



## **Press Release**

**This year's City of London Festival celebrates the trading cities of 60° North and explores sustainability in the new environmental and economic climate**

**19 June to 9 July 2009**

### **Highlights include:**

- **World Première of a new work by John Harle for the Choir of King's College Cambridge**
- **Christian Lindberg and the Nordic Chamber Orchestra**
- **Valery Gergiev conducting the London Symphony Orchestra**
- **London Première of a new work by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies and Andrew Motion celebrating the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cambridge University**
- **Première by English National Ballet at St Paul's Cathedral**
- **Opening weekend of processions, music and performance**

The magnificent architecture of London's square mile, its hidden streets, secret courtyards and public spaces provide the location for the City of London Festival from 19 June to 9 July.

For 2009, director Ian Ritchie has chosen to explore the issue of sustainability, more important than ever in the current environmental and economic climate. The Festival has commissioned a new work by John Harle, *City Solstice*, created for the Choir of King's College Cambridge (world première at Southwark Cathedral on 22 June), a concert which also includes the London première of a new work by Andrew Motion and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies on the environmental theme, commissioned by the University of Cambridge to celebrate its 800th Anniversary. Sir Peter, a committed environmentalist, and his music will be strongly represented throughout the Festival. 2009 is a year of

anniversaries: Sir Peter Maxwell Davies (75), John MacMillan (50), Robert Burns (250) and the first stone-built London Bridge (800).

The 2009 Festival continues to celebrate the links between the City and other trading places around the world. This year, it navigates the latitude of 60° North with artists and music from Orkney, Oslo, Stockholm, Helsinki, Tallinn and St Petersburg. Highlights include the Norwegian saxophonist Jan Garbarek with the Hilliard Ensemble (St Paul's Cathedral on 23 June), the great Swedish trombonist, conductor and composer, Christian Lindberg, and his Nordic Chamber Orchestra (Guildhall Great Hall on 1 July) and the work of the Estonian Arvo Pärt, which features in three Festival events at St Paul's - Jan Garbarek and the Hilliard Ensemble, English National Ballet (30 June) and the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Valery Gergiev (9 July).

In recent years, the Festival has been expanding its programme of free events in the City's open spaces, reaching an audience of over 50,000 in 2008. This year, it will animate the Square Mile from 19 June to 7 August with spectacular open air performance including theatre, music, dance and processions. Highlights include the *Art of Recycling* Opening Procession featuring 1000 young Londoners on 19 June, *The Leviathan*, a large-scale piece of music performance art for 800 saxophonists created and directed by John Harle on 21 June and *The Street Pianos Project* which sees 15 second-hand pianos serendipitously dotted around the City for the length of the Festival.

Finally, the Festival will continue its collaboration with BBC Radio 3's *New Generation Artists* for twelve broadcast concerts taking place in some of the most beautiful churches in the City of London.

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#### **Notes to editors**

1. Listings information for announced events is attached.
2. The full Festival programme information will be announced at the end of March.
3. Launch event in April will be announced shortly.
4. Images available on request

26 January 2009

## City of London Festival

### Listings information at 26 January 2009

*Monday 22 June at 7.30pm*

Southwark Cathedral

Choir of King's College, Cambridge

Stephen Cleobury *conductor*

Cambridge University Music Society Choir & Orchestra

John Harle *saxophone*

Christopher Gillett *tenor*

**Haydn** The Creation: Representation of Chaos . . . And there was Light

**Peter Maxwell Davies** Solstice of Light

**John Harle** City Solstice (Festival commission and World Première)

**Peter Maxwell Davies / Andrew Motion** New work for the 800th anniversary of Cambridge University (London Première)

*Tuesday 23 June at 8pm*

St Paul's Cathedral

Jan Garbarek *saxophonist* and the Hilliard Ensemble

*Officium*, a new programme of music drawn from throughout Europe including work by

**James MacMillan** and **Arvo Pärt**

*Friday 26 June at 7.30pm*

Stationers' Hall

Hebrides Ensemble

**Peter Maxwell Davies** String Trio (Festival co-commission and London Première)

**Shostakovich** Piano Trio No 2

Music by **Hallgrímsson, MacMillan, Purcell, Sibelius** and **Stravinsky**

*Tuesday 30 June at 8pm*

St Paul's Cathedral

English National Ballet

A programme reflecting the Festival's Northern theme and drawing upon Les Ballets Russes (Les Sylphides) and new choreography of **Arvo Pärt** Fratres by Estonian choreographer Thomas Edur

*Wednesday 1 July at 7.30pm*

Guildhall Great Hall

Christian Lindberg *trombone* and his Nordic Chamber Orchestra

Marking Sweden's assumption of the EU Presidency with Swedish music old and new and pieces by the leading composers from Denmark, Estonia, Finland and Norway

*Thursday 9 July at 8pm*

St Paul's Cathedral

London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Valery Gergiev

**Arvo Pärt** Cantus In Memory of Benjamin Britten

**Bruckner** Symphony No 9 in D minor

**Festival booking information**

Box office 0845 120 7502 / [www.colf.org](http://www.colf.org)