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HEXHAM ABBEY  
FESTIVAL  
OF MUSIC & ARTS

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16<sup>th</sup> ~ 24<sup>th</sup>  
SEPTEMBER  
2016



[www.hexhamabbeyfestival.org.uk](http://www.hexhamabbeyfestival.org.uk)



LOTTERY FUNDED



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

## Welcome to the 64<sup>th</sup> Hexham Abbey Festival



Photograph by Terence Walsh

We are delighted this year to have a line-up of artists who both complement each other and give us a wide showcase of the arts. Framed by classical music, the Festival also explores Balkan folk music, new music for organ and electronics and even features a live graffiti event. Our desire to provide interest and engagement for children has again been a major feature of the programming, with a series of workshops in addition to a number of child-friendly concerts and other opportunities.

As ever, we are proud to welcome a fantastic number of local musicians, both professional and amateur, who enrich the Festival. They include the Hexham Abbey Festival Chorus, the Abbey Choirs, young musicians and many others. We are grateful that, once again, Arts Council England has given full endorsement to the plans, making the Festival possible with a generous grant. We are also grateful to Hexham Town Council and The Hexham Courant for generous sponsorship.

**Marcus Wibberley**  
Festival Director

## Livepaint

Twilight Spectacle

Friday 16th September 7:00pm



The acclaimed team of modern mural painters and graffiti artists **Urban Canvas** will explore the crossover between the performing arts and static visual art.

Huge canvases will be erected in the Abbey, and the team will spray-paint using cutting-edge graffiti techniques as the audience watches, using the interior of the Abbey as inspiration.

Ancient and modern will come together as the artwork comes to life live before the audience to form an exciting visual and musical twilight spectacle.

There will be opportunity for audience participation.

*Experience the Abbey at twilight...*

Join us for a pre-concert glass of wine or soft drink,  
on sale from 6:15pm in the Abbey.



Tickets: £16 | £14 - OAPs  
£9 - Further Concessions | Family Ticket: £38

## Hexham Abbey Festival Chorus

Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*  
Saturday 17th September 7:30pm



Photograph by Terence Walsh

The **Hexham Abbey Festival Chorus**, formed in 1976 and comprised of local singers, continues the tradition of performing a major choral work on the first weekend of the Festival.

The *Petite Messe Solennelle* is performed tonight in the original (and unique) festive scoring of two pianos and harmonium. It was composed in 1863 and described by Rossini himself as “the last of my sins of old age”.

**Rachel Luxon-Robinson** *soprano*

**Clare McCaldin** *mezzo soprano*

**Philip Smith** *baritone*

**Tom Smith** *tenor*

**Michael Haynes** *harmonium*

**Eileen Bown** and **Marcus Wibberley** *pianos*

**David Murray** *conductor*



Tickets: £22 | £20 - OAPs  
£12 - Further Concessions | Family Ticket: £50

## The Chorister Experience

For boys aged 7-9 years and girls aged 10-13 years  
Sunday 18th September 2:00pm – 5:30pm



Photograph by Frances Arnold

Led by the Abbey musicians, this is a fun-filled afternoon of musical games, singing workshops, trying on the choir robes and other activities including (optional) football and a visit to the bell tower.

The afternoon will culminate with a brief service of Choral Evensong, sung by the combined Abbey Choirs and workshop participants at 5:00pm, to which all are welcome. If you have enjoyed the afternoon, there is also an opportunity to sign up to one of the Abbey Choirs!

**5:00pm Choral Evensong** (*No ticket required*)



Free to participants, booking required  
through the Festival Office

## Magdalena Loth-Hill – Baroque Violin Nathaniel Mander – Harpsichord

Young Musicians' Platform

Monday 19th September 1:00pm / Great Hall



Photograph by George Cross

### Baroque masterpieces including works by Corelli and Telemann

Magdalena Loth-Hill is the 2015-16 Mills Williams Junior Fellow at the Royal College of Music (RCM), having previously studied at Chetham's with Jan Repko and at the RCM with Itzhak Rashkovsky and Lucy Russell.

Harpsichordist Nathaniel Mander began his studies with Richard Lester before moving to London in 2009 to train with Carole Cerasi at the Royal Academy of Music where he graduated with first class honours. He is winner of the 10th Broadwood solo harpsichord competition (2011) and the Early Keyboard Ensemble Competition at Fenton House (2010).

