

PRESS RELEASE

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Aldeburgh Festival 2020 cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Snape Maltings today announces the cancellation of this year's Aldeburgh Festival. The 2020 festival would have been the 73rd Aldeburgh Festival and this is the first time in its history that it will not go ahead.

Aldeburgh Festival is one of the world's most significant classical events. The festival was founded in 1948 by composer Benjamin Britten, tenor Peter Pears and the librettist/producer Eric Crozier. Set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the Suffolk coast, Snape Maltings – home to the Aldeburgh Festival - is the realisation of Britten's vision for a creative campus where musicians of all ages, backgrounds and career stages are given the time, space and support to be trained and to develop new work and ideas in its unique natural landscape.

Here is a personal message from Snape Maltings' Chief Executive, Roger Wright:

"It is with enormous sadness that we have to cancel the 2020 Aldeburgh Festival. Given the current unprecedented circumstances, this will not be a surprise but, nonetheless, we know how disappointing it is for our audiences, friends and supporters and for the entire creative community which would have been involved in presenting the events we had planned in June.

We have waited to take this decision in the hope that we may have been able to present some of our events, given the variety of activity that the festival offers. But as recent days have made clear that hope was above reality and I recognise that everyone needs clarity in order to be able to plan, even though it is a message that we would never have wanted to deliver. We will endeavour to present at least some of the planned activity at future dates, not least the music we were expecting to premiere.

We will contact all ticket holders and we continue to be grateful for all those who, regarding next month's cancelled performances, have made donations rather than asking for refunds but we are also very well aware of what an uncertain time it is for everyone.

We will delay the announcement of our August Snape Proms line-up and will update everyone in due course. We thank you for your understanding and for all the messages of goodwill which we have received. They mean a lot to us and are a reminder of the warmth felt towards the Festival and our year-round work in Snape and Aldeburgh.

All of my colleagues join me in looking forward to a time when we can be back together in this unique place, having our lives enhanced by the power of live music."

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