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Ethical Holdings plc
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the Oundle International Festival



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Oundle International Festival

Welcome!

Salsa to Scriabin, Viennese chamber music to Widor's Symphonies, cabaret to courtly love: our 1997 programme offers sparkling musical diversity with several entwined themes, and a dazzling array of artists.

Significant anniversaries prompt tributes for Schubert, born two hundred years ago, and Brahms who died in 1897; by extension we have serenades by their peerless Viennese exemplar Mozart, whose bubbly wind music, given on authentic instruments by The Hanover Harmonie, pops the cork for the Festival.

"It is almost as old-fashioned to enjoy Brahms as to be thrilled by a Valentine" mused critic Eric Blom. We have the young members of the Killian Quartet to interpret the wise nostalgia of his passionate music in their Thursday lunchtime recital. They also play Schubert's A minor Quartet, with its seamless outpouring of melody. *Die Schöne Müllerin*, Schubert's haunting song cycle, performed at twilight by David Mattinson, echoes the life of its composer, who simply died too young.

Young artists are always a feature of the Festival, and amongst them we welcome violinist Catherine Montier from the Paris Conservatoire. Her programme includes the sensuous A major Sonata of César Franck (b 1822), and provides a link with our Festival's concurrent organ school, which will explore music by Franck the organist, and his Parisian contemporary Widor (d 1937).

To coach some 54 organ students, there is a tutorial faculty with a young, cosmopolitan air. Included are two who have been helped build their careers by attending past Oundle courses. Annette Richards, now university organist at Cornell, USA, and Mattias Wager, from Sweden, winner of the 1995 St Albans competition. Three of Widor's epic organ symphonies will be performed on thrilling romantic organs; our first ever Oxford recital, on the Cavaillé-Coll inspired organ of Exeter College, clothes the music of French romantics in sympathetic timbres; an exciting UK première will be Bernhard Haas's rendition of Heinz Holliger's pieces for organ and tape.

The Oundle Summer School has recently evolved into something of a movement. This July's programme attracted 80 applicants; earlier in the

year, a new venture, *Pulling out the Stops* attracted 30 beginners. A chirpy and inspiring small organ, the gift to the Festival of a generous benefactor, now stands in the resonant acoustic of Fotheringhay Church, and can be heard at the Eucharist.

Strengthened links between Oundle and the Royal College of Organists have provided handsome helpfulness. Two students are benefiting from bursaries provided by the RCO, whilst further gifts from the College are two lecture presentations: Paul Hale on the future of the organ in Britain and Mary Berry on plainsong.

If early music appeals to you, hear Sirinu's new programme *A Muse of Fire*, celebrating the times of Henry V. Fotheringhay Church, illustriously associated with the Plantagenets, is the perfect venue. Or cabaret? You won't recognise the Great Hall, kitted-out club style, as Three Ms Behaving divert you with Fats Waller, Irving Berlin and the rest!

And this year's firework concert moves to a bigger and lovelier field. Whilst there are now many open air concerts with fireworks, ours is different. There's no question of sitting in silence listening reverently to classical music: just carry on with your picnics, or get up on to the dance floor, for a completely do-it-your-own-way summer evening out as King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys take centre stage.

As ever, on behalf of the Festival management, warmest gratitude to our many sponsors, all of whom are acknowledged in these pages. Particular thanks are due to Barclays Bank Trust Company and to Ethical Holdings, whose appreciable support has enabled us to plan with confidence.

James Parsons



Looking down Bridge Street Kings Cliffe by Crispin Heesom
Part of A Summer Exhibition of Landscapes

Festival Club

From Sunday, 13th July, the Oundle School Tuckshop in Milton Road becomes the Festival Club, focus of social activity for festival goers, summer school and members of the general public alike. Coffee is served from 10.30 - 11.30am, and lunches from 12.30 - 2pm. Afternoon tea is from 4 - 5pm. The licensed bar is open at lunchtime and in the evenings before and after concerts; opening times are given each day in the programme.

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Souvenir Programme

Editor:	Patricia Ryan
Programme notes:	John Humphries, the artists
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