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Liberation International Music Festival celebrates largest line up yet
9 May - 18 May 2024

The sixteenth Liberation International Music Festival marks the largest event organised by the charity Music in Action.

The 2024 Liberation International Music Festival will run from 9 May to 18 May comprising 36 unique events, musical experiences and workshops, welcoming a diverse range of world-class musicians from around the globe to perform alongside local homegrown talent. The 14 international stars join over 65 performers lighting up the stages using seven unique heritage venues including Hamptonne, Seafield House and St Brelade's Church. Alongside the public events open to 2000 festival attendees will be 28 educational masterclasses and schools workshops with over 1500 children benefiting from the festival.

With a theme of mirrors and reflection, the 2024 Jersey Festival offers a feast of music offering emotions of sorrow to joy through music. Celebrating 80 years since the Liberation of Jersey following WW2, the festival reflects on the contrast between the D-Day Landing and life on the island during the Occupation.

From Grammy winning jazz artists, internationally renowned classical stars, opera stars, theatre with music and words capturing the dramatic story of artist Claude Cahun, to talented young artists, islanders and visitors are invited to enjoy captivating music in immersive and intimate locations across Jersey. A showcase of the island's rich cultural heritage gives an opportunity to experience the best of music, culture, and history in unique venues and outdoor locations across the island.

Youth and educational work will anchor the Liberation International Music Festival alongside the performances by international stars. In line with the charity's vision of inspiring the next generation, Jersey children and students will be at the centre of the Festival.

This year's event highlights include:

International Soloist with Orchestra: *Jean-Efflam Bavouzet and Andrea Nemezcz, Jersey Chamber Orchestra, St. Helier Methodist, 11 May, 19.30-21.30*

The multi-award winning pianist Jean-Efflam Bavouzet will perform in a concert including a Double Piano Concerto by Mozart and the Jersey Chamber Orchestra will play Haydn's Symphony No 47, one of his celebrated masterpieces. The mirrors theme is followed by the third movement being a palindrome – it's the same from front to back and back to front – a remarkable feat. And the concert also features a leading work by Sussmayr – the Mirror of Arkadius.

Leading Soloists play chamber music: *Liberation Chamber Gala, Jersey Museum, 14 May, 19.30-21.30*

Acclaimed international soloist So-Ock Kim and friends play an evening of piano and strings at the stunning entrance to the Jersey Museum. Join these leading artists to see early and more recent pieces for piano and strings from Mozart to Fauré. There's an option to enjoy a pre-theatre dinner at The Yard.

Celebrity song recital: *Sir Willard White, Jersey Arts Centre, 16 May, 19.30*

Experience the sublime artistry of singing legend and Grammy award winner Sir Willard White and pianist Anna Tilbrook as they weave a captivating tapestry of song. From Schubert to Bernstein, with songs from the shows such as *Ol Man River* and modern classics, enjoy a remarkable programme.

Something different: *Musical Walk, Seafield House, Glass Church, 9 May, 14.30-16.30*

Led by historian Ian Ronayne embark on a captivating musical journey through the scenic grounds of historic Seafield House, previously the home of an Austrian princess. Serenaded by international violin soloist Harriet Mackenzie and friends including cellist Urska Horvat. The stunning music includes music by Joplin, Casals and the famous Piazzolla tango - *Libertango*

Homegrown talent: *Ruben Maric, Hamptonne, 18 May 2024, 12.30-15.00*

Jazz at Hamptonne returns hosted by Jersey Heritage after a seven year break. Picnic on the lawns or enjoy seats in the new Great Hall at Hamptonne featuring internationally renowned jazz stars Jason Rebello, Tim Garland and homegrown talent Ruben Maric whose band performed at Glastonbury - performing with Katy Hall and Plantfood.

James Mews, Chairman of Music in Action, commented:

“Music in Action are proud to present a unique line up of incredible productions at the 2024 Liberation International Music Festival, representing our largest year of programming to date. The theme of mirrors and reflection is particularly pertinent as we mark 80 years since the D-Day landings. With masterpieces, rarely performed treasures and a myriad of genres, there is something for everyone.”

