



Although the 2008 Festival has something of a Russian theme, variety and contrast are the key, both of mood and performer. The very first concert sets the Russian scene, with the combined voices of two world-class choirs joining in

Shchedrin's atmospheric *The Sealed Angel*. Performed by candlelight in Fotheringhay Church, this will be a powerful and moving opening to the ten day Festival. Notable performers coming to Oundle from Russia are Yevgeny Sudbin, very much the name on everyone's lips for his acclaimed recordings of Scriabin, the youthful Atrium String Quartet, which is making a remarkable impact on the chamber music scene, and the Russian Chamber Philharmonic St Petersburg on their first visit to the UK. The Exhibition at the Yarrow Gallery will follow the trend, with a fascinating look at the collaboration between composers and film makers in the former USSR.

Ekaterina Melnikova, Russian organist extraordinaire, provides an interesting link between the Exhibition and a concert later in the week by the superb reed quintet, Calefax. Ekaterina plays her own transcriptions both of Prokofiev's score for *Ivan the Terrible*, which will also be featured in the Exhibition, and of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*; this piece will be played by Calefax too, but with their own transcription by way of Duke Ellington – an interesting subject to compare and contrast!

Festivals should be entertaining as well as enlightening, and we go a long way this year towards achieving both these aims. *Fascinating Aida* must be high on list for all those who heard the comic genius Dillie Keane at the Festival in 2002, and Ensemble Bash will provide a very different kind of diversion with their wide-ranging and extraordinary show. And as for the return of the hugely popular Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, the fact that their show sold out in record time last year says it all.

So please join us if you can, for as much as you can; whether your interest lies in the purely classical or the lighter side of music, we hope you will find much to enjoy.

Patricia Ryan

Front cover image by Gillian Dolby from the Dolby Gallery

Design - Morley Design, Elton - 01832 280 023

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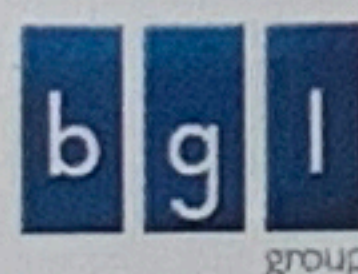
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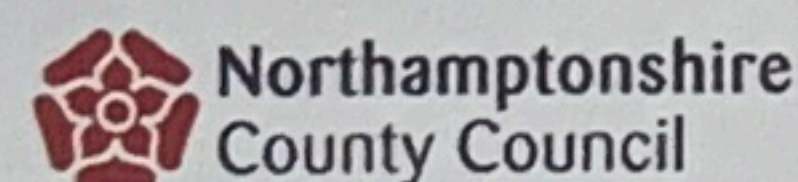
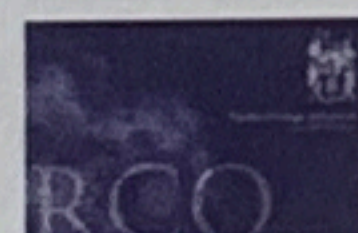
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SUNDAY 6TH JULY

