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**MEDIA RELEASE:**

**King's Lynn Festival announces programme highlights for 2023 Festival**

The 2023 King's Lynn Festival is set to maintain its quality hallmark throughout two busy weeks from **16 – 29 July**, opening and closing with world-famous names – **Black Dyke Band** and the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** (RPO).

The Black Dyke Band will launch the festival with a rousing concert at the Corn Exchange and the RPO will fill the venue's stage for an exciting finale with violinist Ben Baker, who delighted audiences last year. The **Ruth Fermoy Memorial Concert** will take place in the magnificent setting of Houghton Hall with piano trio, **Charlie Lovell-Jones** violin, **Yoanna Prodanova** cello, **Ariel Lanyi** piano.

Several events during the Festival will focus on the sound of the cello, and the rich repertoire and personalities associated with the instrument. Internationally renowned cellist, **Julian Lloyd Webber** will narrate the fascinating story behind the composition of **Bach's iconic Cello Suites** while introducing performances of the Suites by his wife - and fellow cellist – **Jiaxin Lloyd Webber**. Prize-winning young musician **Ariana Kashevi** features in this year's Coffee Concert series performing Beethoven's second Sonata for Cello and Piano. On screen at St George's Guildhall there is a chance to see **Cathy Marston's *The Cellist with the Royal Ballet***, inspired by the momentous life and career of the cellist Jacqueline du Pré.

Two much-respected TV personalities will add to the festival's wide appeal – the host of *Whose Line is it Anyway* and *Loose Ends*, **Clive Anderson** will present his first solo tour, *Me, Macbeth and I*, and *Strictly Come Dancing* singing sensation, **Tommy Blaize** will appear alongside the **National Youth Jazz Orchestra**.

Traditional folk tunes will be presented in a fresh and captivating evening by **Leveret** (Andy Cutting, button accordion, Sam Sweeney, fiddle, and Rob Harbron, concertina) plus one of the UK's finest and most revered vocalists, **Kiki Dee** appears at St George's Guildhall.

The packed programme will also include an Early Music Day, films, walks, talks and an exhibition at the Fermoy Gallery, **Blast to Blitz**, which will showcase English Art in and between the wars, presented in association with Goldmark Art.

The full 2023 Festival programme will be announced in early April. Tickets on sale to the public from Monday 8 May 2023 via 01553 764864 or online at [www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk](http://www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk)

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