

newburyspringfestival



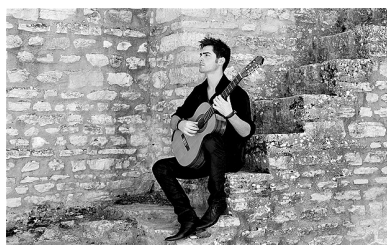
Newbury Spring Festival launches its vibrant 2012 programme at historic Highclere Castle

Saturday 12- Saturday 26 May 2012

Festival Director, Mark Eynon will launch the 2012 programme for the Newbury Spring Festival on Thursday 8 March at 12 noon at Highclere Castle, the seat of the Carnarvon family. Putting its rich local heritage centre stage, the 2012 Festival will celebrate spring in its historic venues with an outstanding, eclectic line-up of artists, including multi-award-winning guitarist Miloš Karadaglić, David Starkey, Patricia Routledge, pianist Stephen Hough, the Berlin Symphony Orchestra, the Tallis Scholars, Harry the Piano and the Olympianist Anthony Hewitt.

Founded in 1978 by Jeanie, Countess of Carnarvon, Newbury Spring Festival is one of the UK's most vibrant, independently run and quintessentially English festivals, celebrating youth and the highest artistic achievement on the international arena. In an area of outstanding natural beauty, the concerts and events radiate beyond Newbury into new and historic houses, farms and churches in the vicinity, including Englefield House, Donnington Priory, Sydmonton Court, Newbury Corn Exchange, Douai Abbey, Sheepdrove Centre and Combe Manor.

This year's festival marks the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a series of concerts and events with David Starkey, Hugo Vickers, Paul Moorhouse, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Joyful Company of Singers, and the Tallis Scholars. Inspired by the upcoming Olympics, Mark Eynon has programmed some of the most dynamic young international musicians including Miloš Karadaglić, Agata Szymczewska and Mahan Esfahani. Other highlights include the Brodsky Quartet's 40th anniversary, Berlin Symphony Orchestra's 60th anniversary, His Majesty's Sagbutts and Cornetts' 30th anniversary and Stephen Hough in recital during his 50th birthday year.



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The 2012 Festival includes a fascinating daytime Festival Talk series in historically relevant venues across Newbury. The talks will focus on different areas of the arts and speakers include **David Starkey**, **Paul Moorhouse** (Curator at the National Portrait Gallery), **Royal Biographer Hugo Vickers**, **Actress Julia McKenzie** and **Theatre Critic Edward Seckerson**, as well as **Lucinda Dickens Hawkesley** (descendent of Dickens), pianist **Lucy Parham** and **Radio 3 presenter Petroc Trelawney**. There will also be a screening of two iconic films: **Zeffirelli's *Otello*** on Wednesday 16 May and **Nureyev and Fonteyn's *Romeo and Juliet*** on Wednesday 23 May, with introductory talks by **Ross Alley**, a lecturer at the Royal Opera House.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

To mark the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee** year, Newbury Spring Festival opens on the royal theme with a performance of William Walton's commemorative *Orb and Sceptre* with the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** on Saturday 12 May, originally composed for Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953 and influenced heavily by Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance" Marches. Their programme also includes Brahms' Symphony No. 4 and Beethoven's timeless "Emperor" Concerto with pianist **Freddie Kempf**. The English Chamber Orchestra will continue the theme with a concert of Vaughan Williams, Parry and Elgar on Saturday 19 May at St Nicholas Church. The concert includes Vaughan Williams' *Old Hundredth* written for the coronation of Elizabeth I in 1953 and the composer's *Te Deum* commissioned for the enthronement of the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1928.

Continuing the royal theme, the **Joyful Company of Singers** explore "**Garlands for the Two Elizabeths**" at St Martin's East Woodhay on Sunday 20 May. The programme cleverly combines music written and dedicated to both Queen Elizabeth 1 and the present Queen, including favourites by Morley, Bax, Weelkes, Vaughan Williams, Bliss, Finzi and many more. Prior to the concert in the afternoon of Thursday 17 May, historian **David Starkey** will give an exclusive talk on Elizabeth I in the **Long Gallery of Englefield House**, where she once dined.

