



13 March 2024

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

King's Lynn Festival announces BBC Big Band to headline on Friday 19 July with a celebration of the music of George Gershwin.

Friday night is a music night on Friday 19 July at the 2024 King's Lynn Festival as the BBC Big Band swing into town with a celebration of the music of Gershwin. Headlining the Festival programme that day, the BBC Big Band mark the **centenary of the premiere of *Rhapsody in Blue*** with an evening honouring the music of George Gershwin at **King's Lynn Corn Exchange**.

Through a wonderfully diverse programme, arranged and curated by conductor Barry Forgie, the concert showcases the music of Gershwin – whose work would go on to become a core part the 'Great American Songbook', and whose legacy and influence continues to define a classic era of music.

The evening will feature a sparkling selection of Gershwin's most popular and acclaimed work, all specially arranged for big band and performed in the orchestra's own inimitable, swinging style. Ranging from ***Fascinating Rhythm*** through to ***Porgy & Bess***, and from ***Our Love is Here to Stay*** to ***The Man I Love*** - the programme will (of course) culminate with a special swinging version of ***Rhapsody in Blue***, with its iconic and memorable opening clarinet solo, specially arranged for the Big Band.

Widely regarded as one of the world's leading and most versatile Orchestras, The BBC Big Band continues to delight audiences around the world through their broadcasts on BBC Radio and their live performances.

Audiences can expect an evening of truly world-class music, celebrating one of the most influential composers of the 20th century, and inspired by the 2024 centenary of, perhaps, his most best-loved work.

Tickets cost £25 and £22, with 50% off for under 25s. Tickets go on sale to the public from Monday 13 May 2024 via 01553 764864 or online at www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk. Join the Festival friends scheme to access priority booking from 29 April at <https://www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk/support-us/become-a-friend>

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For further information, photos and interview requests contact Claire Bowdler, King's Lynn Festival Marketing Consultant – claire@kingslynnfestival.org.uk / 07801 538053