## Janina Fialkowska – Piano

Twilight Concert

Tuesday 20th September 7:00pm



Photograph by Julian Faugère

Celebrated for her interpretations of the classical and romantic repertoire, and beloved the world over for her exquisite artistry, Janina Fialkowska is one of the great interpreters of the piano works of Chopin and Mozart.

She has also won acclaim as a champion of the music of Franz Liszt as well as the twentieth-century Polish composers, both in concert and on disc.

Tonight's concert will feature the works of **Chopin** in a fabulous programme of waltzes, scherzos, preludes, nocturnes and ballades – to name but a few!

### *Experience the Abbey at twilight...*

Join us for a pre-concert glass of wine or soft drink, on sale from 6:15pm in the Abbey.



Free Entry  
With Retiring Collection



Tickets: £16 | £14 - OAPs  
£9 - Further Concessions | Family Ticket: £38

## Leah Nicholson - Piano

Young Musicians' Platform

Wednesday 21st September 1:00pm / Great Hall



### Works by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov

Hexham-born Leah Nicholson (15) is in her fifth year at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester and has graduated with Distinction in the LRSM Diploma.

She is a winner of numerous competitions including the International Chopin Festival in Mazovia, Poland, and Chetham's Concerto Competition playing Rachmaninov's 2nd Piano Concerto.

Leah is studying with John Gough and has participated in masterclasses with Martin Roscoe, Murray McLachlan, Anthony Hewitt, Kathryn Stott and Galina Sandovskaya.

## Automatronic

Wednesday 21st September 8:00pm



Formed in 2013, **Automatronic** – a team of four artists – is a leading exponent in the unique soundscape of organ and electronics.

Featuring new material and designed to transport the audience to a different conscious level, this refreshing combination explores musical colour and texture in surround-sound.

Using state-of-the-art equipment and the world-famous Phelps pipe organ of the Abbey never heard before in this way, this will be a sensual experience for all to enjoy.



Free Entry  
With Retiring Collection



Tickets: £16 | £14 - OAPs  
£9 - Further Concessions | Family Ticket: £38

## Horovod

Thursday 22nd September 8:00pm



Specialising in traditional folk and dance music from the Balkans, Greece and Turkey, **Horovod** is a recently-formed group picking up a large following in the region.

With clarinet, accordion and fiddle, they create a rich blend of melody and harmony which is complemented by the driving percussive sounds of tapan, darbuka and bouzouki.

Expect to hear frantic Bulgarian dance rhythms, meditative melodic improvisations, stomping klezmer freilachs and everything in between!

## Callum Alger – Organ

Young Musicians' Platform

Friday 23rd September 1:00pm / Abbey



**Including works by Schumann, Franck and Messiaen**

In his second year as an undergraduate student at Birmingham Conservatoire, Callum Alger studies the organ with Henry Fairs and David Saint.

He is also Assistant Director of Music at St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, where he accompanies the choirs, trains the boy and girl choristers and assists in the daily running of the music department.

He previously held organ scholarships at Portsmouth Cathedral and St Matthew's, Northampton, and has a growing reputation as a notable artist. Recent recital engagements have included St Davids Cathedral (as part of their Festival).



Tickets: £16 | £14 - OAPs  
£9 - Further Concessions | Family Ticket: £38



Free Entry  
With Retiring Collection

## Renaissance

Twilight Concert

Friday 23rd September 7:00pm



Photograph by Ben McKee

Founded in 2011 by Hexham-born director, composer and ex-Abbey chorister Ben Rowarth, **Renaissance** is a vocal ensemble specialising in both ‘Early’ and Contemporary music. Beginning as a student group based in Durham and the North East, they have now performed all over the UK and been broadcast on BBC Radio 3.

Returning to their roots this evening, their programme, entitled *Lamenta*, presents a visual and musical journey through the sixteenth century, from English sacred music to stunningly passionate Italian madrigals of love, life and death.

Also included is a new composition by Ben Rowarth taking inspiration from the earlier works.

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£9 - Further Concessions | Family Ticket: £38

## Gypsy Baroque Fantasy

Twilight Concert with Candlelight

Saturday 24th September 7:00pm



The world-famous baroque quartet **Red Priest**, led by recorder-playing maestro Piers Adams, makes a welcome return to the Festival to perform a colourful carnival of music from the 17th and 18th centuries in their own inimitable, high-octane style.