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On Monday 21 May, Hugo Vickers, one of Britain's most distinguished royal historians will give a talk on The Queen and the Coronation, celebrating the life and reign of a much-loved monarch and looking back to the great ceremony of 2 June 1953 which affirmed her role as Sovereign. Another key lecture in the festival programme is Paul Moorhouse's 'The Queen - Art and Image' on Thursday 24 May which looks at the development of Her Majesty's image through her reign.

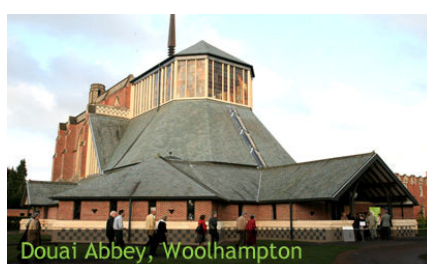
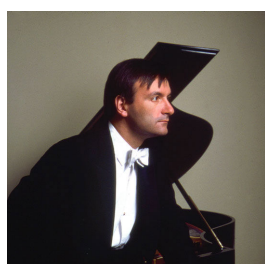
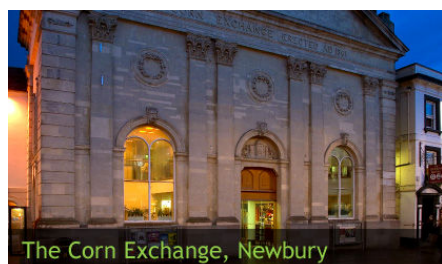
The glorious Benedictine Monastery Douai Abbey is the setting for the Tallis Scholars' concert on Friday 25 May where they will present musical highlights of the historic meeting of Henry VIII of England and Francis I of France - "The Field of the Cloth of Gold".

Anniversaries

Douai Abbey will also host a 30th anniversary celebration concert for His Majesty's Sagbutts & Cornetts on Sunday 13 May. Their 'Grand Tour' takes us on an exciting musical journey through 17th and 18th-century England, Germany, Spain and Italy exploring the variety of music that could be found on a continental journey.

2012 sees the year of many important anniversaries for artists performing at the festival including the Brodsky Quartet's 40th Anniversary concert on Wednesday 23 May at Shaw Church and pianist Stephen Hough's 50th birthday recital on Thursday 24 May at the Newbury Corn Exchange. The Brodsky Quartet's programme highlights works that the quartet have championed including Respighi's "Quartetto Dorico" and Karen Tanaka's "At the grave of Beethoven" which was commissioned in 1999 for the bicentenary anniversary of Beethoven's String Quartets, Op. 18.

Noted as one of the most distinctive pianists of his generation, and recipient of a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship, **Stephen Hough** will also present a celebratory recital marking his **50th birthday** on Thursday 24 May. As well as Liszt, Scriabin and Beethoven,



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Hough will perform his own Sonata for Piano “broken branches”, which was recently released on CD.

Youthful Olympians

The Newbury Spring Festival has always championed young artists, and in celebration of the Olympic year, the Festival has invited some of the most exciting and dynamic young musicians from the International classical music scene to perform in its main programme of evening concerts. The “**Olympianist**” **Anthony Hewitt** is travelling from **Land’s End** to **John O’Groats** with a piano in tow. On his route he will perform concerts in remote locations, including the Newbury Market Place, for an impromptu concert from his **BeethoVan** marking the festival’s opening weekend on Sunday 13 May.

The Olympic International ideal is further expressed by music from around the world in the Newbury Corn Exchange evening series including the **Tibetan Monks** on 17 May, **Mugenkyo Drummers** on 22 May, **Bollywood to Bhangra** on 19 May, **Swinging at the Cotton Club** on 26 May and home-grown celtic **Blazin’ Fiddles** on 12 May.

The festival’s stellar line-up of young international artists includes Oxford University’s artist-in-residence, harpsichordist **Mahan Esfahani** on 17 May and double Gramophone award-winning guitarist **Miloš Karadaglić** on Friday 18 May. As part of Newbury Spring Festival’s committed education programme, **Miloš** will be offering a masterclass on Saturday 19 May - one of the many events focused on harbouring and nurturing young artistic talent. Tuesday 15 May sees the American **Escher Quartet** perform in St Michael and all Angels Church. Their programme includes Mendelssohn, Elgar and a work by contemporary Australian composer **Brett Dean**. The **Kinsky Trio** are one of the outstanding Czech chamber ensembles and will be performing Haydn, Debussy and Dvorak at Englefield House on Wednesday 16 May.

