

The 2017 Guiting Music Festival brings even more variety to music fans



This year's Festival in the charming Cotswold village of Guiting Power will be held from the 21st to 30th July 2017. In its 47th year, the exciting programme includes eleven concerts featuring the best in classical, jazz and contemporary blues. It features a number of internationally renowned artists to bring a wonderful variety and highest standards to the heart of the Cotswolds.

The festival opens on Friday, 21st July with a performance by one of his generation's most talented pianists, Vitaly Pisarenko. He is a former Royal College of Music student who has performed in more than 25 countries world-wide. His exciting and adventurous piano style will be shown to great advantage across a repertoire including Liszt, Saint-Saens, Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev.

Saturday 22nd features the world-renowned Carducci Quartet performing with clarinettist Robert Plane, principal clarinet with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, who will have recently returned from his US tour. They will bring a link to Gloucestershire with Herbert Howells' Rhapsodic Quintet, preceding the Shostakovich Quartet No. 8. The climax of the evening will be the superb Mozart Clarinet Quintet in A major.

Sunday, 23rd July sees the first of the two open air concerts. It starts at noon and will feature jazz by two bands. Local band Hot Fingers with singer Emily Campbell will delight their audience with vintage acoustic string music from hot jazz to 1930's swing. Then the Brighton-based Paul Richards Trio will bring their brilliant fuse of latin, classical, jazz and samba.

Blues vocalist Heidi Vogel, well known to BBC listeners from her work with the Cinematic Orchestra and her debut solo album "Turn up the Quiet" will bring her extraordinary voice and range to the Monday 24th concert. Then on Thursday 27th the audience will be treated to music by the fabulous jazz vocalist, pianist and guitarist Julia Biel, nominated in the Best Jazz Act category in the MOBO Awards and the Urban Music Awards in 2015.

Hailed as a musical pioneer and the first internationally recognised Chinese guitarist on the world stage, Xuefei Yang will return to Guiting to perform on Tuesday, 25th July. Classic FM named her as one of the 100 top classical musicians of our time, so the audience will undoubtedly be in for a treat.

On Wednesday 26th Belgian violinist Jolente de Maeyer and pianist Nikolaas Kende, winners of numerous international competitions who have performed as a duo since 2003 will play Beethoven, Schubert and Mendelssohn.

Brothers Jonathan and Tom Scott will return by popular demand to play two concerts. A two piano recital on the Friday night (28th) will treat the Festival to a delightful and infrequently heard range of two-piano music. Families will also be able to enjoy their four-hand piano playing the following morning in a one-hour concert of famous classical pieces accompanied by big screen animation developed by Tom Scott.

On Saturday (29th) the last indoor concert offers the opportunity to hear contemporary jazz pianist/composer Neil Cowley, formerly of Fragile State, with his hugely popular Trio and their quirky mix of jazz-meets-rock. The Trio recently released their superb project Spacebound Apes and won the Jazz FM's Artist of the Year Award in 2013.

The Festival finishes with an open air Blues concert on Sunday 30th July from noon to 4pm, featuring two high profile bands. First up is Black Diamond Express, the immensely energetic Scottish band with Blues, Celtic and American roots. Then Dublin's Grainne Duffy Band will wow the audience with their wonderful mix of blues rock and soul and Grainne's fabulous vocals.

Tickets are from £10 to £20 and are going on public sale from the 1st May 2017 and the concerts will be held at the Village Hall. The two Sunday open-air concerts held on the playing fields are great events for all the family and small gazebos can be brought along.

The festival prides itself on its great food – this year, back by popular request, South East Asian food specialist Ting's Kitchen will be serving before each concert (indoor and outdoor) and during the interval. For those who prefer more traditional fare, Lovett Pies will also be available throughout the open air concerts. You are welcome to bring your own picnic to the outdoor concerts. The Festival bar sells high quality wine, beer and soft drinks at competitive prices.

Cosy post-concert suppers are also available but book early to avoid disappointment.

For full details see www.guitingfestival.org

Notes to Editors:

THE VENUES

The Festival's indoor concerts are held in Guiting Power Village Hall, GL54 5TX and the two Sunday outdoor concerts are held on the playing field next to the Village Hall. Free parking is available in the adjacent field. There is no seating or shelter provided at the outdoor concerts so we suggest you bring your own seats and you may also bring gazebos. Many bring picnics to these two Sundays but there is delicious food for sale as well as tea and coffee in the village hall. The bar will be open for all Festival concerts.

TICKETS

Tickets go on sale on 1st April for donors of £100+, on 8th April for patrons and on general sale from 1st May, 2017. Please do consider a patron's donation of £20+. Concert and supper tickets can be bought online at

www.guitingfestival.org where concert seats can be chosen and tickets printed. We regret that there can be no refunds on the door. If ordering by post please make cheques payable to "Guiting Festival" and post to Guiting Music Festival, Blenheim House, 36 Carlton Street, Cheltenham, GL52 6AQ. Please send queries to tickets@guitingfestival.org or to Jean Elliott on 01242 575749.

CATERING

Ting's Kitchen will be selling delicious Southeast Asian food and light home-made suppers in the drinks tent before the evening concerts from about 6:00pm, and also all afternoon at the outdoor concerts. Details of food and wines on sale will be available on the website in due course. If you have any allergies please consult the information about food on the website.

Lovett Pies will also be available throughout the open air concerts. Post Concert suppers will also be available.