Favourite works by the great baroque masters intermingle with some unsung heroes and brand new arrangements, in an evening of baroque brilliance with a modern twist.

### Including works by Telemann, Corelli and Vivaldi

*“Highly individual . . . virtuosity, verve and creative spontaneity . . . positively volcanic.” Daily Telegraph*

### *Experience the Abbey at twilight...*

Join us for a pre-concert glass of wine or soft drink, on sale from 6:15pm in the Abbey.



Tickets: £20 | £18 - OAPs  
£10 - Further Concessions | Family Ticket: £46



Festival Services  
No Ticket Required



Photograph by Terence Walsh

## Festival Eucharist

The Combined Abbey Choirs  
Sunday 18th September 10:00am

**Marcus Wibberley** *Director of Music*  
**Michael Haynes** *Assistant Organist*  
Preacher: **The Very Revd Vivienne Faull** *Dean of York*

**Widor** *Messe à deux chœurs et deux orgues, Op. 36*  
**Messiaen** *O sacrum convivium*

## Choral Evensong for the Feast of St Matthew

Boy Choristers and Gentlemen of the Abbey Choir  
Wednesday 21st September 6:30pm

**Blair** *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in B minor*  
**Walton** *Jubilate Deo*

## Choral Evensong

Sung by the Girl Choristers of Hexham Abbey  
Thursday 22nd September 6:30pm

**Moore** *The Third Service*  
**Dyson** *I will worship*

## Workshops for Babies and Toddlers

Saturday 17th September

Led by Louise Khazae and Ali Say

### SINGING BABIES

10:00am / Great Hall age: 0-12 months

Devised especially for the first year of life, a captivating musical experience for parents to enjoy with their babies.

### FIDDLE STICKS

1:00pm / Great Hall age: 3-4 years

This pre-school session has been especially created for the Festival.



£10 per baby/child with adult, to include coffee and cake. Booking essential, from August 1st, through the Festival Office.

## ONE FIVE ZERO Exhibition

This exciting community arts project took place over the summer. During the Festival a photographic exhibition of the activities will be presented in the Abbey.

## Mansio Exhibition

Mansio is a Roman-themed contemporary sculpture commissioned by Hexham Book Festival. It will be in the Abbey's Cloister area during the opening weekend of the Festival. Alongside this the Abbey will offer free Roman-themed family drop-in craft activities as follows.

Saturday 17th September, 11-2pm, Amazing Mosaics (all ages)  
Sunday 18th September, 2-4pm, Script and Scrolls (age 5+)  
[www.mansio.co.uk](http://www.mansio.co.uk)

## Ticket Information

Tickets for all events (unless otherwise stated) can be booked directly or online through the Queen's Hall Box Office:

**t:** 01434 652477

**w:** [www.queenshall.co.uk](http://www.queenshall.co.uk)

**Opening hours:**

**Mon–Sat 10am–4pm**

**Queen's Hall Arts Centre**

**Beaumont Street**

**Hexham**

**NE46 3LS**

**Concessions** are offered to all under 18s, those in full-time education, registered unemployed (JSA) and disabled people (carer/escort admitted free of charge).

**Family Ticket** (where advertised)

Valid for 4 consecutive seat numbers when purchased for a family unit of 2 adults and 2 children.

**Unsold Tickets**

Any unsold tickets will be available on the door (cash only). Unless otherwise stated, doors open half an hour before start.

## General Information

**Wheelchair access** is available to all events. If you require assistance entering our venues, please contact the Festival Office in advance.

**Car parking** is available in the car park next to the Wentworth Leisure Centre and Waitrose. From there it is a 10 minute (uphill) walk into town. For full travel details consult the web page [www.hexhamabbey.org.uk](http://www.hexhamabbey.org.uk)

**Venue**

Hexham Abbey, Beaumont Street, Hexham, NE46 3NB

## Contact Us

**Festival Office**

**e:** [festival@hexhamabbey.org.uk](mailto:festival@hexhamabbey.org.uk)

**t:** 0808 126 1257 Jenny McKay (Festival Administrator)

Hexham Abbey Festival reserves the right to make alterations to the programme if necessary.

TWDA Creative Services & Robson Print, Hexham