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ASSET MANAGEMENT

Oundle International Festival - celebrating 21 years

Northern lights, Midsummer nights

Yes, it's a big birthday! There will be music, cake and candles, fireworks, with lots of fun and games – and we are delighted that you are here to join us.

To mark this milestone we offer an array of top names and emerging talent in a programme contrasting the inspiration of Scandinavia with a dash of summer sun from warmer climes.

Classical music is key to the sound of Oundle ...

Finnish pianist Juho Pohjonen plays his debut recital in England, and the Vertavo String Quartet from Norway interpret Sibelius and Grieg.

Guests from Italy include Seicento, revealing the true grain of the renaissance and baroque, and Gomalan Brass whose opulent sounds will echo around Fotheringhay Church. Voces Cantabiles is a brilliant new choir comprising Oxbridge and cathedral choral scholars. The Orchestra of St John's, with soprano Rita Cullis, unites the Festival's elements in a gala concert framed by Mendelssohn's 'Hebrides Overture' and 'Italian Symphony'. Children too are encouraged to undertake adventures in sound, with the King's Chamber Orchestra's family-friendly focus.

and jazz too ...

with Liane Carroll (double award nominee at BBC Jazz Awards 2005) and Andalusian guitarist Rafael who combines the soul of the gypsy with the flash of flamenco and the risks of jazz.

plus Not jazz ...

with the iconic Abba sound as we relive the seventies with Björn Again.

we extend the arts platform ...

to include an exhibition of prints from Sweden and a charming Norwegian film. Oddsocks Productions' comical version of 'The Tempest' lends a touch of midsummer madness, whilst Illyria's 'Five Children and It' is more midsummer magic. We welcome Black Umfolosi from Zimbabwe, and run tours to local cultural attractions ...

whilst Oundle for Organists

has attracted a record 76 students to three weeks of courses, in Oxford and Cambridge as well as in Oundle. Celebrity organists are here to teach and play recitals, and the Frobenius organ has just been cleaned.

Looking back ...

It is hard to believe that time has flown so fast, that a fanciful idea proved feasible and durable, and that patterns established in 1985 remain the basis of today's event – seen as a magnet Festival for the area, and a unique movement to train organists. Perseverance has been rewarded and our distinguished Patrons and board members have played a key role. Oundle is on the map and, with the recent arrival of the Oundle Festival of Literature and Oundle Cinema, has become an arts destination town!

And forward ...

Despite a thin veneer of prosperity we have never found it easy to survive. It is wonderful then to report that Northamptonshire County Council has just invested in the Festival. Huge thanks are due to the many sponsors, trusts, friends and advertisers that have supported us, not only this year but for the last twenty-one. And vitally – thanks to you, our audience.

But for now... let's party!

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