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MEDIA RELEASE:

King's Lynn Festival announces programme for 2021 Festival

King's Lynn Festival will take place from **18-31 July 2021** and feature classical recitals and concerts, jazz, talks, walks and a 70th anniversary exhibition, celebrating the rich history of the past seven decades of the King's Lynn Festival. The **70th Festival**, due to have been staged last July, had to be cancelled because of the Covid pandemic, but the best traditions of the festival can be enjoyed again this year.

The Festival will burst into life on Saturday 18 July with the **National Youth Jazz Orchestra** at St Nicholas' Chapel featuring saxophonist, Asha Parkinson, BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year in a programme of swing, Latin and funk style big band music.

The annual **Ruth Fermoy Memorial Concert**, commemorating the Festival's founder, takes place on Tuesday 20 July and features pianist **Yevgeny Sudbin** in a powerfully emotive programme featuring some of the greatest composers ever to have composed for the instrument.

For many years King's Lynn Festival has provided 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 lunchtime concert series includes the **Marmen Quartet**, violinist **Charlotte Saluste-Bridoux**, pianist **Maxim Kinasov**, the **Mithras Piano Trio** and oboist **Hannah Condliffe**, who also appears as soloist alongside the **European Union Chamber Orchestra** for a performance of Marcello's Oboe Concerto in D minor.

Celebrating the rich history of the past seven decades of the King's Lynn Festival the 70th anniversary exhibition - **Past Times, New Horizons** - showcases a selection of artists whose work has been displayed in previous Festival exhibitions or at other venues in the town.

The exhibition brings together artists from across these decades and features painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, printmaking and glass. Works by **Edward Seago**, **Harry Barr**, **Hugh Casson**, **Duncan Grant**, **Ana Maria Pacheco** as well as other alumni, and pieces by contemporary artists including **Ivy Smith**, **Jon Harris** and **Hazel Burgess** are presented alongside a recently restored portrait of Festival founder Ruth, Lady Fermoy, painted in 1954 by **Anthony Devas**.

Restored models and a display of portraits of world-famous names who part in previous Festivals will be on display in the Red Barn. The photographs were much admired over many years including **Sir Benjamin Britten**, **Dame Sybil Thorndike** and **Kathleen Ferrier** when they hung on the staircase in the Guildhall. They have been restored and reframed for this retrospective.

Other highlights include a walk which explores how the historic buildings of the town are interwoven into the Festival's history; a talk with **Jeremy Black** which will illuminate Shakespeare's maps through the maps of his period and will also feature a performance by recorder ensemble, **Fontanella**; an outdoor concert with the **Magnard Ensemble**; an evening of jazz with **John Etheridge and Vimala Rowe**; **Early Music Day** with **The Bach Players** and organist **Ben Horden** and **A Celebration of Kathleen Ferrier** with **Diana Moore** (mezzo-soprano), **John Reid** (piano) and **Zeb Soanes** (narrator).

Most events will be staged in three of the town's historic, spacious and airy churches – the Minster, St Nicholas' Chapel and All Saints Church - where, it is hoped, audiences will feel comfortable.

Alison Croose, chairman of King's Lynn Festival said;

"This year's programme will not be as intense as usual but there will be no diminution of the festival's traditional high quality. All events will be delivered according to government restrictions and advice at the time."

Tickets on sale to the public from Monday 14 June 2021 via 01553 764864 or online at www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk

Full programme details at www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk

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