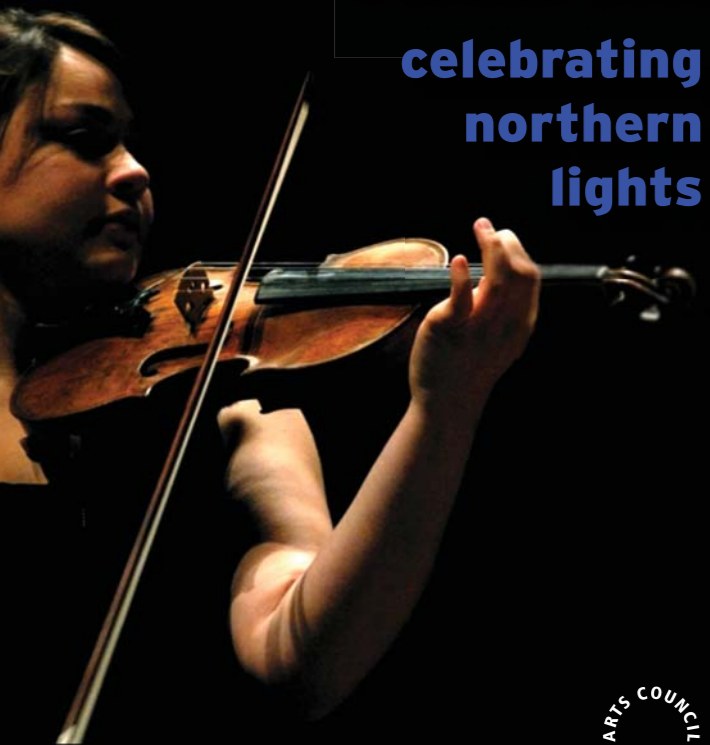


HEXHAM ABBEY FESTIVAL

25 September -
4 October 2008

celebrating
northern
lights



Box Office: 01434 652477
Info: 01434 602031
festival@hexhamabbey.org.uk
www.hexhamabbey.org.uk/festival



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WELCOME TO HEXHAM ABBEY FESTIVAL 2008

For ten days Hexham Abbey provides the perfect setting for some shining examples of music, from classical to folk to jazz and more. We have film, poetry, our growing schools & community events, street theatre, and of course our own Festival Chorus and special guests Exaudi for the traditional candlelit finale concert. We even have Mendelsohn and Wagner as our community artists in residence this year!

Acoustic Triangle make a welcome return, this time with the Sacconi Strings, on their acclaimed "3 Dimensions" national tour, making full use of the spaces and wonderful acoustic of the Abbey - as will Sarah Leonard and Thomas Corns, putting the unique Phelps organ through its paces.

All the innovations last year met with great approval from our audiences, particularly our Young Artist Platform, and we continue with our aim to make the Festival become the most vibrant, exciting line up of outstanding artists. We're especially pleased to welcome Fribo, fresh from successful Scandinavian tours, where they have been played on NRK, Norway's No 1 radio station. But every event is a winner and has something special to offer. I look forward to meeting many new Festival visitors in 2008.

All of this is made possible thanks to the support of the dedicated volunteers on our Festival committee, and our funding partners. We all offer a warm welcome to this year's Hexham Abbey Festival. Visit our website for latest news at www.hexhamabbey.org.uk/festival

Graham Coatman
Artistic Director

www.hexhamabbey.org.uk/festival



www.hexhamabbey.org.uk/festival

THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

ACOUSTIC TRIANGLE & SACCONI STRINGS

8.00 pm Hexham Abbey



"3 Dimensions" - Tim Garland (sax), Gwilym Simcock (piano) & Malcolm Creese (bass), plus 6 string players, utilising the Abbey's magical spaces, have crafted original pieces in which hidden passages from themes ancient and modern emerge, echo, develop, melt and re-emerge in a feast of real acoustic music - a

surprising and unforgettable experience! Their Hexham appearance is part of a major national tour. "Adventurous, eclectic, frequently breathtaking - undisputed masters of the game" - The Guardian

Event 1 £15 £12 conc £8

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

AN ITALIAN STRAW HAT

- Silent film with live music

8.00 pm The Forum Cinema

René Clair's classic silent film based on the original fast paced French farce refuses to show its age: the visual gags come thick and fast and it is still as funny as when it was made in 1927. Presented with a specially composed score, played live by artists in the Festival's Young Artist Platform, this will be a highly original and entertaining event in the restored Forum Cinema.

Event 2 £6 conc £4

LAURA-JAYNE HUNTER

(singer/songwriter) - Young Artist Platform 1

9.45 pm The Forum Cinema

Laura-jayne, a winner of 2008 Bright Young Things, has an intimate, acoustic sound with a clear folk influence. She cites inspiration from Imogen Heap, Joni Mitchell and Eva Cassidy, with a touch of Massive Attack. Her eclectic mix of vocal tones, beautifully crafted harmonies, alongside quirky, catchy melodies has an ability to connect emotionally with her audience through her narrative use of lyrics and her delicately played guitar.



