

Midlands Co-operative Society Ltd

Are Proud to support the

Oundle

International Festival



MIDLANDS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD

Oundle International Festival

The Sound of Oundle

The inspired collage which graces our cover reflects the essence of this year's Festival; interposed elements make an appealing pattern in which classical music 'furnished with a Russian soul' contrasts with works by Bach and Messiaen, two composers whose inspiring works offer a spiritual dimension to our busy lives. Earthbound Heaven Sent, the title of the art exhibition at the Yarrow Gallery, sums it up nicely.

We are honoured that Simon Preston and Dame Gillian Weir, two of the brightest luminaries amongst today's great organists, have agreed to become new Honorary Patrons of the Festival.

Oundle's unique feature has always been the international summer school for young organists; we remain wedded to their cause. Demand for places grows year by year. This time, 55 determined and talented students have been selected from some 80 who applied, and this at a moment when a dearth of interest in the organ is frequently reported by the media. Last autumn, nearly 70% of those gaining organ scholarships at Oxford and Cambridge had attended our courses.

For organists, 'The Old and New Testaments' of the repertoire are enshrined in the works of Bach and Messiaen, who would have been 90 this year. To introduce them in recital, masterclass and lecture, we have some of the greatest names: Bach specialists Jacques van Oortmerssen and Peter Williams and, for Messiaen, no less than the organiste titulaire of Notre Dame, Olivier Latry, and his Parisian colleague Susan Landale. In a distinguished diapason of organ recitals we also present Thomas Trotter, Colin Andrews and Janette Fishell, offering ambient literature from the baroque, romantic and modern periods. As an innovation, Michael Gailit plays Reubke's piano sonata and organ sonata in the same programme.

Why not ask at the Festival Club for details of the organ classes, so that you may attend some sessions as an observer? The whole Festival concludes with a recital given by the organ students themselves.

Beyond the organ loft, instrumental music by Bach and Messiaen occupies a special place at our four twilight recitals, dedicated to all six of Bach's Suites for solo cello, and Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time. These events provide a platform for brilliant young artists and use fascinating venues. The technical prowess and passionate intensity of Russian musicians is legendary; hear for yourself! Our prominent Russian theme abuts

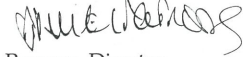
the world of Bach in Nikolai Demidenko's piano recital; spellbinding transcriptions of Bach organ pieces complement Mussorgsky's *Pictures*. And then, two leading ensembles, Peresvet Choir, and the Rimsky-Korsakov Quartet, from Moscow and St Petersburg respectively, make their UK debut in Oundle. For a glimpse of the arid earth in which, under the Soviets, Russian artists had to survive, listen to Irina Ratushinskaya, imprisoned for writing poetry, reading from her work on Thursday lunchtime.

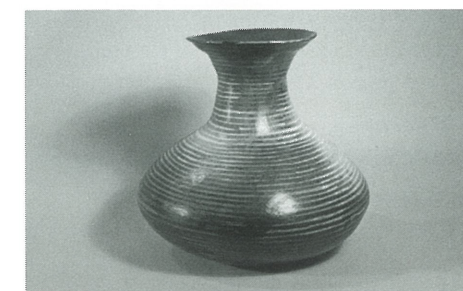
Celebrity appearances by percussionist Evelyn Glennie, Humphrey Lyttelton, Elaine Delmar and the BBC Big Band complete the exciting line up. Dance to Humph's music in our established jazz and fireworks formula on the Poplars Field: *I Got Rhythm* is our theme.

The continued support (for three years now) of our principal sponsor, Barclays Stockbrokers, is enormously appreciated, as too is the generosity and fidelity of the many companies, trusts, individuals and professional bodies that underpin the Sound of Oundle. As ever, Oundle School's sponsorship is simply invaluable. In gratefully acknowledging all donations, both financial and in kind, we welcome our supporters to enjoy the music and the social scene at the Festival Club.

The measure of support that the Festival now receives imparts confidence both to ourselves and to sponsors. We look forward to giving all such an even higher profile in the future as our activities develop. Next November, in association with Cambridge Summer Recitals and King's College, we shall promote, in a series of prestigious Cambridge recitals, *Hommage à Messiaen*. Our country house concert at Christmas, and *Pulling out the Stops* for beginner organists next Spring, together with plans for new organs, are all objectives on the exciting road ahead.

Thank you for showing your interest by joining us for our 1998 Festival.


James Parsons, Director



Gunta Anita Krumins, Smoke-fired vessel (1998)

Festival Club

From Sunday, 12th July, Oundle School Tuckshop in Milton Road becomes the Festival Club, the centre of the week's activities and open to all: festival goers, summer school participants, anyone who would like to just drop in for a coffee or lunch. The club opens onto a wide terrace and garden, the ideal place for enjoying a lunchtime or pre-concert drink.

Coffee is served from 10.30 - 11.30am; lunches from 12.30 - 2pm; afternoon tea from 4 - 5pm (not Thursday). The licensed bar is open at lunchtime and in the evenings before and after concerts; opening times are given each day in the programme.

Festival Diary page

Friday 10 July Kate Gould, The Yarrow Gallery, Oundle	5
Exhibition Earthbound Heaven Sent The Yarrow Gallery, Oundle	5
Saturday 11 July Evelyn Glennie Oundle School Chapel	7
Sunday 12 July Jacques van Oortmerssen Oundle School Chapel	9
Daniel Yeadon St Rumbold's Church, Stoke Doyle	9
Monday 13 July Janette Fishell and Colin Andrews Jesus Church, Oundle	10
Ensemble d'Arcs-en-Ciel St Peter's Church, Oundle	11
Tuesday 14 July Michael Gailit Peterborough Cathedral	12
Susan Landale Exeter College Chapel, Oxford	12
Rimsky-Korsakov String Quartet of St Petersburg St Mary's Church, Fotheringhay	13
Thirty Two Short Films about Glenn Gould St Peter's Church, Oundle	13
Wednesday 15 July Peresvet Choir Oundle School Chapel	15
Alice Neary The Yarrow Gallery, Oundle	15
Thursday 16 July Irina Ratushinskaya St Peter's Church, Oundle	17
Olivier Latry King's College Chapel, Cambridge	19
Friday 17 July Peter Williams Clare College Chapel, Cambridge	21
Nikolai Demidenko St Peter's Church, Oundle	21
Saturday 18 July RCO lecture Peter Williams	23
Thomas Trotter Oundle School Chapel	23
I Got Rhythm BBC Big Band with Elaine Delmar Humphrey Lyttelton and his Band Poplars Field, Oundle	25
Sunday 19 July Festival Eucharist St Mary's Church, Fotheringhay	27
Summer School Details of Students, awards etc	28/29

Souvenir Programme

Editor:	Patricia Ryan
Programme notes:	John Humphries and the artists
Design:	The Design Factory
Front cover:	St Basil's by Jessica Parsons The original of this attractive collage is on show as part of the Earthbound Heaven Sent Exhibition at the Yarrow Gallery.