The Festival also runs its own Free Ticket Scheme for 16 - 30 year olds, to encourage first time attendees at a wide range of concerts. The scheme, funded by Greenham Common

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Trust was launched in 2010 and will be extended in 2012 to incorporate a Young Critics Scheme.

Sheepdrove Piano Competition

In celebration of the natural beauty of the surrounding area, the festival has come together with the Sheepdrove Trust to host the annual **Sheepdrove Piano Competition**. Launched in 2009 under the patronage of **Sir Roger Norrington**, the competition attracts pianists of an extremely high standard from the eight major UK music colleges, with the final being held in the Sheepdrove Centre. **Peter and Juliet Kindersley**, who founded Dorling Kindersley publishers and now run Neal's Yard, Sheepdrove Organic Farm and Lambourn's Eco Conference Centre, created the **Sheepdrove Trust** to support initiatives, which increase sustainability, bio-diversity and organic farming. The Trust also supports specific work in education research and spiritual care for the living and dying. In 2009 they agreed to sponsor the Sheepdrove Piano Competition, which is open to student pianists from all the major UK conservatoires and takes place annually as part of Newbury Spring Festival.

Now in its fourth year, this year's competition will focus on Debussy and the final will take place on the afternoon of Sunday 20 May, where a festival audience can also vote on the Audience Prize. Along with Patron Sir Roger Norrington this year's judges are pianists Mikhail Kazakevich, Gordon Fergus-Thompson, Iain Burnside and Lucy Parham, David Whelton (Philharmonia Managing Director), Barry Millington (Chief Music Critic of Evening Standard), and Festival Director, Mark Eynon.

Royal Academy of Music student **Florian Mitrea** won the Sheepdrove Piano Competition in 2011. Since winning the competition, Florian has enjoyed concerts nationwide including a performance of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 11 as part of King's Place "Mozart Unwrapped" festival.



An Independent Classical Music Festival

Newbury Spring Festival is one of the most successfully run independent music festivals in the UK. It receives no public subsidy from DCMS or the Arts Council. With a highly loyal audience, it raises its full budget through ticket sales accounting for 33%, corporate sponsorship for 10% and charitable trusts 31%, and their Friends scheme and individual donations which total 17%.

Mark Eynon, Artistic Director

Mark Eynon graduated from Cambridge University in 1978 with a degree in English, and after working as an assistant on various opera productions, his association with festivals began in 1983 when he was invited to create the first **Henley Festival**, which he ran for nine seasons. He became director of **Salisbury Festival** in 1987, establishing a cycle of annual festivals based on the four elements, and in 1992 he was appointed artistic associate of the **European Arts Festival**, a national celebration to mark Britain's presidency of the EC. Mark became Director of **Newbury Spring Festival** in 1999 and established the associated **Sheepdrove Piano Competition** in 2009.

Mark's association with Covent Garden began in 1989 when he was appointed Assistant to the General Director of the **Royal Opera House**, and in 1993 he became director of the first **BOC Covent Garden Festival**, a new festival of opera and musical theatre, which under the patronage of Diana, Princess of Wales, he ran for three seasons. As part of the festival, he publically opened the Freemasons' Hall for a performance of *The Magic Flute*, which was attended by Princess Diana. As a consultant he worked on two major opera galas at the Royal Opera House: in 1991, the **Mozart Bi-Centenary Gala**, and in 2006, the **Mozart 250th Anniversary Gala**, both conducted by Sir John Eliot Gardiner. Since 2008 he has been the British representative on the jury of the annual singing competition **Concours International de Chant des Châteaux en Médoc**.

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As a freelance producer, Mark has produced many events including the revived **Chelsea Arts Balls** at the Royal Albert Hall, and Britain's largest nativity play, the **Wintershall Nativity**. As a response to his deep interest in the spiritual and psychological effects of music, Mark founded a new festival, **Healing Sounds**, an international celebration of the healing powers of music, which took place in Brighton from 1997-2002 and was part of the national **Millennium Festival**.

www.newburyspringfestival.org.uk

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