

PRESS RELEASE

8 February 2016

Spitalfields Music 40th Summer Festival: 2-26 June 2016

Booking now open

Highlights of the 40th Summer Festival include:

- Vivaldi strand including performances by The English Concert and Scottish Ensemble
- Premieres from composers Cheryl Frances-Hoad, Iain Bell, Anna Meredith and James Redwood
- Dramatic reimaging of Purcell's *King Arthur* from Club Inegales
- Immersive events at unique new venues for summer 2016
- Spitalfields Music, LIFT and the National Centre for Circus Arts present *Depart* in Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, featuring acclaimed Australian contemporary circus company Circa.

During the long, hot summer of 1976 a classical music event was staged in Christ Church Spitalfields, which was, unbelievably, at risk of demolition. This event became an annual festival, expanding into other local venues and embracing both early and new music. In 1989 the organisers began to work with local schools, and in 1996 an annual Winter Festival was added. This organisation became **Spitalfields Music**, which has since gone from strength to strength with its two annual festivals and a pioneering year-round learning and participation programme in Tower Hamlets schools. From humble beginnings forty years ago, Spitalfields Music now works throughout the year changing lives and aspirations in London's East End, winning numerous awards for its work bringing music-making into the community.

Spitalfields Music Summer Festival 2016 marks its 40th festival with the early music for which it has become well known, contemporary works, premieres, new commissions and music theatre, along with concerts and participatory events for the younger members of the family. This 40th anniversary also sees the festival expand its events to some of East London's most exciting new venues and unique spaces.

Early Music

The festival opens on **2 June** at the Tower of London's hauntingly beautiful Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula. The **Odyssean Ensemble**, directed by **Colm Carey**, present Byrd's rarely-performed *Great Service*; an intricate piece for ten voices, accompanied by organist **Christian Wilson**.

Hawksmoor's iconic restored Christ Church Spitalfields hosts the **Early Opera Company** on **8 June**, for a celebration of Luigi Rossi's *Oratorio*, his devotional masterpiece. Directed by **Christian Curnyn**, the programme is completed by excerpts from Monteverdi's Books of Madrigals 7 and 8; works which heralded the beginning of a new operatic age.

On **10 June** the **Choir of Clare College Cambridge** and acclaimed cellist **Raphael Wallfisch** perform Tallis's 40-part *Spem in Alium* at Christ Church Spitalfields. This is performed alongside the work which inspired it, Striggio's *Ecce beatam lucem*. The programme also includes works by Taverner, Schütz and Giles Swayne's *The Silent Land* for 40 voices and cello, which Clare College Choir premiered in the same venue almost 20 years ago.

Vivaldi strand

The English Concert, directed by **Harry Bicket**, return to the festival on **9 June** at Christ Church Spitalfields, to perform his light-hearted *La Senna Festeggiante* as part of the festival's Vivaldi strand. Guest soloists include Irish soprano **Anna Devin**.

The festival's Vivaldi strand also includes **Anna Meredith's Anno**, a reimagining of the *Four Seasons* (Oval Space, 6 & 7 June) and **Musical Rumpus: Run, Rindle, Rill** (Rich Mix, 9-11 June), featuring music from *La Senna Festeggiante*.

Music theatre and multi-arts performances

On **3 June** at Rich Mix, theatre collective **Born Mad** present *Sister*, a poignant and uplifting piece of unconventional music theatre inspired by interviews with sisters from around the world, exploring how sibling relationships evolve over the course of a lifetime.

From 11am on **11 June**, the chance to rediscover Spitalfields through sound is presented by blind performers **White Cane** in Bishops Square. A collaboration between music, performance and dance places the listener at the centre of an immersive sensory experience, exploring and navigating public space.

Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park is the atmospheric setting for **Depart** from **16–19 June** and **23–26 June**. Performed at dusk in this Victorian cemetery, this promenade performance piece is a journey through the dark space between life and death. Overtures drift between the tombstones in an ethereal collaboration which brings together circus artists, choral singers, designers and musicians in this deconsecrated East End cemetery; a place where many of those who once entered the city are now buried. Artists creating the piece include internationally acclaimed Australian contemporary circus company **Circa**, led by **Yaron Lifschitz**, electronic musician **Lapalux**, and students from the **National Centre for Circus Arts**. *Depart* is also part of **LIFT 2016**

Premieres, new commissions and contemporary work

Jazz FM Instrumentalist of the Year, composer and saxophonist **Shabaka Hutchings**, makes a welcome return to the festival on **3 June** at Shoreditch Church, following his unforgettable Associate Artist Series in summer 2015. Hutchings presents a lyrical journey of reimagined Caribbean folk songs in collaboration with poet and musician **Anthony Joseph**.

In Spitalfields is a unique opportunity to take in four intimate recitals in exclusive locations around Spitalfields on **5 June**. This musical tour offers a unique glimpse inside hidden venues in the historic local area. Works include premieres by leading young composers, commissioned to mark the festival's 40th anniversary and inspired by the surroundings of East London's secret spaces, and accompanied by young musicians and composers from the **Royal Academy of Music**, linking the new with the old.

The Canvas Sessions, a laid-back evening showcasing performances from some of the UK's most exciting emerging singer/songwriters, takes place on **6 June** at the new Canvas Café in Spitalfields.

Bethnal Green's Oval Space hosts **Anno** on **6 and 7 June**, a premiere based on Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* by leading contemporary composer and former Paul Hamlyn award winner **Anna Meredith**. Directed by **Jonathan Morton**, the evening features projections by visual artist **Eleanor Meredith**, providing an immersive voyage through the passing year inside a specially constructed dome within the Oval Space. The piece, part of the festival's Vivaldi strand, is co-commissioned by **Spitalfields Music** and the **Scottish Ensemble**.

Two of the country's leading young ensembles come together on **7 June** at Shoreditch Church for a celebration of British composers. Vocal ensemble **The Marian Consort** return following their successful festival debut in winter 2015, along with the **Berkeley Ensemble**, in a programme which includes an exploration of the music of Lennox and Michael Berkeley (centred around Lennox Berkeley's *Stabat Mater*), Judith Weir and young composers Matthew Martin and Hilary Campbell.

The 350th anniversary of the 1666 Great Fire of London is marked at the festival with a premiere by **Iain Bell**, performed by the **New London Chamber Choir** on **11 June** at Shoreditch Church. Bell's cantata *London's Fatal Fire*, co commissioned by **Spitalfields Music** and the **New London Chamber Choir**, charts the fire's beginnings as the smallest of sparks to the climax of the devastation of St Paul's. The evening, conducted by **Matthew Hamilton**, also includes Berio's *Cries of London*, and contemporary works by Scandinavian composers Pelle Gudmundsen-Holmgreen, Bo Holten and Sven-David Sandström.

On **13 June**, the **Schubert Ensemble** present the world premiere of **Cheryl Frances-Hoad's** *Piano Quintet* beneath the elegant high-domed ceiling of The Octagon at Queen Mary University of London. This piece, co-commissioned by the **Schubert Ensemble** and **Spitalfields Music**, is performed alongside a quintet by Louise Farrenc and Schumann's *Piano Quartet*.

On **13 June**, the quirky surroundings of Barts Pathology Museum is the setting for a performance from **Langham Research Centre**, a group of former BBC Radio 3 producers who employ the use of obsolete technology to make electronic music. Surrounded by over 5,000 medical specimens and using tape machines, sine-wave oscillators and phonographic cartridges, they premiere *The Dark Tower*; inspired by the life of Nicholas Tesla, one of the 20th century's most famous electrical engineers.

On **14 and 15 June**, Wilton's Music Hall is the atmospheric setting for a dramatic reimagining of Purcell's King Arthur by **Club Inegales**. This reinterpretation fuses sumptuous orchestration and free-wheeling improvisation in a radical makeover.

Choral

The **BBC Symphony Chorus** makes its festival debut on **3 June** at Shoreditch Church, presenting works by some of the most celebrated choral composers of the 21st century. The evening, accompanied by organist **Stephen Farr**, includes Jonathan Dove's *Seek him that maketh the seven stars*, and *Come Holy Ghost* by Jonathan Harvey.

