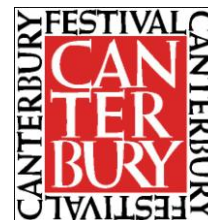


Canterbury Festival

16-30 OCTOBER 2010

Kent's International Arts Festival

www.canterburyfestival.co.uk



NEWS RELEASE

30 September 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New home gives Canterbury Festival a presence

Canterbury Festival has relocated to new premises in Orange Street, Canterbury, thanks to its partner and principal sponsor, Canterbury Christ Church University.

This move marks the end of over 15 years in the historic location of Christ Church Gate at Canterbury Cathedral. The Precincts have provided a prestigious and inspirational setting for the Festival, but owing to an expansion of activities and staff over a number of years a search began to identify a more suitable location.

This year saw the Festival entering into a five year agreement with Canterbury Christ Church University. The partnership seeks to deliver a number of mutually beneficial activities including the development of cultural events and student opportunities across the university's campus network. As part of the pioneering agreement, the university will lease its property in Orange Street to the Festival as its new headquarters for a period of five years. At the end of this period the Festival will have the option to purchase the property, thus securing a long term home.

By moving to the new premises, the team has the unique opportunity to operate out of a modern building, expand its arts activity in the region and become more accessible to the public.

Commenting on the relocation, Festival Director Rosie Turner, said : "Naturally we are extremely grateful to the Dean and Chapter for providing such a fantastic environment at Christ Church Gate for many years. However, this move marks an exciting development for the Festival and I am grateful to Canterbury Christ Church University for its commitment and support".

Vice-Chancellor of Canterbury Christ Church University, Dr Robin Baker CMG, said : "The vision of Canterbury Christ Church University and the Canterbury Festival are one: to enhance East Kent's reputation as a national and international centre for the arts. The university's work in producing the arts professionals of the future and the Festival's in showcasing high-quality artistic achievement are complementary. We are delighted to be the partner and principal sponsor of the Canterbury Festival and wish Rosie Turner and her team great success and fulfilment in the Orange St premises."

An appeal, 'Building for the Future', is launched on 30 September 2010. It is hoped that sufficient funds will be raised to purchase the building in five years' time.
Ends.

Notes to Editors:

Photo : the new premises in Orange Street, Canterbury
From left to right Rosie Turner, Festival Director, and Dr Robin Baker, Vice-Chancellor of Canterbury Christ Church University

Canterbury Festival

Canterbury Festival is Kent's International Arts Festival, the largest festival of arts and culture in the region, and one of the most important cultural events in the South East. Revived in 1984, the Festival attracts an audience of nearly 80,000 people of all ages to free and ticketed events, drawn from across Kent, London and the South East. With over two hundred events in two weeks there is something to suit everyone from classical music to contemporary dance, comedy to world music with theatre, walks, talks, visual arts and much more.

In 2010 the Festival takes place in venues across Canterbury and the surrounding areas between 16 and 30 October. Full details of all Festival events are available on the website www.canterburyfestival.co.uk. Tickets are available online or from the Festival Box Office 01227 787787.

Canterbury Christ Church University

Canterbury Christ Church University has, since its foundation by the Church of England as a teacher training college in 1962, developed a wide range of taught programmes, research and educational services. It continues to be the largest centre of higher education in Kent for the major public services.

The University now has approximately 16,700 students based in five Faculties: Arts and Humanities, Business and Management, Education, Health and Social Care, Social and Applied Sciences. Our 1,500 staff contribute to the University's work at our five campuses: Canterbury, Broadstairs, Folkestone (in partnership with the Creative Foundation and the University of Greenwich), Medway (in partnership with the Universities of Greenwich and Kent with Mid-Kent College) and Tunbridge Wells.

In so doing we seek to sustain the University's Mission: 'Inspired by the University's Church of England Foundation and the aspirations of our students and staff, our mission is to pursue excellence in academic and professional higher education thereby enriching both individuals and society.'

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