



27 April 2022

## **KING'S LYNN FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE OPENS**

Early ticket sales for the 2022 King's Lynn Festival reflect audience enthusiasm for the wide variety of more than 30 events featured in the two-week programme to be staged on July 17-30.

From the opening concert by the Grimethorpe Colliery Band to the finale by the much-respected Royal Philharmonic Orchestra the festival's tradition of excellence is again attracting music-lovers from far and wide.

The busy priority booking period reflected the great interest in what artistic director, Ambrose Miller, describes as "a terrific programme including internationally-famous names, brilliant young talent and fascinating lectures. It offers something for everyone."

This summer's feast of music and the arts at King's Lynn will burst into life in 11 weeks and the box office at the Corn Exchange opens for general booking on Tuesday (May 3).

The festival will mark the 70th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation with a performance at St Nicholas' Chapel by Spiritato of the famous chaconne from Purcell's royal suite, King Arthur, which was played at Westminster Abbey in 1953.

One of the leading string quartets of its generation, the Skampa Quartet, will present the Ruth Fermoy Memorial Concert on July 21 to commemorate the festival's founder. The event is already proving a big draw.

Last year's hugely successful organ recital by Ben Horden in St Nicholas' Chapel will be followed up by a recital on the same organ by Rachel Mahon, a Canadian organist who is director of music at Coventry Cathedral.

An exciting innovation this year will be on July 18 when the festival stages a concert for the first time at the magnificent Houghton Hall. It will feature Benjamin Baker (violin) and Daniel Lebhart (piano).

Melvyn Tan will give a piano recital in the Minster on July 28, and the ever-popular five morning coffee concerts will bring prize-winning rising stars to the festival stage at the Town Hall.

King's Lynn Festival Chorus will team up with soloists from the European Union Chamber Orchestra at St Nicholas' Chapel on July 24. The programme will be Vivaldi's Four Seasons and Handel's Dixit Dominus.

Adding variety Kit and McConnel, one of Britain's best-loved cabaret duos, will bring their wit and "musical silliness" to the Guildhall on July 19.

Jazz vocalist Clare Teal and her band of seven will celebrate the art of swing at the Corn Exchange on July 27. Two much-respected personalities will add to the festival's appeal - Nick Crane will give the Royal Geographical Society lecture and Andrew Graham-Dixon will present two different lectures.

Last year's very successful afternoon coach tour to three fascinating churches will be followed by a visit to the "Wonderful Wiggenhalls" a few miles outside King's Lynn on July 21. Festival audiences will also be able to visit Westacre Theatre where the Hill Quartet will give a Sunday afternoon concert on July 24.

A special event on July 17 will mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ralph Vaughan Williams and his associations with King's Lynn. On July 30 a talk about renowned conductor Sir John Barbirolli, a frequent visitor to Lynn Festival, will be given by David Greening, secretary of the Barbirolli Society.

This year the Contemporary Consort will be joined on July 25 by composer and Radio 3 presenter Michael Berkeley. The musicians of Minima will provide contemporary accompaniment to a screening of Nosferatu, an eerie silent horror film on July 22. Adding variety to the festival's packed programme will be a visit by folk-singing sisters, The Unthanks, on July 29.

The festival box office is at King's Lynn Corn Exchange 01553-764864

Or visit [www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk](http://www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk)

**ENDS**

For more information contact Alison Croose [alison.howe.croose@talktalk.net](mailto:alison.howe.croose@talktalk.net)