

Snape Maltings Concert Hall to reopen for live performances with audience from 21 August

Britten Pears Arts is thrilled to announce that it will host live music-making again in Snape Maltings Concert Hall from Friday **21 August**, following the latest government announcement, becoming one of the first venues in the UK to return to regular concerts for a live audience.

Bringing together some of the musicians who would have performed during this year's Aldeburgh Festival and Snape Proms, in addition to other star performers, Britten Pears Arts will be offering short concerts every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. There will be two performances per day (2pm & 7pm), as well as some free informal pop-up outdoor performances by local musicians throughout the summer.

The first weekend (21 – 23 Aug) will feature **Chineke! Chamber Ensemble** performing a programme of works by Florence B. Price and Schubert (21 Aug); Violin Sonatas by Brahms and Franck from violinist **Tasmin Little** and pianist **Martin Roscoe** (22 Aug); a cello and a piano recital by **Sheku** and **Isata Kanneh-Mason** with repertoire by Beethoven, Bridge and Rachmaninov (23 Aug). Tickets for the first weekend go on sale on **Saturday 15 August at 10am**.

The second weekend will welcome songs and stories from singer and entertainer **Joe Stilgoe** (28 Aug); the **London Philharmonic Orchestra strings** conducted by **Edward Gardner** performing works by Tippett and Thomas Adès, as well as Britten's *Serenade for Tenor, horn and strings* with soloists **Toby Spence** and **John Ryan** (29 Aug) and accordionist **Samuele Telari** performing JS Bach's *Goldberg Variations* (30 Aug). The ticket on sale date will be announced soon.

The programme beyond August will be revealed later in the month and will feature a broad range of music, with artists including saxophonist **Jess Gillam**, pianists **Clare Hammond** and **Julian Joseph**, folk musicians **Kathryn Tickell** and **Amy Thatcher**, and the **Elias Quartet**. There will also be opportunities for young musicians to perform, as part of Britten Pears Arts year-round programme of support and development.

To give as many people as possible the opportunity to enjoy the return of live music at Snape Maltings, Britten Pears Arts is offering an innovative ticket approach for its afternoon concerts. Every 2pm performance across the weekends will be 'Pay What You Can', so that audiences can hear 45 minutes of high-quality live music at a price they feel they can afford. All evening performances will be priced at £15 per ticket.

Roger Wright, Chief Executive, Britten Pears Arts said, 'The impact of the pandemic continues to be enormously challenging for the performing arts sector. We have all greatly missed the thrill of live music-making and can't wait to welcome musicians and audiences back to Snape Maltings Concert Hall. With the current guidelines and with safety as our top priority, we are fortunate that you have to drive, cycle or walk to Snape and, once here, that we have a large amount of space and fresh air, making it relatively straightforward to offer the necessary distance for the public. We hope to see old friends and make new ones through our 'Pay What You Can' afternoon performance offer. As one of the first music venues and organisations to pilot a return to indoor concerts, we are aiming to help build confidence again in the presentation of live events and will share our learnings with colleagues in the music sector.'

The safety of Britten Pears Arts' audience, artists and staff is its top priority, and this may mean that line-ups, capacity and pricing may change at short notice.

Full listings and tickets for the first weekend online at www.snapemaltings.co.uk | Tel: 01728 687110

For further press information please contact:

Rebecca Driver Media Relations

Email: rebecca@rdmr.co.uk

Mob: 07989 355446 | web: www.rdmr.co.uk

Notes to Editors

Key changes to concerts

- **Reduced capacity** in the Concert Hall to prioritise audience safety and to ensure there is enough space around everyone
- **Shorter performances** of around 45 minutes with no interval which will allow time for cleaning between each performance
- **Face coverings** required for all audience members during the performance unless they are exempt as per the government guidelines
- **No printed materials** and this includes tickets, programmes and programme notes

About Britten Pears Arts

Britten Pears Arts is a pioneering music, arts and heritage charity based on the Suffolk coast at two popular, historic visitor destinations: The Red House and Snape Maltings. Britten Pears Arts emerged from the creative partnership of Benjamin Britten, one of the greatest composers of the 20th century, and his professional and personal partner, singer Peter Pears. Britten and Pears shared a progressive vision for music and the arts to be useful, helping people enhance and bring joy into their lives. Britten and Pears' vision inspires all our activity, from work with the local communities to our national leadership roles in the fields of talent development and music, health and wellbeing. Britten Pears Arts was created through the merger of the Britten–Pears Foundation and Snape Maltings in 2020.

www.brittenpearsarts.org

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