

PRESS RELEASE  
12 September 2016

## Spitalfields Music Winter Festival 2016: 4-11 December 2016

### Booking now open

40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations continue; festival highlights include:

- Melvyn Tan performs works by former Spitalfields Music Artistic Directors Judith Weir and Jonathan Dove, including the London premiere of *Catching Fire* by Jonathan Dove
- The English Concert perform a Shakespeare-inspired programme at Shoreditch Church, the resting place of many actor contemporaries of the Bard.
- Solomon's Knot Baroque Collective sing JS Bach's B Minor Mass from memory and without a conductor
- Leading South Indian classical violinist Jyotsna Srikanth leads an evening of instrumental Bollywood film classics set to the original film sequences, alongside brand-new material.
- Seasonal programmes from Siglo de Oro and The Sixteen

**Spitalfields Music Winter Festival** continues to mark 40 years of music making in the East End from **4–11 December 2016**. A highlight of the East London arts calendar, this year's festival features a wealth of early and new music, special performances, festival debuts, and events for the next generation of concert-goers and music-makers. Internationally-renowned pianist and friend of Spitalfields Music **Melvyn Tan** performs a special joint birthday recital with old and new compositions from past Artistic Directors including **Jonathan Dove** and **Judith Weir**; the music of **JS Bach** is showcased throughout the festival; and unique cross-arts collaborations include the festival debut of acclaimed South Indian classical violinist **Jyotsna Srikanth**.

### Special events

On **6 December** at **Shoreditch Church**, internationally-renowned pianist **Melvyn Tan**, a longtime friend of the festival, makes a very welcome return for a specially curated celebration marking Melvyn's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and Spitalfields Music's 40<sup>th</sup>. The programme features the London premiere of *Catching Fire* by former Spitalfields Music Artistic Director **Jonathan Dove**, along with *Variations for Judith*, a set of variations composed by former Artistic Directors including **Judith Weir**, **Michael Berkeley** and **Diana Burrell**, and a new commission by **Rolf Hind**. The programme is completed by Judith Weir's *I've Turned the Page* and Liszt's *Three Concert Études*.

**The English Concert**, directed from the harpsichord by **Harry Bicket**, return to the festival on **7 December** with *Shakespeare in Love*, a programme inspired by the Bard's greatest works, performed in the guise of an Elizabethan masque to commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. Soprano **Mary Bevan** and countertenor **Tim Mead** join the ensemble for works including Purcell's *Suite from The Fairy Queen* - interspersed with songs and dances by Purcell's contemporaries - and Handel's *Suite from Giulio Cesare*. This atmospheric concert is performed at Shoreditch Church, where many actor contemporaries of the Bard are laid to rest below.

Following their sold-out festival debut of Winter 2015, **Solomon's Knot baroque collective** return to close the festival on **11 December**. Shoreditch Town Hall's magnificent Assembly Hall is the setting for JS Bach's B Minor Mass - one of the greatest achievements in sacred choral music - sung from memory and without a conductor.

#### **Early music and music inspired by the season**

The Tower of London's intimate Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula is the dramatic setting for the festival debut of chamber choir **Gothic Voices** on **4 December**. The programme explores both the mythical and human aspects of the Virgin Mary through medieval and renaissance settings of Marian texts alongside contemporary interpretations by composers Joanne Metcalf and Andrew Smith.

Festival favourites **The Sixteen**, conducted by **Harry Christophers**, return to the festival on **5 December** at the Grade II listed Assembly Hall at Shoreditch Town Hall. This seasonal programme takes its inspiration from the Three Kings' visit to the infant Jesus with music from Renaissance masterpieces through to English Christmas classics and traditional favourites from composers including Palestrina, Lassus, Howells and Warlock.

On **8 December** at The Octagon, **The Society of Strange and Ancient Instruments** presents *Sound House*, a programme inspired by the 17<sup>th</sup> century philosopher Francis Bacon's investigations into the magical properties of sound. Directed by **Clare Salaman**, the programme features fresh interpretations of 17th century music by Telemann and Vivaldi linked to each other by new pieces by composer / sound designer **Jon Nicholls**. The performers play unusual and historically appropriate instruments including the two metre-long tromba marina, the jangling bray harp and the little-known viola bastarda.

