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Oundle International Festival and Oundle for Organists 14 – 23 July 2006

et Voilà!

We love planning our Festival programme and experience a real sense of expectation and excitement in the run-up to the opening weekend: thirty events in ten days, with our customary emphasis on classical music - this year with a French flavour.

We hope you too share that sense of anticipation and revelation as you read through this programme, enticed inside by Gillian Dolby's wonderfully witty portrait of Oundle on the front cover.

But this is only a printed programme; the thrill of experiencing music and the arts, performed live by great artists here in Oundle, is the life force of this vibrant Festival. Spine tingling music and dance from L'Arpeggiata and the bustle of a French Street Market introduce the French fare. Quatuor Osmose, who are brilliant saxophonists from the Paris Conservatoire, distinguished violinist Philippe Graffin, organist Erwan le Prado, Trio Gitano's evocation of *Le Hot Club*, and a short season of French films, all grace our Gallic table.

But the pervading Francophone element in no way precludes diversity – and there's more than ever this year! The world-famous Choir of King's College, Cambridge, Armonico Consort's novel take on Purcell's Restoration show 'The Fairy Queen', celebrated period instrument orchestra The Academy of Ancient Music, the clang of gamelan (do come to try beating those gongs for yourself!), slapstick Shakespeare from the inimitable Oddsocks, children's concerts and open-air theatre, and A Taste of Honey (aka 'The Bee Gees') – all contribute to the buzz and the fizz of our twenty second Oundle International Festival.

As ever the unique work of Oundle for Organists percolates the Festival programme. Here in Oundle some thirty-five teenage organists will study and socialise with top young teachers and doubtless enthuse over the recitals as their tutors practise what they preach. Slightly further afield, twenty-one conservatoire level organists will attend Oundle's Advanced Academy and over thirty Prospective Organ Scholars gain inspirational coaching - all in Cambridge – with an eminent international faculty of great names in the organ world. In all, nearly ninety young organists: a record!

If you have never heard an organ recital before, do try! You will be amazed at the variety of sounds and the range of the instruments featured, from the tiny Tudor organs at Fotheringhay to the epic romantic in Peterborough Cathedral.

Huge thanks are due to our sponsors, supporting trust funds, Friends and advertisers – but most of all to you, our audience; we hope you have a wonderful time at this year's Festival.

Bienvenue!

Patricia Ryan and James Parsons

tor Patricia Ryan

Programme notes Phillip Money; James Parsons;

the artists

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Front Cover Design Gillian Dolby

The front cover of this programme is an illustration of Oundle by Gillian Dolby. An exclusive run of prints of the illustration is available from The Dolby Gallery, 30 West St. Oundle Tel: 01832 273 801 www.dolbygallery.com

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