

# Little Missenden Festival 2008

## About our festival

The Little Missenden Festival is a very intimate and special event. Composer David Matthews called it *England's best-kept secret festival*. A concert in the church of St John the Baptist is a unique experience: a small Saxon-cum-Norman building enriched with 12th-17th century wall paintings, dominated by a famous St Christopher (featured on the Festival's programmes and publicity for 49 years).

The church has a fine immediate acoustic, and music heard at this intimate range has real impact and presence. The small and unspoilt village is in beautiful Chiltern countryside – yet not far from London, just beyond Betjeman's Metroland.

The Festival features promising young talents as well as famous artists and composers. The programme ranges from classic masterworks through less familiar (but not less intriguing) territory.

## Quick guide to the Festival

- \* **Gary Cooper** performs **Beethoven's** last three piano sonatas, some Bagatelles – and a Liszt transcription. All on a magnificent 1835 Streicher piano (Event 5).
- \* **Rolf Hind** and an outstanding team of musicians play **Messiaen's** moving *Quartet for the End of Time*, **Bartok's** *Contrasts* (written for Benny Goodman), a new work of his own, and a **George Benjamin** piano piece (E9).
- \* Award-winning **Binchois Consort** sing fine music by choral masters of the 15th and early 16th centuries – **Obrecht, Willaert, Compère, Brumel, Agricola, Mouton, Isaac** (E1).
- \* The **Allegrì Quartet** play one of **Beethoven's** greatest works (op131), **Robert Simpson's** Beethoven-inspired 2nd quartet, and the premiere of **Matthew Taylor's** 6th quartet (E6).
- \* **Norma Winstone**, great voice of British jazz, in a magical collaboration with German reedsman Klaus Gesing and Italian pianist Glauco Venier (E14).
- \* **Catherine Reynolds lectures** on *Faces of Renaissance children*, relating to the National Gallery's major autumn exhibition (E4).
- \* **Poetry:** Readings and discussion of **Ted Hughes's** poems for children by his friend **Nick Gammage** (E13).

## Booking Information

We have three price levels for reserved-seat events. **The cheapest seats have partly or completely obstructed views, but the acoustic is excellent throughout.**

Please book early – we allot seats on a 'first come first served' basis. If the ones you want aren't available we may send lower-priced tickets. Please put a cross under 'No alternatives' on the booking form where this is not acceptable.

We'd hoped to offer on-line booking this year, but we've finally had to defer this to 2009.

If you have an **email address** please enter it on the booking form. Email is the fastest way to tell you about cancellations, or ticket availability. Phone numbers are also helpful. We'll keep your details confidential, use them only for Festival-related activities, and never pass them to third parties.

**Disability access:** Please ring 01494 786749 if you have disabilities. If we know what your needs are we'll try to make suitable arrangements. If we can't answer in person, leave a message and we'll deal with it promptly.

**Full programmes with concert notes free of charge.**

- \* Our **Vaughan Williams** celebration includes:
  - *On Wenlock Edge* from rising young tenor **Nathan Vale** with **Simon Crawford-Phillips** and the **Sacconi Quartet**. Also RVW's 1st string quartet; **Ivor Gurney's** beautiful *Ludlow and Teme*; and **Ian Venables's** *Songs of Eternity & Sorrow* (E8).
  - **Tony Palmer's** recent acclaimed RVW biopic *O Thou Transcendent* (E3).
  - Pianist **Mark Bebbington** playing *The Lake in the Mountains*, with pieces by **John Ireland, Howard Ferguson** and **Francis Pott** (E11).
  - **Gemma Rosefield** (cello) and **Nicola Eimer** (piano) playing *RVW's Folk Songs*, with **Shostakovich's** magnificent *D minor sonata*, and pieces by **James Francis Brown** and **Cecilia McDowall** (E12).
- \* **Savadi**, two sopranos and a harpist with a bewitching programme of early 17th century Italian songs by **Carissimi, Strozzi, d'India** and others.
- \* The **Askew Sisters**, a vibrant young folk duo, play and sing with infectious foot-tapping enjoyment (E7).
- \* **Events with children:** interactive workshop by **Obassno** – a musical story about pond life (E10); and concerts arising from workshops led by **Janet Davey** in local infants schools (E2).

## Supporting the festival

The Festival (including the Box Office) is run and operated by volunteers. We have an excellent team, but always value offers of help. If you'd like to know more about how you could help please tick the relevant boxes below.

