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## oundle international festival *the sound of oundle*

Midst the bustle of this year's densely packed musical programme, the stillness of Arvo Pärt's minimalist music and the orderly impetus of Bach's sublime counterpoint strike a reassuring note. Yes, Estonian composer Arvo Pärt, whom we are privileged to welcome here in person, writes in a vein that is assuredly of our time, yet resonant with the ageless spirituality of the Orthodox Church. J S Bach, who died 250 years ago, and whose genius still astounds, once again takes pride of place in our programme. As examples of the complementary inspiration of these two visionaries, hear Simon Standage play the violin music of Bach at twilight, and choral pieces by Pärt given by Laudibus.

Composers unafraid to address personal issues speak to the largest number. It is not surprising therefore that tickets to hear Julian Lloyd Webber play Elgar's cello concerto at Oundle were all snapped up weeks ago. Beethoven's passionate Eroica Symphony is also on the bill.

Rhythm and ritual is another element woven into this year's Festival: we look forward to the pounding drama of Japanese Taiko drumming, and also to the natty patterns of gypsy jazz, inspired by Le Hot Club Quintet de Paris, alongside doyen jazzier Humphrey Lyttelton, at the firework concert.

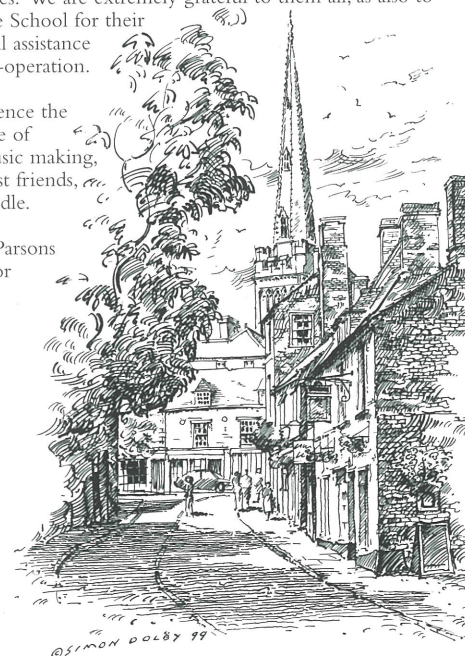
As ever, brilliant young artists such as pianist Alexander Taylor, the Kungsbacka Trio and the superb organists featured in our recitals, play a vital role at Oundle. Indeed many of you will know that developing emerging talent, especially amongst young organists, is a cornerstone of the Sound of Oundle.

This year there were 90 applicants for the 60 places on our Summer School for Young Organists and, of those selected, a quarter will be travelling to Oundle from overseas, arriving from cultures as distant as New Zealand, Latvia, USA and the Czech Republic.

Industry must always partner talent if the arts are to succeed. We extend the warmest of welcomes then to our new principal sponsor, the Marshall Motor Group and to all the other businesses, trust funds and benefactors that have shown confidence in our work by donating much needed funds and resources. We are extremely grateful to them all, as also to Oundle School for their essential assistance and co-operation.

Experience the pleasure of live music making, amongst friends, at Oundle.

James Parsons  
Director



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