Event 3 £6 conc £4

Combined ticket for events 2 & 3:

Event 2+3 £10 conc £6

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SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

Street Festival

10.00 am - 3.00 pm around Hexham Town



The opening weekend of the Festival offers free events around Hexham town centre. Pride of place goes to our community artists Carolyn Mendelsohn and Ingrid Wagner; there'll be street theatre, poetry and musicians giving impromptu performances everywhere! The schools procession will be led by the Dilston dragon to the unveiling of the "Big Knit", featuring the giant sculpture knitted from recycled materials in a project led by Ingrid Wagner. There will also be appearances by the highly original and entertaining Dolly Pop, offering their innovative a cappella girl band mix of Sticky Pop, Man-eating RnB and Gangsta Hip Hop with some glockenspiel and loop action, performed in a dolly fashion. This is not to be missed!!

The Mayor of Hexham's Guild of Guides offers town centre walks, meeting outside Hexham Abbey Gift Shop at 2pm on Sunday 28 and Tuesday 30 September. For more information contact Tourist Information Centre on 01434 652220.

Hexham Abbey Festival Chorus & Orchestra in HAYDN NELSON MASS

7.30 pm Hexham Abbey

David Murray again conducts Hexham Abbey Festival Chorus and Orchestra this year in Haydn's spirited and dramatic "Nelson" Mass. The programme also features music by Benjamin Britten - a brilliant orchestration by Imogen Holst of his evocative cantata Rejoice in the Lamb and his Canticle Abraham and Isaac. The lithe lines and colourful sounds of these works will be heard to great effect in the wonderful acoustic of Hexham Abbey.



Event 4 £18 £15 £12 conc £8

www.hexhamabbey.org.uk/festival



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SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

10.00 am Hexham Abbey

Festival Eucharist

The Festival Service features Mozart's Missa Brevis in D minor with strings and organ, and Mozart's exquisite Ave Verum Corpus. The music is directed by Michael Haynes. The preacher is the Rector of Hexham.

1.00 pm Queen's Hall Arts

FRIBO - Anne Sofie Linge Valdal, Sarah-Jane Summers, Ewan MacPherson

Fribo is a unique collaboration between three musicians from Norway, Scotland and England, who are rapidly gaining recognition and acclaim since appearing at the renowned Orkney Folk Festival for blending their own musical styles together with sensitivity and an exuberant feel for contemporary folk sounds and rhythms. The 3-piece band of voice, Hardanger fiddle and guitar has been picked up and regularly played by BBC Radio 3's Late Junction, Radio Scotland's Global Gathering and Norway's NRK.



Event 5 £8 conc £6

3.00 pm Hexham Abbey

LEEDS BAROQUE ORCHESTRA

This Festival first is an opportunity to hear a popular programme of delightful music played on the period instruments of Leeds Baroque Orchestra, directed by early music expert Peter Holman, in a musical Grand Tour of concertos. The programme includes memorable music by Vivaldi, Corelli, Handel, Lalande, Boyce, Telemann and Purcell

Event 6 £8 conc £6

6.30 pm Hexham Abbey

Festival Choral Evensong

Sung by the combined choirs of Newcastle Cathedral and Hexham Abbey, directed by Scott Farrell. The preacher is the Bishop of Ripon and Leeds

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BOOKING INFORMATION

Priority booking opens 9 June for members of Hexham Abbey Festival Friends scheme. General booking opens 23 June for general public.

Postal booking: send completed booking form with your cheque made payable to Hexham Abbey Festival, enclosing SAE for return of tickets, to: Hexham Abbey Festival, Parish Centre, Beaumont Street, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3NB

Telephone booking: Queen's Hall Box Office 01434 652477

Online booking: www.queenshall.co.uk payment by credit/debit card.

Booking in person: Queen's Hall, Beaumont St, Hexham: 10 am-4 pm Mon-Sat and 30 mins before events at the performance venues.

Reservations: telephone bookings must be paid for within 3 working days and at least 24 hours prior to the event. Any remaining tickets will be sold at the venue 30 minutes prior to start.

Concessions: concessions are offered to those in full-time education, registered unemployed (JSA), and under 18s.

Refunds: We regret we cannot make refunds or exchanges.

Access: Disabled access is possible, but difficult at some venues: please telephone in advance for information. Toilets are available at the Abbey for Abbey events.

Contact: For general information contact us at: Hexham Abbey Festival, Parish Centre, Beaumont Street, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3NB. Tel: 01434 602031 Email: festival@hexhamabbey.org.uk www.hexhamabbey.org.uk/festival

Hexham Abbey Festival reserves the right to make alterations to the published programme if necessary. Hexham Abbey Festival is a registered charity number 245282

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