



## LEADING SINGER BRINDLEY SHERRATT INVITES ELEVEN OPERA STARS TO SING AT GLYNDEBOURNE TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE MEATH EPILEPSY CHARITY

*Bringing the House Down: A Concert at Glyndebourne for The Meath Epilepsy Charity*  
Sunday 5 April 2020, 3pm, at Glyndebourne, East Sussex

- Opera singer **Brindley Sherratt** announces special concert at **Glyndebourne** to raise money for **The Meath Epilepsy Charity**, a residential care home for people with complex epilepsy, where his daughter Amy lives
- Features performances from world-renowned opera stars **Louise Alder, Barry Banks, Sophie Bevan MBE, Allan Clayton, Dame Sarah Connolly DBE, Yvonne Howard, Jacques Imbrailo, Sally Matthews, Danielle de Niese, Mark Padmore CBE** and **Sir John Tomlinson CBE**
- Classic FM's **John Suchet** presents the concert
- Tickets are available now from [meath.org.uk/glyndebourne](http://meath.org.uk/glyndebourne), costing between £40-£125 (£300 for VIP tickets, including an after-show reception with the stars)

Opera singer **Brindley Sherratt** and his family are delighted to announce a special concert in aid of **The Meath Epilepsy Charity**, featuring a host of world-renowned singers at **Glyndebourne Opera House** on **Sunday 5 April 2020**.

Brindley's daughter Amy is 29 years old and has a rare metabolic disorder, learning difficulties and complex epilepsy, with her having up to ten seizures a day. Amy's condition means that she can't be left alone and she has lived at The Meath, a residential care home for people with complex epilepsy and related disabilities, since 2016. Living at The Meath has encouraged her to have the independence she craves, while ensuring that she is always safe.

**Amy Sherratt** says: *'For me the Meath means I have made good friends and I have a very busy week! Having so many seizures is hard but I know I am safe and my friends understand because they have problems too. I'm excited about this concert at Glyndebourne because I love the opera world and meeting Dad's friends and I'm singing too!'*

Brindley and his wife Christina have organised the concert to raise vital funds for The Meath, which is currently full, with a long waiting list. They have been staggered by the generosity and support they have received from so many people who have made this event happen, including the world-renowned singers who are donating their appearances: Louise Alder, Barry Banks, Sophie Bevan MBE, Allan Clayton, Dame Sarah Connolly DBE, Yvonne Howard, Jacques Imbrailo, Sally Matthews, Danielle de Niese, Mark Padmore CBE, Brindley Sherratt, Sir John Tomlinson CBE. The singers will be accompanied by Matthew Fletcher and Caroline Jaya Ratnam.

The event will be hosted by Classic FM presenter **John Suchet** and the pledge-master will be **Jonathan Pratt**, MD of Dreweatts, and regular presenter on the BBC.

The singers will perform popular arias and ensembles from opera and musicals and there will be a performance from The Meath Choir (made up of people who live there) with the Guildford and Godalming Jazz Choir. The concert will end with Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music*, conducted by Ryan Wigglesworth and featuring four young singers – Katie Stevenson (mezzo soprano), William Morgan (Tenor), Matthew Durkan (Baritone) and Stephanie Wake-Edwards (mezzo soprano).

The money raised from the concert will be used by The Meath to fund a variety of life enrichment projects for its residents. There will invest in making more music at The Meath through employing a music therapist. They also wish to create a horticulture project in the traditional Gertrude Jekyll garden which will enable residents to participate in the planting, growing, picking and cooking of fruit and vegetables with a view to starting apprenticeships. There will also be visits to a local horse sanctuary for day trips and visits from mobile farms to cater for the residents love of animals and to tie in with the work The Meath do with PAT dogs (Pets as Therapy).

Tickets are available from today (Thursday 10 October), priced between £40-£125 (£300 for VIP tickets, including an after-show reception with the stars).

**For further press information please contact:**

Rebecca Driver Media Relations

web: [www.rdmr.co.uk](http://www.rdmr.co.uk)

email: [maddie@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:maddie@rdmr.co.uk) | Tel: 0203 691 7034

**Notes to Editors**

**About Amy:**

Amy has an extremely rare life-threatening metabolic disorder called OCT deficiency where the enzymes needed to break down protein are deficient. If Amy eats more than 30g of protein (approx. one chicken breast) a day she will become dangerously ill, so she has to regulate her diet strictly. Amy suffered a stroke at 11 months which left her with learning difficulties and a weakness to the left side of her body. She began to suffer from complex epilepsy at the age of 10 and now has up to ten seizures a day. Despite these challenges, she is a keen artist, ornithologist, singer and actress, who likes to grasp any opportunity to perform!

