

Welcome to another Oundle Festival - our 23rd!

We think it's worth celebrating that we have been promoting concerts, courses for young organists - and of course the lovely town of Oundle - for so many years. This year we are also celebrating England and all things English - an appropriate theme for the 150th anniversary year of Sir Edward Elgar just as he disappears from our bank notes: fine young pianist Ashley Wass plays Elgar's much-loved Enigma Variations, and the Heath Quartet, newly emerged from the Royal Northern College of Music, also includes Elgar in its first all-English programme.

And there's an accent on song, with outstanding artists adding their voices to the English theme: the flawless intonation of Emma Kirkby; the twelve young voices of Stile Antico; and to end the week Dame Ann Murray with an octet from the east of England's own orchestra, sinfonia ViVA, in Mahler's moving song-cycle, *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*.

But back to the beginning: we open with a celebratory flourish from the highly talented Haydn Youth String Orchestra from the Netherlands. Alongside works by Mozart and Shostakovich, they will play the ever popular and romantic *Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis* by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Weaving its magic throughout the early part of the Festival is Jonathan Dove's enchanting community opera *Tobias & the Angel*. Whilst writing this introduction, choirs are coming together, sets are under construction, costumes are taking shape, and some of the best professional opera singers in the land have been engaged to take part in this stunning, life-enhancing work. Drop everything and buy a ticket - or maybe give us a call to see if you can still contribute in some way!

Another hot ticket will be The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain. It's almost impossible to describe what this amazing band does without making it sound weird and eccentric, thus fitting very neatly into the concept of Englishness. Singing and playing songs from Nirvana to Frank Sinatra, they are the very stuff of entertainment, and very funny.

We have organists from France, the United States and the United Kingdom playing organs from Oundle to Peterborough via Fotheringhay. And one of the Peterborough recitals definitely has that added extra: David Briggs, improviser *extraordinaire*, accompanies the 1925 silent movie *Phantom of the Opera* on the Cathedral organ. Don't look over your shoulder....

The lunchtime concert by King's Chamber Orchestra is likely once again to be one of the most popular events of the week, as they dispense their magic music-making and engage children's rapt attention.

So, young or old, here for some serious music or more for the beer (lots of that too, with prize-winning local brewers Digfield Ales in attendance at the Fireworks Concert starring Killer Queen...). Enjoy!

Patricia Ryan



Oundle International Festival is a registered charity which promotes the annual July Festival, Music in Quiet Places, and the Oundle for Organists programme of educational courses.

Following an organisational review, instigated by Arts Council England, Patricia Ryan is appointed Festival Director; James Parsons is Director of Oundle for Organists.

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Grants:

Arts Council England
East Northamptonshire Council
Northamptonshire County Council
Oundle Town Council

Diary of Events

Date	Time	Event	Page
Thurs 12th	7.30pm	The Comedy of Errors	3
Fri 13th	6pm	Oundle Showcase	4
	8pm	Haydn Youth String Orchestra	4
Sat 14th	7.30pm	Picnic in the Park / Fireworks	5
Sun 15th	5pm	Organ recital: Colin Andrews	5
	7.30pm	Tobias & the Angel	6
	9.30pm	Sally Pryce, harp	6
Mon 16th	1.45pm	King's Chamber Orchestra	7
	4pm	King's Chamber Orchestra	7
	9pm	Film: Phantom of the Opera	7
Tues 17th	4pm	Tobias & the Angel	9
	8pm	Emma Kirkby & London Baroque	9
	9pm	Film: Notes on a Scandal	9
Wed 18th	6.30pm	Illyria: Robin Hood	10
	7.30pm	Tobias & the Angel	10
	7.30pm	Piano recital: Ashley Wass	11
	9.30pm	Organ recital: James Parsons	11
Thurs 19th	1pm	Heath String Quartet	12
	2.30pm	The Tudor House: Kirby Hall	12
	8pm	Organ Recital: Tom Bell	13
	8pm	The Ukulele Orchestra of GB	13
Fri 20th	1pm	Organ recital: Thierry Mechler	14
	8pm	Stile Antico	14
	9pm	Film: Venus	14
Sat 21st	9.30am	RCO Lecture: David Briggs	15
	11am	Organ recital: Robert Quinney	15
	12.30pm	TG Collective (Trio Gitano)	16
	2pm	Tour: The Manor, Hemingford Grey	16
	7.30pm	sinfonia ViVA & Dame Ann Murray	17
Sun 22nd	10.30am	Festival Eucharist	17
	2.30pm	Students Platform Concert	17

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Front cover image for *Tobias & the Angel*
by Gillian Dolby from the Dolby Gallery

Design - Morley Design, Elton - 01832 280 023

Thursday 12th July



Open-air theatre

Oddsocks Productions

The Comedy of Errors by William Shakespeare

7.30pm (gates open 6.30pm)

The Creed Chapel, Ashton (1 mile Oundle)

Tickets £13 / £5 (under 21)

They're back! Nationally acclaimed theatre company Oddsocks Productions are returning to Oundle with *The Comedy Of Errors*, told in their own inimitable style. They will transport us to the distant, mystical city of Ephesus, where Shakespeare's most farcical story will unfold.

A servant and master from far off Syracuse arrive in Ephesus in search of their long-lost twin brothers. In no time at all they are trapped in a terrifying chain of chaotic events. Tormented by a wild wife and a moody mistress, challenged by a crazy jeweller and damned by a demonic doctor, the terrified twosome run headlong into a climactic happy ending which defies all probability.

A Turkish delight not to be missed!

Bring a picnic and low-backed chairs or rugs - no seating provided.

Bar and coffee available

This open-air performance will be cancelled in the event of a hurricane only!

Performance ends at approximately 9.45pm

Sponsor