**The Festival is indebted to the Friends, and to all our sponsors. Their support enables the Festival to continue.** Membership of the Friends entitles you to priority booking and provides financial support, enabling the Festival to keep up standards and commission new works. The Friends of the Little Missenden Festival is a registered charity (no 266028), so it can recover tax through Gift Aid on all its subscriptions (minimum £10 per annum).

Future concerts and other aspects of the Festival can be sponsored by individuals or organisations.

**I would like to join the Friends**

**Tell me more about the Friends**

**Tell me more about sponsoring concerts**

**Tell me more about helping the Festival**

## Food and drink

*The Red Lion* (near the church) provides lunchtime and evening meals, and is fully operating again after a fire in 2006. *The Crown* (by the village hall) does some lunchtime food, Monday to Saturday only. There are also restaurants and pubs in Amersham, Great Missenden and the surrounding villages.

We plan to make sandwiches available for Tony Palmer's film (Event 3) – details on booking.

Festival teas are available after each Sunday concert, at the village school, opposite the church to the right.

## How to get there

### By road

Little Missenden lies on a loop off the A413 Amersham to Wendover Road, between Amersham (3 miles) and Great Missenden (2 miles).

### By Rail

Metropolitan Line from Baker Street to Amersham, or Chiltern Line from Marylebone to Amersham or Great Missenden. Bus services are limited, but taxis are available from Amersham (3 miles) or Great Missenden (2 miles).

**49<sup>th</sup> Little Missenden Festival, October 2008**

**BOOKING FORM** (send in with remittance)

Event	Title	Date	Time	Place	No of Tickets	Price per Ticket	Total £	No Alternatives	Notes
1	<i>Obrecht etc: Binchois Consort</i>	Fri Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Church					
2a,b,c	<i>On being... Me! Janet Davey/local schools</i>	Sat Oct 11 <sup>th</sup>	10am 12 noon 3pm	Church					Tick: 10.00 <input type="checkbox"/> 12.00 <input type="checkbox"/> 3.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
3	<i>O thou transcendent: Tony Palmer RVW film</i>	Sat Oct 11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Village Hall					
4	<i>Renaissance children: Catherine Reynolds</i>	Sat Oct 11 <sup>th</sup>	5.00pm	Village Hall					
5	<i>Beethoven: Gary Cooper</i>	Sat Oct 11 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Church					
6	<i>Allegri Quartet</i>	Sun Oct 12 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Church					
7	<i>Foot-stomping folk: Askew Sisters</i>	Wed Oct 15 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Village Hall					
8	<i>Wenlock Edge: Nathan Vale</i>	Thurs Oct 16 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Church					Note date and time
9	<i>End of time: Rolf Hind</i>	Fri Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Church					
10a,b	<i>Pond life children's workshop: Obassno</i>	Sat Oct 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am, 11.30am	Village Hall					Tick: 10.00 <input type="checkbox"/> 11.30 <input type="checkbox"/>
11	<i>English piano discoveries: Mark Bebbington</i>	Sat Oct 18 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Church					
12	<i>Cello &amp; piano: Rosefield &amp; Eimer</i>	Sat Oct 18 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Church					
11+12	<b>Bebbington and Rosefield/Eimer combined</b>	Sat Oct 18 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon + 3.00pm	Church					
13	<i>Ted Hughes for children: Nick Gammage</i>	Sat Oct 18 <sup>th</sup>	5.00pm	Village Hall					
14	<i>Jazz Distances: Norma Winstone Trio</i>	Sat Oct 18 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Church					
15	<i>Fabellae: Savadi...</i>	Sun Oct 19 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Church					

I enclose a **cheque** made payable to **Little Missenden Festival** for £ \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ and a **stamped addressed envelope**.

Please leave cheque open with a maximum value to avoid refunds. **Block letters please.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



Postal booking opens 6th September (30th August for Friends). Sorry we can't yet take credit cards or on-line bookings. Tickets are not refundable. **Please include your phone number(s) and email address (if you have one).**

**Please complete and detach the form above, and send it with a *cheque and stamped addressed envelope* to: The Festival Box Office, 3 Mill End Cottages, Little Missenden, Bucks HP7 0RG.**

For reservations and booking enquiries (from September 27<sup>th</sup> only) ring **01844 342039** (between 11.00am and 8.00pm) or email **tickets@little-missenden.org**

**The lowest priced seats have a restricted view.** Please cross the 'No alternatives' box for any concert where you would **not** want a lower-priced alternative.

**49<sup>th</sup> Little Missenden Festival, October 2008**

**YOUR COPY** (to keep as a reminder)

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This **copy form** is for you to keep as a **reminder** of your order.

I sent a cheque made out for £ \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ maximum