

The Talbot

NEW STREET OUNDLE NEAR PETERBOROUGH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PE8 4EA
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Whilst visiting Oundle for this years Festival, why not pamper yourselves, and join us at The Talbot, Oundle's premier hotel and restaurant.

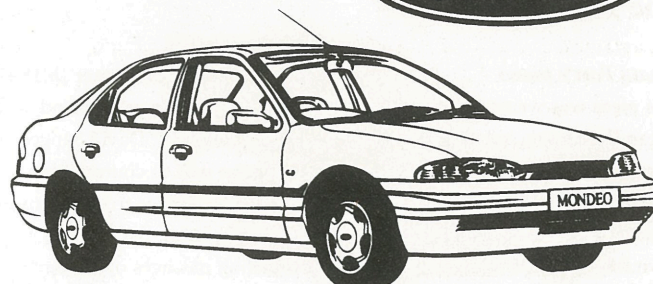
Built in 1626 from the ruins of nearby Fotheringhay Castle, the hotel nestles in the centre of this historic market town. Its 39 tastefully furnished en-suite bedrooms offer all the conveniences the modern day leisure and business traveller has come to expect, and this, coupled with the standards of hospitality, service and cuisine with which we are associated, makes The Talbot the ideal choice of venue to stay and relax. However, should you simply wish to call in for refreshment during your visit, you are equally welcome.

Light lunches served daily in either the flower bedecked courtyard or lounge bar.
Morning coffees and afternoon tea served daily.
Intimate (no smoking) restaurant serving Contemporary British Cuisine open each evening from 7.00pm.
Alcoholic refreshment available all day from 11.00am

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For reservations, or more information, please write or telephone reception on: (01832) 273621.

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St Peter's Church, Oundle (the Parish Church) - 7.30pm

Pingxin Xu Chinese Dulcimer

The Programme

Su Wu Herding Sheep arr. Xiang Zuhua
This ancient music tells a well-known Chinese story. Su Wu was an envoy from the East Han dynasty (AD 25-220) who was detained by a hostile northern nomadic tribe and made to herd sheep. After nineteen years as a prisoner he was finally allowed to return to his country.

Planting Song arr. Xu Ying
Xu Ying was a key figure in Manchurian *Yang Qin* (Chinese dulcimer) style. This typical Manchurian folk song features the 'single trembling' and 'sliding stick' techniques.

Happy Song trad.
Jiang Nan Si Zhu means 'the silk and bamboo music' (string and wind instruments) from southern China. This is one of the eight famous pieces in the *Jiang Nan Si Zhu* repertoire.

General's Command
Beating the drum; Raising the flag; Marching forwards; Combat
Sichuan Qin-Shu is the characteristic local narrative singing of Sichuan Province in south-west China, with a history that goes back at least two hundred years. This prelude is usually used for the appearance in the tale of ancient military figures in battle.

Dragon Boat trad., arr. Tian Kejian
This piece illustrates the very popular sport of dragon boat racing, common in southern China.

Happy Country Girl Wu Zugiang
Composed during the Cultural Revolution, this piece is nonetheless of some value, composed by an accomplished artist.

Gypsy Air Pablo de Sarasate

Garam Menti Tancdallamak Gyore Zoltan
A Hungarian folk tune composed for the cimbalom (Hungarian dulcimer).

Searching Yang Qing

Dobrou Noel (Good Night) Léoš Janáček(1854-1928)

Sunshine over Tashkurgan Chen Gang, arr Pingxin Xu
One of the most popular contemporary compositions for the *Yang Qin*, the main melodies of this piece are adapted from the songs of the Uighur minority in Xin Jiang (north-west China); it explores all the resources of the instrument.

The Performer

Born in Manchuria, Pingxin Xu started to play the *yang qin* (Chinese dulcimer) at the age of 6. He graduated from the Central Conservatoire of Music and the China Conservatoire of Music, and is one of the first people to hold a master's degree in *yang qin* performance in China. Pingxin has performed in many places around the world, including a concert in Japan to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the reconciliation between Japan and China, and in 1995 he represented China at the International Dulcimer Festival in Germany.

Since coming to England in 1993, Pingxin Xu has toured throughout Great Britain and has broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 and television.

The Festival Club in Milton Road will be open between tonight's two concerts; why not join us for a refreshing drink on your way to the Stahl Theatre?



Stahl Theatre - 10pm

Stewart Collins with Andy Read on piano

It's a funny old world

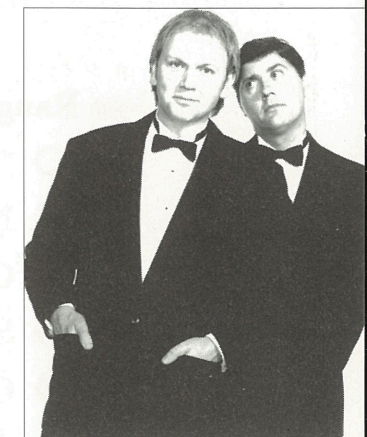
The Performers

Stewart Collins
Described variously as 'the singer that most songs prefer' and 'a genuinely funny man who sings genuinely funny songs' (*The Scotsman*), Stewart Collins was a founder member of the vocal group Cantabile, performing over 1,000 concerts worldwide and making over 150 television appearances. He left the group in 1991, since which time he has appeared on many BBC radio programmes and Classic FM. Stewart Collins also writes pungent articles for *Classical Music*, and is artistic director of the Henley Festival.

Andy Read
Andy Read studied violin and piano at the Royal College of Music and started his musical career as leader of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Orchestra, touring all over Britain until the company closed. He made the transition from violin to keyboards in 1981 and has played in many West End shows, including *Cats*, *Les Miserables* and *Starlight Express*. He toured the world for five years as accompanist to Cantabile, and was Musical Director for Marti Webb.

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The Festival Club today 10am to midnight
Bar Hours 8pm to 11.30pm



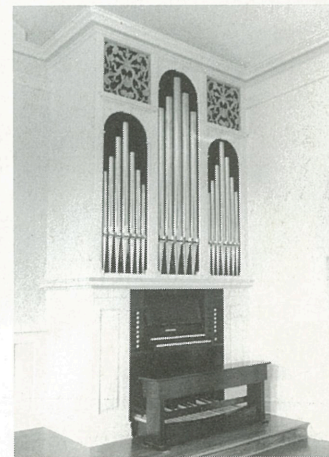
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