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**The LAMMERMUIR FESTIVAL
New Festival for Scotland
Major international artists & intriguing venues**

10 – 19 September 2010

A new music festival featuring major artists, ensembles and orchestras has been launched today. The Lammermuir Festival will take place from Friday 10 to Sunday 19 September 2010, in a host of intriguing venues across East Lothian, Scotland, including historic buildings and on board Concorde, and will feature equally diverse programming.

The Lammermuir Festival is the first of its kind for this historic region whose outstanding natural beauty, boasting the Lammermuir Hills on one side and spectacular cliffs and seascape on the other, has greatly influenced the programming and choice of venues. With concerts afternoon and evening in both rural and town settings, The Lammermuir Festival offers the ideal opportunity to explore East Lothian and discover new places, as well as to experience world-class performances of live music.

The Festival features the highest calibre of artists, conductors and orchestras including the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Dunedin Consort. It is a true showcase for a selection of today's finest young talent, including conductor Rory Macdonald, violinist Jennifer Pike, cellist Philip Higham, harpsichordist

Mahan Esfahani and the Navarra Quartet. Among the rich mix of music on offer, this inaugural festival includes several masterpieces by one of the greatest of all composers, Johann Sebastian Bach.

With wide-ranging venues, from the Concorde Hangar to medieval churches and 14th Century Lennoxlove House, the programmes have been carefully chosen to suit each one. The concerts vary from full symphony orchestra to the intimate beauty of a solo cello, with music spanning some 450 years from Gabrieli to a new work by Peter Nelson specially commissioned by the Festival.

James Stretton, Chair of Lammermuir Festival says, *“We are really delighted to launch the first Lammermuir Festival. Our concept was to present beautiful music in beautiful places and I think we have delivered exactly that. You may know East Lothian well or it may be new to you – in either case come and enjoy the festival and discover more of this wonderful area.”*

Artistic Directors Hugh Macdonald and James Waters say, *“We are building on the great tradition of concerts founded by Yehudi Menuhin which ran in St Mary’s, Haddington for many years. One of us grew up in East Lothian and the other has lived here for the last 22 years. The county has a wonderful combination of beautiful landscape and fascinating buildings.*

We think that combining these with great musicmaking creates an irresistible prospect. In programming the festival we are taking the audience on both geographical and musical journeys in the company of some truly outstanding performers. “

The Festival opens at 7.30pm on Friday 10 September with the internationally acclaimed Scottish Chamber Orchestra in one of Scotland’s finest medieval churches, St Mary's Haddington. Roy Goodman conducts Mendelssohn’s *Hebrides Overture*, JS Bach's *Ricercar*, CPE Bach's *Flute Concerto* with soloist Alison Mitchell, and Mendelssohn's *'Youth' Symphony No. 8 in D major*.

One of Scotland's recent success stories in music-making, The National Youth Choir of Scotland, perform with their charismatic conductor, Christopher Bell, at 7.30pm on Saturday 11 September in Dunbar Parish Church. The programme comprises

atmospheric choral music including Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine*, Duruflé's *Quatre Motets* and *Scots Songs* arranged by James MacMillan.

On Sunday 12 September one of Britain's most talented young string quartets, the Navarra Quartet, takes audiences on a musical journey along the Lammermuirs, performing three concerts in different venues. Three of the richly imaginative string quartets that Mozart dedicated to Haydn as a mark of his affection and respect will be heard in the course of the day. The first performance is at 2.00pm in the Garvald Parish Church with Haydn's *String Quartet Op. 20 No. 2 in C* and Mozart's *String Quartet in D minor, K421*. We then move along to the charming Stenton Church for a 4.00pm performance of Haydn's *String Quartet Op. 20 No. 4 in D* and Mozart's *String Quartet in E flat, K428*. The musical journey ends in East Linton with an evening performance of Mozart's *String Quartet in C, K 465 'Dissonance'* and Schubert's *String Quintet in C*, where the Navarra Quartet is joined by cellist Philip Higham. This concert is at 7.30pm in Prestonkirk Parish Church, the last of three venues, each of which is steeped in history, one with origins as early as the 6th century.

From the Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama comes *Pure Brass*, a virtuoso brass ensemble who perform at 7.30pm on Monday 13 September in Pinkie House, which is part of Loretto School in Musselburgh. The long gallery of Pinkie House with its remarkable Renaissance painted ceiling, provides a stunning backdrop for these young players. The diverse programme includes works by Purcell, Gabrieli, Handel, Dukas, Mozart, Peter Maxwell Davies, Fats Waller and Irving Berlin.