Local vocal group **Women sing East** bring their unique brand of dynamic vocals to **Shoreditch Church** on **4 June**, for an uplifting evening of luscious harmonies and vibrant melodies embracing all musical styles, under new leader **Fiona Hymns**.

An atmospheric midsummer concert by candlelight from **Ex Cathedra** is presented on **9 June** at Shoreditch Church. This choral pilgrimage, directed by **Jeffrey Skidmore**, journeys from madrigals by Thomas Morley, to Britten's *Flower Songs* and contemporary works by James MacMillan. Gershwin's timeless *Summertime*, interspersed with readings from across the ages, provides a memorable centrepiece.

The Sixteen, conducted by **Harry Christophers**, return to Christ Church Spitalfields on **11 June** to perform Allegri's *Miserere*, paired with James Macmillan's highly-charged piece of the same name. The programme is completed by Palestrina's *Stabat Mater*.

Festival firsts

Shoreditch Church hosts a unique energetic collaboration on **10 June** between baroque instrumental ensemble **L'Avventura London** and traditional Scottish music group **The Old Blind Dogs** both making their

festival debut and combining the sounds of baroque strings, lutes and guitar with an intoxicating mix of beautiful melodies, traditional ballads, and rhythmic dances.

The **Multi-Story Orchestra**, conducted by **Christopher Stark**, present an evening performance in the V&A Museum of Childhood on **15 June**. The programme features poignant works by two living composers: Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Caroline Shaw, and Gavin Bryars's, whose *Jesus' Blood Never Failed Me Yet*, based on the song of an unknown homeless man, will be performed.

Music for and by young people

Spitalfields Music's award-winning **Musical Rumpus** series returns to the festival from **9-11 June** with **Run, Rindle, Rill** at Rich Mix. This new interactive opera, staged as a fantastical river journey, is suitable for babies and toddlers aged 0–2½, and features music from Vivaldi's humorous *La Senna Festeggiante*.

On **10 June**, Spitalfields Market is the venue for a lunchtime celebration marking 40 years of creative music-making in Tower Hamlets. Composer **James Redwood** and Spitalfields Music Trainee Music Leaders past and present join 120 children to perform **Once Around the Sun**, a brand new piece written with, and performed by the children, and commissioned by **Spitalfields Music**.

Talented young singers from five Tower Hamlets schools present Platform: Global Adventures on **14 June** at Shoreditch Church. Presented by **Sam Chaplin**, the programme is a feel-good musical expedition featuring an array of songs and words from around the globe.

On **15 June**, The V&A Museum of Childhood hosts *Pictures from the Park*, a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the **Tower Hamlets Arts & Music Education Service (THAMES)**, as some of the borough's most talented young musicians perform alongside the **Multi-Story Orchestra**, including a premiere by composer and Artistic Director of Multi-Story, **Kate Whitley**.

Family events

Aspiring singers of all abilities aged 10 upwards can experiment with and develop vocal skills through music inspired by the idea of play at **Playspace vocal workshop** on **4 June**. These have-a-go sessions for children and adults culminates with a presentation of their new-found singing skills in a relaxed performance for family and friends.

Shoreditch Church Gardens hosts **Playspace** on the afternoon of **4 June**, featuring 30 minute workshops, performances and drop-in sessions inspired by play. Children, young people and adults of all ages are welcome to experiment and explore the creative activities, including sentence-scribbling with a poet, sound-sculpting with musicians, and working with artists.

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 Trinity College Dublin Professor and musicologist Dr Andrew Johnstone (*Byrd at the Tower of London*, 2 June), BBC Radio 3's Petroc Trelawny (*Marian Consort / Berkeley Ensemble*, 7 June), Early Opera Company (8 June), Graham Ross and Giles Swayne (*Claire College Choir*, 10 June), Harry Christophers (*The Sixteen*, 11 June), Cheryl Frances-Hoad (*Schubert Ensemble*, 13 June), and DJ Max Reinhardt (*The Dark Tower*, 13 June)