Following a highly acclaimed festival debut in 2014, leading young choir **Siglo de Oro**, returns on **10 December** at Shoreditch Church. Directed by **Patrick Allies**, the programme includes Renaissance music by composers including Praetorius and Josquin, contemporary carols including works by Owain Park and Judith Weir, and a series of newly-commissioned works inspired by medieval prayers by composers including Will Todd, and featuring saxophonist **Sam Corkin**.

On **10 December**, **Disappearing Dining Club** presents an evening of fine dining alongside the sounds of JS Bach by young virtuoso violinist **Hugo Ticciati**. This special event is set in the exquisite Masonic Temple at Liverpool Street's Andaz Hotel, one of East London's best kept secrets. There will also be special pre and post-concert sittings for the Solomon's Knot performance of JS Bach's B Minor Mass on 11 December, accompanied by a playlist specially curated by artists from this year's festival.

#### **Cross-arts performances**

On **5, 6 & 7 December**, live literature producer **Penned in the Margins** present poet, librarian and literary super-sleuth **Chris McCabe** in **The Dead Poets Social Club**. Combining live literature and music, McCabe and guests will perform a ritual awakening, unearthing dark stories from London's literary past – shedding new light on the likes of Tennyson and Blake, in a quest to discover one great, lost poet in the Victorian cemeteries of London.

On **6 December** at Shoreditch Town Hall's Assembly Hall, acclaimed dance company **Protein** present **May Contain Food**, an immersive and irreverent dance and music theatre show inspired by social occasions and life at mealtimes. Created by choreographer **Luca Silvestrini** and renowned composer **Orlando Gough**, the piece is performed in a dining environment. Singers performing a cappella and dancers will serve up a small

tasting menu, creating an immersive experience of indulgence whilst performing a show that explores our relationship with food.

On **9 December** at Rich Mix, Europe's leading violinist from the South Indian classical tradition, **Jyotsna Srikanth**, makes her festival debut in *Carnatic Connections*. Srikanth leads the UK's top baraat band, the **Bollywood Brass Band**, in a rousing programme of instrumental Bollywood film classics with dance sequences from the original films synched to the live music, along with brand-new material.

#### **Performances for and by young people**

**TROUPE Collective** return to the festival on **4 December** at Brady Arts & Community Centre with *The Empty Chair*, which originated as a work-in-progress during 2015's Winter Festival. This family adventure, suitable for ages 7 upwards, explores loss, change and friendship through music, poetry and on-stage sound effects. Music includes pieces by Couperin, Beethoven, Berio, Moondog, Meredith Monk and TROUPE Collective.

On **8 December** at Shoreditch Church, talented young musicians from East London perform **Platform: Jazz Generation**, an evening of laid-back jazz and swinging big band classics performed by the Tower Hamlets Music and Education Service THAMES Big Band and Hackney Creative Jazz Ensemble. Entry to the concert is free (booking required).

Spitalfields Music's award-winning opera series for babies and toddlers, **Musical Rumpus**, returns with **Catch a Sea Star** at Brady Arts and Community Centre on **9 and 10 December**. Directed and arranged by **Sam Glazer** with libretto by **Zoë Palmer**, this spellbinding interactive adventure is suitable for ages 0-2½ and features the magical music of JS Bach.

#### **Open Call**

Open Call is a new initiative from Spitalfields Music, which challenges and supports music creators to create music that responds to some of the big issues of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, whilst developing and enriching their artistic practice. Three projects will be performed as **Works in Progress** during the festival, offering a window into the creative process. Open Call is supported by PRS for Music Foundation and works will be announced at [spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk](http://spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk) in the run-up to the festival.

#### **Exploring beyond the music**

Throughout the festival there are pre- and post-concert events providing the opportunity to hear more about the music performed and to talk to the artists involved, including talks from **Harry Christophers** (*The Sixteen, 5 December*), **Harry Bicket** (*The English Concert, 7 December*), and **Clare Salaman** and **Jon Nicholls** (*The Society of Strange and Ancient Instruments, 8 December*).

