

Canterbury Festival

16-30 OCTOBER 2010

Kent's International Arts Festival

www.canterburyfestival.co.uk



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANTERBURY FESTIVAL 2010 CELEBRATES THE INDIVIDUAL WITH A PROGRAMME PACKED FULL OF QUALITY EVENTS IN EAST KENT

Canterbury Festival is Kent's International Arts Festival and will take place between 16 - 30 October this year. Enlivening the autumn with a thrilling international line-up, Canterbury Festival includes over two hundred events in two weeks all across the art forms - from theatre, classical music and dance, to world music, comedy and talks, visual arts, walks and the youth driven Festival Fringe. In 2010 the programme is peppered with tributes to extraordinary individuals and offers a great variety of quality performances and activities to suit all ages, tastes and budgets.

Canterbury Cathedral is at the Festival's heart, and offers a glorious setting for many of the classical music highlights. The opening concert by the **Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra of Moscow Radio** with the young and talented violin soloist **Alena Baeva** will be a monumental start to the Festival in size and sound. Full surround sound can be enjoyed when the **Armonico Consort** with the **Choir of Gonville and Caius College Cambridge** fill the Nave with their performance of two 40 part motets and other large scale works from the 16th century in *Super Size Polyphony*. Award-winning young British ensemble **Stile Antico** will bring their impeccably tuned harmonies to the Eastern Crypt, offering a very atmospheric and intimate concert experience.

After successfully proving a worthy alternative to the closed Marlowe Theatre in 2009, **Shirley Hall** is once more the destination for some of the Festival's biggest names in music, comedy and musical theatre. Nestled in the grounds of the King's School, this large city centre venue will host two weeks of Festival events including internationally recognised Turkish pianist **Idil Biret** celebrating the bicentenary of Chopin's birth, actress **Patricia Routledge** (TV's Hyacinth Bucket) commemorates the life and work of Dame Myra Hess in *Admission: One Shilling* and best-selling internationally acclaimed jazz singer **Stacey Kent** and legendary rock keyboardist **Rick Wakeman** respectively put their stamp on this year's Festival full of individualists.

In the varied Theatre programme, acclaimed actress **Linda Marlowe** becomes *The World's Wife* with a collection of **Carol Ann Duffy's** poems giving voice to the wives of famous men throughout the ages; ***Hit Me! The Life and Rhymes of Ian Dury*** provides an entertaining insight into the troubled singer-songwriter's career; with Angel Exit's take on ***Moonfleet*** mayhem ensues on stage telling J Meade Falkner's classic smuggling adventure and with **Roger McGough** one of Britain's best-loved poets rounds off the extraordinary mix.

Midweek, speakers of all walks of life hold talks, including TV presenter **Kevin McCloud**, biographer and historian **Philip Ziegler**, politician turned writer **Roy Hattersley**, bestselling author **Marina Lewycka** and broadcaster and writer **Sarah Raven**.

The Festival opens with a free community **Carnival Parade** through the city streets, with beautiful colourful paper and light sculptures, music and movement, and featuring over 500 local school pupils and community groups. Throughout Festival fortnight the dedicated **Family programme** offers entertaining performances and workshops for and by children, including Children's Laureate **Anthony Browne** and half term entertainment.

At the **Festival Club** Ireland's superstar singer-songwriter **Kieran Goss**, local family band **Cocos Lovers**, **Evan Christopher's** gypsy jazz project ***Django à la Créole*** and **Chris Jagger's Atcha** have gigs and a range of great bands play every night.

Plus there's Comedy (**Sean Lock, Kit and the Widow**), Dance (**Ballet Black, Swan Lake** presented by a troupe of Russian dancers from the Rudolf Nureyev Russian State Ballet Academy), and over a hundred artists exhibiting in the **Visual Arts** programme, including **David Begbie's Iconii** showing innovative steelmesh and steel panel sculpture in fine detail at the Cathedral Chapter House.

Full details of all Festival events and venues plus an online brochure can be found at www.canterburyfestival.co.uk. General booking opens 9 August, tickets are available on the Festival website or from the Festival Box Office on 01227 787 787.

Ends.

Canterbury Festival | 16-30 October 2010 | www.canterburyfestival.co.uk

For Festival information, interviews and review tickets contact:

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Notes to Editors:

- Canterbury Festival 2010 runs from 16-30 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 9 August.** Tickets are 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.
- Festival Director Rosie Turner is available for interview; please contact Stefanie Klinge-Davis at the Festival Office.
- High-resolution images are available for all Festival events