Booking information

Priority booking for Spitalfields Music Members opens **Monday 8 February**

General booking opens Monday 22 February

Online: 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

Life Begins 40th anniversary appeal

As the charity celebrates its 40th anniversary and looks to the future under new **Chief Executive Eleanor Gussman**, **Spitalfields Music** launches its **Life Begins** appeal to help raise funds for the charity's learning and participation and artistic programmes, nurturing the talent and to develop audiences of the future. Audience members will be encouraged to play their part in securing the future of Spitalfields Music by adding £4, £40 or more when booking their tickets, or by participating in a sponsored walk around Tower Hamlets on **23 April**. Full appeal details can be found at www.spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk

Spitalfields Music website: spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk Twitter: #SMSF16

LIFT 2016 website: liftfestival.com Twitter: #LIFT2016

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Venues

Barts Pathology Museum, 3rd Floor, Robin Brook Centre, W Smithfield, EC1A 7BE

Bishops Square, E1 6FQ

The Canvas Café, 42 Hanbury Street, E1 5JL

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

Christ Church Spitalfields Commercial Street, E1 6LY

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

Oval Space, 29-32 The Oval, Bethnal Green, E2 9DT

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

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

Spitalfields Market E1, Brushfield Street, E1 6AA

Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Southern Grove, London E3 4PX

Wilton's Music Hall, 1 Graces Alley, London E1 8JB

V&A Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Rd, London E2 9PA

Listings

Thurs 2 June 7.30pm Byrd at the Tower of London (Odyssean Ensemble), Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula, Tower of London

Fri 3 June 6.30pm Sister (Born Mad), Rich Mix
 8.30pm Sister (Born Mad), Rich Mix
 6.30pm BBC Symphony Chorus, Shoreditch Church
 9.00pm Shabaka Hutchings & Anthony Joseph, Shoreditch Church

Sat 4 June 10.00am Playspace Vocal Workshop, Shoreditch Church
 1.00pm Playspace, Shoreditch Church Gardens
 7.00pm Women sing East, Shoreditch Church

Sun 5 June	4.00pm	In Spitalfields, Meeting point confirmed upon booking
Mon 6 June	6.30pm 6.30pm 8.30pm	The Canvas Sessions, The Canvas Café Anno (Anna Meredith), Oval Space Anno (Anna Meredith), Oval Space
Tues 7 June	6.30pm 8.00pm 8.30pm	Anno (Anna Meredith), Oval Space Marian Consort & Berkeley Ensemble, Shoreditch Church* Anno (Anna Meredith), Oval Space
Wed 8 June	7.00pm	Early Opera Company, Christ Church Spitalfields*
Thurs 9 June	10.30am 7.00pm 9.30pm	Musical Rumpus: Run, Rindle, Rill, Rich Mix The English Concert, Christ Church Spitalfields* Ex Cathedra, Shoreditch Church
Fri 10 June	10.30am 12.30pm 1.15pm 7.00pm 8.00pm	Musical Rumpus: Run, Rindle, Rill, Rich Mix Musical Rumpus: Run, Rindle, Rill, Rich Mix Once Around the Sun, Spitalfields Market E1 Clare College Choir & Raphael Wallfisch, Christ Church Spitalfields* L'Aventurra London and The Old Blind Dogs, Shoreditch Church*
Sat 11 June	10.30am 11.00am 7.00pm 7.00pm	Musical Rumpus: Run, Rindle, Rill, Rich Mix White Cane, Bishops Square The Sixteen, Christ Church Spitalfields* New London Chamber Choir, Shoreditch Church
Mon 13 June	7.00pm 7.00pm	Schubert Ensemble, The Octagon* The Dark Tower (Langham Research Centre), Barts Pathology Museum*
Tues 14 June	6.00pm 6.30pm	Platform: Global Adventures, Shoreditch Church King Arthur (Club Inegales), Wilton's Music Hall
Wed 15 June	5.00pm 6.30pm 8.30pm	Pictures from the Park, Museum of Childhood King Arthur (Club Inegales), Wilton's Music Hall Multi-Story Orchestra, Museum of Childhood
16-19 and 23-26 June	9.00pm	Depart, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

* Includes pre- or post-concert event



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