for and by children, including Little Cauliflower's *Street Dreams* continuing the environmental theme of the Parade and half term entertainment.

At the Gulbenkian Theatre performances include a fresh take on *Romeo and Juliet* by innovative theatre company Night Light Theatre, while in *1 Beach Road*, a genuinely funny and moving tale of two women, RedCape Theatre give thought to the serious topics of coastal erosion and dementia.

Every year, two venues are transformed for Festival fortnight: The former church St Alphege's becomes the Festival Club, an intimate hub for folk, jazz, swing, funk and blues. At Shirley Hall, this year's highlights include local world class band **Caravan** reviving their distinctive Canterbury sound; while comedians **Robin Ince** and up and coming talent on the circuit **Jon Richardson** share their musings with the audience. In *Odyssey of Love*, pianist **Lucy Parham** together with actors **Harriet Walter** and **Martin Jarvis** pays tribute to Hungarian composer and pianist Franz Liszt in his bicentenary year and *Piaf - The Songs* celebrates the French singers life and work.

Events beyond the city walls include the tragic love story of *Madam Butterfly*, brought to the stage of Theatre Royal Margate by Mid Wales Opera and there are local Artists' Open Houses trails in Whitstable, Herne Bay and Faversham (as well as Canterbury) waiting to be explored. This year's **Festival Exhibition** at the Cathedral Chapter House is *In the Presence of Nature* by UCA Canterbury graduate **Jonathan Trayte**, showcasing bronze sculptures either plated in precious metals or coated with meticulously painted layers.

Full details of all Festival events and venues plus an online brochure can be found at the Festival's new website at www.canterburyfestival.co.uk. General booking opens on 8 August and tickets can be booked on the Festival website or with the Festival Box Office (Visitor Information Centre, The Buttermarket, Canterbury) on 01227 787 787. Priority booking is available to Friends of the Festival 25 July-7 August and there is still time to join with memberships starting from £20.

Ends.

For Festival information, interviews and review tickets contact:

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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 are 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 two week priority booking period for Friends of the Festival from Monday 25 July. Tickets are available online at www.canterburyfestival.co.uk or from the Festival Box Office in the Canterbury Visitor Information Centre (The Buttermarket) in person or by phone 01227 787787.
- The new Festival website launched on 18 July includes an RSS feed interested members of the media can subscribe to, ensuring updates to the press section of the website reach them as they happen.
- As a passionate supporter of regional arts and culture, Canterbury Christ Church University is proud to be the five-year Partner and Principal Sponsor of the Canterbury Festival. The University is the number one choice for local people looking to study at university in Kent. In 2012, Christ Church celebrates its 50th anniversary and, as a home to world-leading research and internationally recognised teaching in music, it will open its new St Gregory's Centre for Music to local communities and national audiences.