**About Brindley:**

Brindley Sherratt is one of classical music's most successful bass singers, known for his performances at the world's best opera houses, including The Royal Opera, English National Opera, Glyndebourne and the Metropolitan Opera, where he is about to start rehearsals for their new production of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. Brindley and his wife Christina have two children, Matthew who is 25 and Amy who is 29. Brindley's full biography can be viewed [here](#).

**About The Meath:**

The Meath is a residential care home for people with complex epilepsy and related disabilities based in Godalming, Surrey. It currently has 82 residents and receives many expressions of interest on a weekly basis. The aim of The Meath Epilepsy Charity (RCN 200359) is to enhance the lives of people who have complex epilepsy and related disabilities by ensuring they receive the support, expert care and encouragement required to build confidence, acquire new skills and maximise independence in their daily lives.

They support, care for and protect the physical and mental health of people living with epilepsy and associated learning and physical disabilities through the provision of suitable accommodation, tailored assistance, skills training, and leisure and sport activities. It costs £6.5m per year to keep The Meath operational (£17k per day). The Meath is funded through Care Packages and a small fundraising and marketing team who work tirelessly to fill the financial gap and to raise awareness of both The Meath and epilepsy.

### **Facts about Epilepsy:**

- Epilepsy is a serious neurological condition that can affect anyone, at any age and from any walk of life.
- 1:100 people have epilepsy.
- Over 600,000 people in the UK have epilepsy.
- Every day around 90 more people are diagnosed with epilepsy.
- 1 in every 220 children will have an epilepsy diagnosis: that's 1 child with epilepsy in every primary school or 5 in every secondary.
- 1 in 5 people with epilepsy have learning or intellectual disabilities.
- 1/3 of those diagnosed with epilepsy cannot live independently.

### **Additional Quotes:**

**Brindley Sherratt** said:

*'Last year The Meath, who care for our daughter Amy, circulated a small fundraising magazine which got me thinking - what if we organised a fundraising concert and I asked a few of my singer friends to join me? The rest is history. Every single performer I approached signed up immediately and we now have a host of the finest classical singers performing at one of the most incredible venues in the world, all for the Meath. We're raising money for a charity that already does incredible work but the funds raised here will enable new life enhancing activities and opportunities for the residents that would otherwise be unattainable. And of course we shall have a ball doing it. See you there!'*

**Lindsay Hill, Chief Executive, The Meath** said:

*'Fundraising at The Meath is essential to our ability to support the people in our care to live independent and fulfilled lives. Every day fundraised money benefits the people we support by providing them with a range of exciting skills-based sessions that they need to lead, happy, healthy lives as independently as possible. Fundraised money is incredibly precious to us and we are immensely proud that over 83 pence in every pound donated goes directly to the people we support. We remain inclusive and, as far as possible can ensure that every resident is able to enjoy the same opportunities as their peers, irrespective of their disability or their personal financial position. It is truly wonderful that Brindley and his friends have provided people with the opportunity to fundraise for our vital work while enjoying a completely unique concert at Glyndebourne.'*

*I am personally thrilled that Amy's creativity and that of her peers at The Meath are at the heart of this prestigious concert. The stunning poster design for the concert uses Amy's original alcohol dye art work and she and The Meath choir cannot quite believe that they will be taking to the famous stage at Glyndebourne alongside 12 of the greatest opera singers of our time! At The Meath we support people who live with complex epilepsy and associated disabilities to enrich their lives, celebrate success and create wonderful memories. Furthermore, the funding raised by it will create a wonderful legacy for The Meath residents through sustainable projects. Tickets to Glyndebourne offer a unique and unforgettable experience. They also offer The Meath the ability to future proof and expand upon music at The Meath, to make the most of horticultural opportunities, and to introduce Animal Encounters through visits from mobile farms and trips to a local animal sanctuary.'*

**Mark Dumas – Chair of Trustees, The Meath,** said:

*'It may surprise you to know that, each day, eighty-five more people are diagnosed with Epilepsy across the country. Many people's Epilepsy will be so severe that medication alone will not control it. The residents at The Meath require twenty-four-hour care for them to live safe, happy and fulfilled lives. Our services at The Meath are making a tremendous difference day to day for the people living with severe epilepsy and associated disabilities that we support. I am in The Meath regularly and when you see the residents laughing, smiling and fulfilled, you know that this is a wonderful charity to be involved with.'*