## PRE-FESTIVAL CELEBRITY ORGAN RECITAL

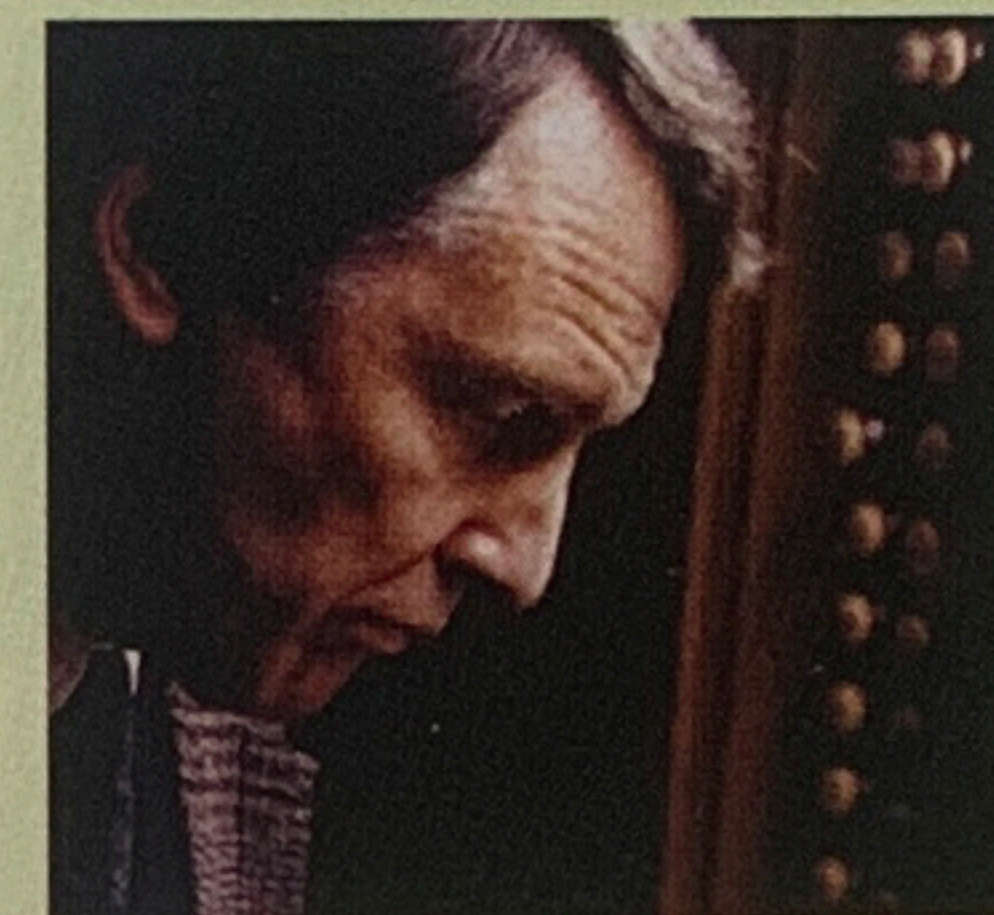
SIMON PRESTON

7.30pm Ely Cathedral

Tickets £10 at the door only

### *Bach and Messiaen*

Programme includes Bach's *Toccata and Fugue in D minor (BWV 565)*



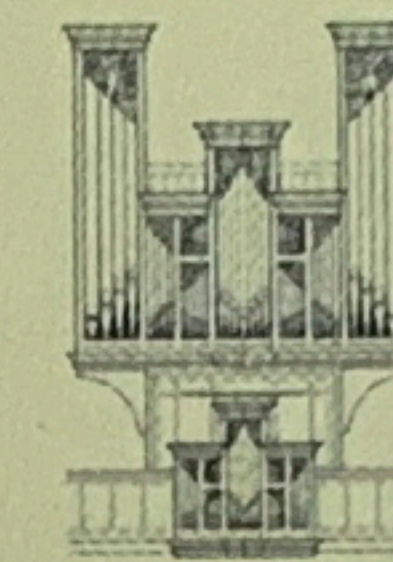
For five decades Simon Preston, 70 this year, has been universally admired as the incarnation of excellence as organist, conductor and church musician, prominent in roles at King's College Cambridge, Westminster

Abbey and Christ Church Oxford, as too in his glittering career as a concert organist and recording artist. Oundle International Festival is proud to enjoy his support as an Honorary Patron.

The excellent Harrison organ at Ely is also celebrating a special birthday this year – its 100th.

This promises to be a very special evening!

Promoted by Oundle for Organists and Ely Cathedral



FRIDAY 11TH JULY

## PRIVATE VIEW SYMPHONY AND SHADOW *Music and the Russian cinema*

6pm – 8pm Yarrow Gallery Oundle School



Even before the coming of sound, cinema was established in Russia as high art, continuing the great national literary and cultural traditions.

At the same time it was technological, 'modern', and popular. Lenin declared film to be the most important of art forms. Unsurprisingly, Russian directors quickly turned to the leading composers to lend importance to their soundtracks. The close collaboration between Eisenstein and Prokofiev in *Alexander Nevsky* and *Ivan the Terrible* is perhaps the most notable example. Shostakovich, who as a teenager had played piano accompaniments to the 'silents', wrote film music throughout his career, as later did Schnittke.

The Exhibition will have audio-visual displays showing extracts from some of the classic films, with samples of more recent experiments (Tarkovsky's use of electronic music for instance). Information regarding the films, directors, and composers will be illustrated with still photographs and posters.

*Symphony and Shadow* is curated by Robert Neal, an artist who also has a doctorate in art history and theory, and writes on aesthetics.

The Exhibition continues until Saturday 19 July inclusive, and opens from 2 to 4pm and 6 to 7.30pm each day.