The Liberation International Music Festival is grateful for the continued support of The Bailiff's Chambers, The Roy Overland Charitable Trust and private donors who make this event possible.

The 2024 Liberation International Music Festival promises to be a spectacular celebration of music, culture, and history, and a unique opportunity to experience the beauty and warmth of Jersey's people and landscapes.

Advanced booking is recommended for all of the Festival events and tickets can be purchased through the website www.musicjersey.com or from Eventbrite online.

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Music in Action was formed to educate, inspire and create through music, collaborating with schools, hosting therapeutic musical performances in the hospital, hospice and care homes, providing opportunities to hear live music in Jersey and a platform for local artists to perform.

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Artist Profiles:

Sir Willard White - singer

One of the best-loved and most versatile opera stars of the last 40 years, Sir Willard White's illustrious career has taken him to the most prestigious opera houses and concert halls throughout the world, collaborating with conductors, directors and orchestras of the highest calibre.

Sir Willard White was born in Jamaica, where he commenced his musical training at the Jamaican School of Music and then went on to the Juilliard School in New York. Since his operatic debut with the New York City Opera in 1974, he has sung regularly at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, the Metropolitan Opera, New York, English National Opera, San Francisco Opera, the opera houses of Munich, Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Hamburg, Los Angeles, Madrid, Paris, and at the Glyndebourne, Aix-en-Provence and Salzburg festivals. In 1989, White performed the role of Othello in Trevor Nunn's production for the Royal Shakespeare Company, alongside Sir Ian McKellen as Iago and Imogen Stubbs as Desdemona.

Highlights of the 2023/24 season include Bartolo in Mozart *Le nozze di Figaro* in a new production for the Bayerische Staatsoper and creating the role of Priest in the world premiere of Hèctor Parra *Justice* for the Grand Théâtre de Genève, alongside il Re in Verdi *Aida* for the Royal Danish Opera. On the concert platform, White will perform Méphistophélès in Berlioz *La Damnation de Faust* with the RTVE Symphony Orchestra.

Sir Willard White was awarded the CBE in 1995 and was knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2004.

Jason Rebello – Jazz Piano

“At 21, he’s probably the most gifted and fluent pianist to emerge in Britain since Django Bates”
Neville Hadsley, Jazz FM 1990

Celebrated British jazz pianist Jason Rebello was labelled a veteran by critics at 19 and over the next decade won most of the major jazz music awards. Now firmly established as one of the UK’s jazz piano legends, he collaborates with some of the greatest musicians on the planet, including Wayne Shorter, Sting, Jeff Beck, Joss Stone, Phil Collins and Peter Gabriel.

As a band-leader, he has released seven critically acclaimed albums and in addition to leading his own groups, he has also fallen in love with playing solo piano. His recently released solo piano album on Edition Records, *Held*, won the best British Jazz album award in 2016.

Classically trained but inspired by Herbie Hancock, he came to the attention of one of the founders of jazz fusion, Weather Report’s saxophonist Wayne Shorter. Impressed by his musical fluency and style, Shorter produced his No 1 debut album *A Clearer View* in 1990.

By 1992 Jason’s musical talent and endearing personality enabled him to feature in a wide range of media projects including *Artrageous* BBC 2 which Janet Street-Porter invited him to present. Jason undertook a gruelling schedule promoting his own band across the UK and Europe as well as appearing with notable artistes including Wayne Shorter, Branford Marsallis, Tommy Smith, Jean Toussaint, Desree, Mica Paris, and Omar. He also performed several classical concerts with the Nice Symphony Orchestra and the Halle Orchestra.

Following the untimely death in 1998 of piano legend and personal hero Kenny Kirkland, Jason was invited by Sting to take his seat in the band. Jason recorded with Sting on his Grammy winning album *Brand New Day* 1999 and *Sacred Love* 2003. He toured the world as part of Sting’s band for 6 years and on the night of September 11 2001, Jason recorded the live DVD and CD *All this Time* at Sting’s home in Tuscany.

It was through an introduction from Sting that Jason met guitar legend Jeff Beck. Beck was looking for a new keyboard player to follow Jan Hammer. He was keen to recruit Jason, whose keyboard skills and musical versatility complemented Beck’s love to improvise and experiment in the world of fusion.