International award-winning Philip Higham is set to be one of the most exciting young musicians of his generation. This young Edinburgh-born artist performs all of Bach's *Six Suites for Cello*, over two concerts. The first is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 14 September in the magnificent 14th century hall of Lennoxlove House near Haddington and the second at 8.00pm on Thursday 16 September in the more intimate setting of the beautifully restored Yester Church in Gifford.

The concert at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15 September with the acclaimed BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra features two other outstanding young artists, both of whom already have fast-growing international careers: conductor Rory Macdonald and violinist and former BBC Young Musician of The Year, Jennifer Pike. Rory conducts the BBC SSO in St Mary's Church, Haddington in a programme of Wagner's *Rienzi Overture* and Schumann's *Symphony No 2 in C*. They are joined by Jennifer for Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto in E minor*.

The 18th Century Town House in Haddington is the perfect setting for a further landmark work by Bach on Friday 17 September at 7.30pm. His *Goldberg Variations* are performed by the brilliant young Iranian-born harpsichordist, Mahan Esfahani. Mahan is the first harpsichordist to be named a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist.

The Lammermuir Festival presents the world premiere of a specially commissioned new work in a rolling series of performances beginning at 1.00pm on Saturday 18 September in a rather unlikely venue - the Concorde Hangar at the Museum of Flight at East Fortune. It is here, and actually on board Concorde itself, that the premiere of a new electro-acoustic work for Concorde by Glasgow-born Peter Nelson will be given. This is part of a programme of music spanning some 400 years, from 16th century composer Gabrieli's *Music for Brass* through Steve Reich's *Electric Counterpoint* from the 1980's to the new work. The Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama Brass Ensemble and electric guitarist, Chris Day play alongside Concorde and the short programme will be presented three times in the course of the afternoon.

The RSAMD Brass Ensemble play another varied programme of music from 16th century Italy to 21st century Britain at 7.30pm on Saturday 18 September in the wonderful acoustic of St Mary's Church in Haddington. Joined by organist and leading Bach specialist, John Butt, they perform works by Gabrieli, Bach, James MacMillan, Philip Wilby, Gary Carpenter and Paul Hart.

Just as the Festival opened, it will be again in the glorious surroundings of St Mary's Church, Haddington at 7.30pm on Sunday 19 September that the 2010 Lammermuir Festival draws to a close, with a resounding grand finale - the great Bach *B Minor Mass*. It is performed by the Dunedin Consort, whose recordings of music by Bach and Handel under their conductor John Butt have brought them international acclaim.

The Lammermuir Festival is produced by Festival and Events International for The Lamp of Lothian Trust. It is supported by East Lothian Council, Event Scotland, Scottish Arts Council, The Lamp of Lothian Trust and The Bacher Trust.

Chief Executive of East Lothian Council Alan Blackie says, "*We are delighted to be supporting this inaugural festival, bringing world-class music to East Lothian, offering a chance for people to enjoy performances in some of Scotland's finest historic buildings and in other more unexpected venues, such as the Museum of Flight. For many, this will bring an opportunity to discover new places and enjoy the outstanding natural of the region.*"

Paul Bush OBE, Chief Operating Officer of EventScotland, the national events agency, says, "*We are delighted to be supporting the inaugural Lammermuir Festival. With such a rich and diverse programme set in the beautiful surroundings of East Lothian and a high calibre of artists taking part, the festival will help to put the area on the map as a distinctive classical music destination.*"

The Scottish Arts Council comments, "*Scottish Arts Council is very pleased to be supporting the first Lammermuir Festival through our performing arts programming fund.*"

Supporters



Tickets

Prices vary per concert: £10 (£5), £15 (£8) and £20 (£10)

Offer: Buy all 3 Navarra Quartet (12 September) for £30

Concession: half price for students in full-time education

To book

Visit www.lammermuirfestival.co.uk

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Notes for Editors

Artistic Directors' biographies:

HUGH MACDONALD

Hugh Macdonald was born and brought up in Haddington. He studied music at the universities of Edinburgh and Amsterdam and at the Royal College of Music in London. After teaching music at universities in Hong Kong and Scotland he joined the BBC as a radio music producer and was Head of Music at BBC Scotland and Director of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra from 1991 until his retirement from the BBC in 2006. He is now a freelance music consultant, writer and lecturer.

JAMES WATERS

James Waters was Concerts Director of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra from 1986 to 1992 and Associate Director of the Edinburgh International Festival from 1992 to 2006. In 2007 he founded Festivals and Events International with Nick Dodds and works extensively advising local authorities such as Birmingham and Durham on developing festivals and events. He is Creative Director, Classical Music of Perth Concert Hall. He lectures at Queen Margaret University and has lived in East Lothian since 1988.

EventScotland is the national events agency.

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