#### **Booking information**

**Priority booking** for Spitalfields Music Members opens **Monday 12 September**

**General booking opens Monday 19 September**

**Online:** [spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk](http://spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk)

**Phone:** 020 7377 1362 (Mon-Fri, 10.00am-6.00pm)

**On the door:** 30min before the start of each event (subject to availability)

**Tickets start from £5**

Full details at [spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk](http://spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk)

**No Strings Attached**

Tower Hamlets residents who would like to experience Spitalfields Music Festivals for the first time can claim a pair of free tickets through the **No Strings Attached** scheme. This is made possible by fellow concertgoers through **Buy One, Donate One**, a scheme which asks customers to donate the value of an extra ticket (from £5) when booking. By donating, audience members can help Spitalfields Music share the festival with members of the local community who might not otherwise be able to attend.

Residents who wish to attend the festival for the first time under the scheme can find out more on 020 7377 1362 or email [nostringsattached@spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk](mailto:nostringsattached@spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk)

Website: [spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk](http://spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk) Twitter: @SpitsMusic

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**Venues**

**Brady Arts & Community Centre** 192-196 Hanbury Street, E1 5HU

**The Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula**, Tower of London, EC3N 4AB (Entrance via Main Gate)

**The Octagon**, Queens Building, Queen Mary University of London, 327-329 Mile End Road, E1 4NS

**Masonic Temple, Andaz Hotel**, 40 Liverpool Street, EC2M 7QN

**Rich Mix** 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, E1 6LA

**Shoreditch Church (St Leonard's)** Shoreditch High Street, E1 6JN

**Shoreditch Town Hall, Assembly Hall**, 380 Old Street, EC1V 9LT

**Listings**

Sun 4 Dec	2.00pm	TROUPE: The Empty Chair, Brady Arts & Community Centre
	4.30pm	TROUPE: The Empty Chair, Brady Arts & Community Centre
	7.30pm	Gothic Voices: Tower of London, Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula, Tower of London
Mon 5 Dec	7.00pm	The Sixteen, Shoreditch Town Hall, Assembly Hall*
	7.00pm	The Dead Poets Social Club, Venue confirmed on booking
Tues 6 Dec	6.15pm	May Contain Food: Protein, Shoreditch Town Hall, Assembly Hall
	7.00pm	Melvyn Tan, Shoreditch Church
	7.00pm	The Dead Poets Social Club, Venue confirmed on booking
	8.30pm	May Contain Food: Protein, Shoreditch Town Hall, Assembly Hall
Wed 7 Dec	7.00pm	The English Concert: Shakespeare in Love, Shoreditch Church*
	7.00pm	The Dead Poets Social Club, Venue confirmed on booking
Thurs 8 Dec	7.00pm	Platform: Jazz Generation, Shoreditch Church
	7.30pm	Sound House, The Octagon*
Fri 9 Dec	10.30am	Musical Rumpus: Catch a Sea Star, Brady Arts & Community Centre
	12.30pm	Musical Rumpus: Catch a Sea Star, Brady Arts & Community Centre

	8.00pm	Carnatic Connections, Rich Mix
Sat 10 Dec	10.30am	Musical Rumpus: Catch a Sea Star, Brady Arts & Community Centre
	12.30pm	Musical Rumpus: Catch a Sea Star, Brady Arts & Community Centre
	6.30pm	Disappearing Dining Club: Hugo Ticciati, Masonic Temple, Andaz Hotel
	7.00pm	Siglo de Oro, Shoreditch Church
Sun 11 Dec	12.00pm	Disappearing Dining Club, Masonic Temple, Andaz Hotel
	2.30pm	Disappearing Dining Club, Masonic Temple, Andaz Hotel
	2.30pm	B Minor Mass (Solomon's Knot), Shoreditch Town Hall, Assembly Hall
	6.00pm	Disappearing Dining Club, Masonic Temple, Andaz Hotel

\* Includes pre- or post-concert event



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