Jason once again toured the world as part of Beck’s band for 6 years, and was introduced to the world of Rock music. He worked together with Beck on his 2010 album *Emotion and Commotion* and co-wrote the single *Hammerhead* which won a Grammy for Best Rock Instrumental Performance and was voted a Rock Classic by Planet Rock Radio.

Jason is also a regular collaborator with Tim Garland's projects and appears on *Songs to the North Sky*, *One*, *Weather Walker* and recently recorded a duo album with Tim on reeds to much acclaim called *Life to Life* in 2023. He regularly works with modern British legends like Clare Teal in a busy touring schedule.

So-Ock Kim- Violin

Born in Seoul, So-Ock Kim moved to London at the age of three. At 15, she was the youngest ever winner of the gold medal in the prestigious Shell/LSO Competition playing the Tchaikovsky Concerto with the London Symphony Orchestra in the Barbican Hall. She was also the youngest winner of the Royal Philharmonic Society Emily Anderson Prize at 13 and, at 19, So-Ock was selected for the Young Artists Trust as a soloist and chamber musician.

So-Ock has given numerous critically acclaimed performances around the world comprehensively touring throughout Asia, Europe and the US, performing concertos and recitals at renowned international music festivals alongside the most acclaimed orchestras. Many of her performances have been broadcast on radio and television worldwide including the BBC, ABC, Radio France, RAI, KBS, Polish Radio and Classic FM.

She has performed as a soloist with conductors including Krzysztof Penderecki, Vassily Petrenko, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Alain Altinoglu, Edward Gardner, Vassily Sinaisky, Howard Griffiths, and with orchestras including the Royal Philharmonic, Philharmonia, Seoul Philharmonic, English Chamber, Sofia Philharmonic, Belgrade Philharmonic, Polish Radio, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, BBC Philharmonic, Opera North, City of London Sinfonia, London Mozart Players, Britten Sinfonia, Suwon Philharmonic, Korean Chamber, Westdeutsche Sinfonia and KBS.

So-Ock has a keen interest in the performance of new works and has given several world premieres that have been recorded for Universal (France and Korea) and Naxos.

She received the Honorary Associate of the Royal Academy of Music award and also teaches at the Academy as a Professor of Violin.

Jean-Efflam Bavouzet - piano

"He makes you listen to music as if you are discovering it Eureka!-style: yes, that's what the composer must have meant." (Financial Times).

Award-winning pianist Jean-Efflam Bavouzet enjoys a prolific recording and international concert career. He regularly works with the great orchestras from the Cleveland Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, BBC Symphony and London Philharmonic orchestras, and collaborates with many renowned conductors including Vladimir Ashkenazy, Daniele Gatti, , Ivan Fischer, Vasily Petrenko, Edward Gardner, Nicholas Collon, Sir Andrew Davis, Lawrence Foster, and Leonard Slatkin, amongst others.

In recital, Bavouzet continues his three-year residency at the Wigmore Hall, titled 'Autour de

Debussy', which includes solo recitals and chamber appearances with Steven Isserlis, Quatuor Danel and the Orsino Ensemble among others. His solo recital at Wigmore Hall in February shall consist of a unique pairing of Debussy, Liszt and Massenet, a programme which he shall also be taking to Sage Gateshead, SJE Oxford and Hamamatsu in Japan. Other recitals include a Rachmaninov-centred two-piano performance with the Chamber Music Society at New York's Lincoln Centre.

Bavouzet's previous notable performances include Carnegie Hall with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Hall with Orchestre National de France, and a BBC Proms appearance with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and Nicholas Collon. He has recently appeared with the Budapest Festival Orchestra, Sao Paulo Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Symphony, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra. Bavouzet is also a frequent guest at the Verbier festival, having been invited not only to perform but to share his valuable insights and thoughts on music, in particular on Beethoven..

