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MEDIA RELEASE:

King's Lynn Festival announces full programme for 2023 Festival

The 2023 Festival will burst into life on Saturday 16 July with the **Black Dyke Band** at King's Lynn Corn Exchange and will continue until Saturday 29 July with classical recitals and concerts, jazz, folk, talks, walks and exhibitions.

Regular annual features of the Festival include;

- The annual **Ruth, Lady Fermoy Memorial Concert**, commemorating the Festival's founder, taking place on Monday 24 July, this year for the first time in the magnificent setting of Houghton Hall. The concert features Charlie Lovell-Jones (violin), Yoanna Prodanova (cello) and Ariel Lanyi (piano) in a programme featuring music by Haydn, Beethoven and Schumann.
- **Early Music Day** on Saturday 22 July at St Nicholas Chapel includes performances by organist **David Flood**, the **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** and viola da gamba player, **Ibrahim Aziz**.
- **The Festival exhibition, Blast to Blitz**, showcases English art from 1914-1945. Featuring drawings, painting, sculptures and prints it explores the output of English artists who expressed the dynamism of the world they saw around them during and between the wars. Artists featured include John Piper, Jacob Epstein, Frank Dobson and Vanessa Bell. The free exhibition in the Fermoy Gallery runs from **Saturday 15 July – Sunday 6 August**.
- The ever-popular **coffee concerts** at King's Lynn Town Hall provide a platform for young musicians as they develop their international careers giving audiences a chance to hear the rising stars of the classical music scene. This year's series includes the **Consone Quartet**, cellist **Ariana Kashefi**, pianist **Yuanfan Yang**, clarinettist **Nathan Isaac** and the **Mithras Piano Trio**.

The **Consone Quartet** and **Mithras Piano Trio** are both **BBC New Generation artists** and will not only perform during the coffee concert series but will each perform at other venues in West Norfolk too. The Consone Quartet head to Westacre Theatre on Sunday 23 July to perform string quartets by Haydn and Beethoven. The Mithras Piano Trio will be joined by viola player, Elliot Perks at King's

Lynn Minster for Brahms Piano Quartet No.1. The concert will be preceded by a talk with the trio about the evenings programme.

Folk music fans will be enthralled with **Leveret** (Sunday 23 July), a unique collaboration between three of England's finest folk musicians – Andy Cutting, Sam Sweeney and Rob Harbron, who are celebrating 10 years together; and **Saltlines** (Friday 21 July) an inspiring collaboration between bestselling author **Raynor Winn** (The Salt Path) and folk-roots supergroup **The Gigspanner Big Band** featuring **John Spiers** (Bellowhead) and **Peter Knight** (Steeleye Span). Renowned vocalist, **Kiki Dee** also appears at St George's Guildhall (Tuesday 25 July) with long-term collaborator guitarist **Carmelo Luggeri**.

King's Lynn Festival also welcomes stars of the television screen – *Strictly Come Dancing* singing sensation **Tommy Blaize** is joined by the **National Youth Jazz Orchestra** (Friday 28 July) to explore the music of iconic artist, Ray Charles; host of *Whose Line is it Anyway* and *Talks Back*, **Clive Anderson** will be dressed in full highland chieftain garb as he brings his hilarious first ever solo tour to St George's Guildhall (Wednesday 19 July); and TV and presenter and author **Mary-Ann Ochota** explores surprising stories, sites and artefacts from the deep and curious history of the British Isles in a Royal Geographical Society with IBG Lecture.

The programme of talks features poet laureate **Simon Armitage** who reads from his latest work (Wednesday 26 July), *Never Good with Horses*; The Real and the Romantic with art historian, **Frances Spalding** (Tuesday 18 July); plus an exploration of 18th century women composers with **Sara Stowe** from early music ensemble Galliarda (Friday 21 July).

Other highlights include a walk which explores Shakespeare's connections to King's Lynn, an entertaining programme of **Gilbert and Sullivan** with **King's Lynn Festival Chorus**, Bach Revealed with **Julian Lloyd Webber** and his wife Jiaxin, a focus on the music of British composer **Dani Howard** with **the Contemporary Consort**, a **series of films** at St George's Guildhall, two intimate chamber concerts at All Saints Church; plus free **pop-up events** throughout the Festival in unusual spaces and places in King's Lynn. The Festival will come to a rousing conclusion on Saturday 29 July with the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** performing Bruch's Violin Concerto and Dvorak's New World Symphony.

Tickets on sale to the public from Monday 8 May 2023 via 01553 764864 or online at www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk

Full programme details at www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk

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