Bavouzet records exclusively for Chandos. One of the most recent releases, A Musical Tribute to Pierre Sancan with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra under Yan Pascal Tortelier, won the Gramophone Editor's Choice and Diapason d'Or awards. His complete Haydn Piano Sonatas series has been named « the modern benchmark » by Gramophone and « The Beethoven Connection » received numerous accolades from magazines including the New York Times, BBC Music Magazine and Classica. The recording of Grieg's Piano Concerto with Bergen Philharmonic under Edward Gardner has been nominated for the Concerto category of the 2018 Gramophone Awards. Ongoing cycles include the complete Mozart Piano Concertos with the Manchester Camerata and Gábor Takács-Nagy, the fourth volume of which was nominated for Gramophone Award in 2020. Other recordings include Bartók's Piano Concerti and the complete Prokofiev Piano Concerti with the BBC Philharmonic and Gianandrea Noseda – the latter won the Concerto category of the 2014 Gramophone Awards. Under Yan-Pascal Tortelier, he recorded Stravinsky's Complete Works for Piano and Orchestra with Orquestra Sinfônica do Estado de São Paulo and the Ravel Piano concerti with the BBC Symphony Orchestra which won both a Gramophone and BBC magazine award. Bavouzet's recordings have also garnered Diapason d'Or and Choc de l'Année awards.

In 2012 he was ICMA Artist of the Year and in 2008 he was awarded Beijing's first ever Elite Prize for his Beethoven complete sonata series.

Harriet Mackenzie - Violin

Violinist Harriet Mackenzie is an internationally renowned concerto soloist and has performed across five continents. A highly accomplished musician known for her stunning performances and innovative collaborations across a range of musical genres, her music is characterized by her virtuosic playing, expressive phrasing, and a deep emotional connection to the music she performs.

Mackenzie has performed as a soloist with leading orchestras and ensembles around the world, including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the London Mozart Players, and the English

Symphony Orchestra. She has also made several acclaimed recordings, including "Bach to the Future," which features her own arrangements of Bach's solo violin works, and "Carnival," a collection of virtuosic violin works from around the world.

In addition to her solo work, Mackenzie is an avid chamber musician and has collaborated with a diverse range of musicians and composers. She has worked with composers such as BAFTA award winning composer Christopher Gunning, Deborah Pritchard and David Matthews, to bring new and exciting works to audiences.

Mackenzie's playing is known for its versatility, with influences from classical, folk, and world music, as well as contemporary and experimental styles. She has a particular affinity for music from Eastern Europe and the Balkans and has worked with musicians from these regions to explore the rich musical traditions and incorporate them into her performances.

Overall, Harriet Mackenzie's music is a celebration of the beauty, diversity, and emotional power of the violin. With her technical mastery, expressive playing, and collaborative spirit, she is a unique and inspiring voice in the world of classical music.

Anna Tilbrook – Pianist

Anna Tilbrook is one of Britain's most exciting pianists, with a considerable reputation in song recitals and chamber music. She made her debut at the Wigmore Hall in 1999 and has since become a regular performer at Europe's major concert halls and festivals.

Anna has collaborated with many leading singers and instrumentalists including James Gilchrist, Lucy Crowe, Sarah Tynan, Emma Bell, Barbara Hannigan, Willard White, Ashley Riches, Stephan Loges, Chris Maltman, Ian Bostridge, Barbara Bonney, Victoria Simmonds, Christine Rice, Iestyn Davies, Natalie Clein, Nick Daniel, Philip Dukes, Guy Johnston, Louisa Tuck and Jack Liebeck. For Welsh National Opera she has accompanied Angela Gheorghiu, Jose Carreras and Bryn Terfel in televised concerts.

With the distinguished British tenor James Gilchrist she has made acclaimed recordings of 20th-century English song for Linn records, including Vaughan Williams's *On Wenlock Edge* (a finalist in the Gramophone Awards 2008), the cycles for tenor and piano by Gerald Finzi, songs by Britten and Leighton and the song cycles of Robert Schumann. For Chandos, James and Anna recorded a disc of *Songs by Lennox Berkeley* and most recently the *Songs and Chamber Music of Vaughan Williams* with Philip Dukes.

In 2009 they embarked on a series of recordings for Orchid records of the Schubert Song Cycles and their disc of *Die Schone Mullerin* received great critical acclaim and was Editor's Choice in Gramophone, November 2009. Schubert's *Schwanengesang* along with Beethoven's *An die Ferne Geliebte* was released early in 2011 and their recording of *Winterreise* was Record of the week in *The Independent* and was made recording of the month in the 2011 Christmas issue of *BBC Music Magazine* – "It is a profoundly considered reading, considered enough for

some of the songs to be as penetrating as in almost any performance I have heard.” (Michael Tanner).

With String Quartets such as the Carducci, Fitzwilliam, Elias, Coull, Barbirolli and Sacconi, she has performed a wide range of chamber music from Mozart’s Piano Concertos K414 and K415 to the Piano Quartets and Quintets of Mozart, Schubert, Schumann, Shostakovich, Brahms, Elgar, Bridge and Fauré.

Recent engagements have included her Het Concertgebouw, Amsterdam debut with Lucy Crowe, recitals in Carnegie Hall, New York, Wigmore Hall, deSingel Antwerp, the Anima Mundi festival in Pisa, Alte Oper Frankfurt, Musee des Tissus Lyon, Wroclaw Cantans and appearances at the Edinburgh, Aldeburgh, Cheltenham, Oxford Lieder and West Cork Chamber Music Festivals. Anna regularly broadcasts for Radio 3 and has also curated a number of series of concerts for them including in 2017 marking Hull as City of Culture with James Gilchrist and the Sacconi Quartet and in April 2018 a Big Chamber Day at Saffron Hall entitled ‘Tchaikovsky and his world’ featuring singers Anush Hovhannisyanyan, Caitlin Hulcup, Alessandro Fisher and Ashley Riches.

Born in Hertfordshire, Anna studied music at York University and at the Royal Academy of Music with Julius Drake, where she was awarded a Fellowship and in 2009 became an Associate. She also won many major international accompaniment prizes including the AESS Bluthner prize and the award for an outstanding woman musician from the ROSL.

Ruben Maric – Pianist

Ruben Maric is a groundbreaking pianist/composer currently based in Leeds. In the last few years Ruben has performed original music at concerts and festivals throughout the UK, including closing out a stage on Saturday night at Glastonbury Festival 2023.

Ruben is best known as a contributor to pioneering alt-jazz collective plantfood, but has also played as a session keyboardist alongside such names as K.O.G, Abstract Orchestra, and many others.

Whilst being recognised for delivering high-energy dance music in a band setting, Ruben’s solo output takes cues instead from others in the contemporary jazz spotlight, such as Tigran Hamasyan and Shai Maestro, blending these influences with a broad harmonic palette to derive an aesthetic which is at once provocative and emotional.

Further information – Musical Walks in Stunning Gardens

The festival’s amazing musical experiences include a Musical Walk around two stunning outdoor spaces in Jersey – Seafeld House and gardens and graveyards around St Brelade’s Bay on 9 and 12 May 2024.

The musical walk around Seafield House on 9th May will be a wonderful way to experience the beauty of this stunning garden and the history of Jersey while enjoying live music. The walk takes participants on a journey through the stunning landscapes surrounding Seafield House, a historic building with vast grounds. Along the way, live musicians led by violinist Harriet Mackenzie perform a range of music genres, from Mozart and Saint-Saens to tango music, adding to the overall charm and ambiance of the walk.

The historical aspect of the walks are equally impressive. Participants will learn about the fascinating history of Seafield House – a story of the Princess married to the heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire who stayed in the 19th century, and its significance in the island's wartime past. Local historian Ian Ronayne is leading the walk offering engaging commentary and anecdotes that provide a rich context for the music and the surroundings rooted in the occupation in the second world war.

On 12th May, walkers guided by Blue Badge guide Ned Malet de Cateret walk through the woods and gardens around Ouaisne to St Brelade's Bay while being serenaded by international soloists Harriet Mackenzie (violin), the Liberation Quartet and Young Artists. With music spanning the ages by Piazzolla, and Bach, this experience will be truly magical and celebrating Jersey's heritage and history.

Music in Action's musical walks around during the Liberation International Music Festival are an enchanting and unique experience that combines music, history, and natural beauty. They are highly recommended for anyone who wants to explore Jersey's rich heritage and enjoy a memorable musical journey in stunning surroundings.