

---

# ROMAN RIVER MUSIC

---

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS ANNOUNCED FOR ROMAN RIVER FESTIVAL '17**

Over 100 international stars of music, dance and theatre are heading to some very unusual locations in north Essex for the Roman River Festival '17. Taking place from 14 September to 1 October, it is set to be Roman River's most cutting edge event to date. Tickets are now on sale at [romanrivermusic.org.uk](http://romanrivermusic.org.uk).

The festival will open in the evocative surroundings of Colchester's disused bus depot, with international artists led by Matthew Sharp performing some of the greatest music created in the 21st century, by composers Errolyn Wallen, John Adams and Arvo Pärt.

The bus depot is on the site of the old Theatre Royal, where Charlie Chaplin, Oscar Wilde, Lily Langtree and Charles Dickens performed.

Festival '17 will welcome an array of innovative and experimental work; brand new contemporary and hip hop dance by renowned choreographer Joseph Toonga; a new chamber opera in the making by librettist Lila Palmer and composer Richard Melkonian; and an exclusive preview of the new album by composer, vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Gwyneth Herbert and filmmaker and projection designer Will Duke.

Highly acclaimed classical artists joining the line-up include The King's Singers, Natalie Clein, Benjamin Grosvenor and Alina Ibragimova. Plus, the perfect acoustics of Stoke-by-Nayland church will be shown to full effect with Mahler's mighty Symphony No. 9 and Bach's greatest masterpiece, the Mass in B Minor.

The festival will showcase some stars of the future, including singer-songwriter Nichla Smith in concert aboard a vintage Thames sailing barge, 26-year old oboist Tristan Cox, who is already playing principal with some of the major London orchestras, and rising star baroque violinist Bojan Cacic in Copford's astonishing medieval church. Plus, a festival finale joining young

players and local singers alongside the phenomenal horn playing of Alec Frank-Gemmill and rising star conductor Frank Zielhorst.

The festival features a Colchester Arts Centre production; Joshua Sofaer's Street Hunt - a visual crossword puzzle, a treasure hunt where the riches are road names, a story emerging from the page - and the chance to win up to £10,000. Books are available from midday on Saturday 16 September at Red Lion Books. For more details and competition rules: [streethunt.co.uk](http://streethunt.co.uk)

Everyone is also welcome at our informal 'come and sing' sessions - you don't have to read music or have a trained voice - anybody can join!

Further information and tickets [romanrivermusic.org.uk](http://romanrivermusic.org.uk).

***Roman River Festival '17 - something for everyone***

**ENDS**

Issued by Loudmouse PR. For further information, please contact Frances Fleming, marketing and communications manager for Roman River Music, [frances@loudmousepr.com](mailto:frances@loudmousepr.com) or 07946 268341.

**Notes to editor:**

Images available on request.

**Roman River Festival 17'**

Read and download the full programme at:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/Romanrivermusic/roman-river-music-festival-17.html>

**About Roman River Music**

Roman River Music brings internationally renowned performers to informal and unexpected venues in Colchester and coastal Essex each year for a 3-week festival. Our festival is informal, open to everybody, with no rules. We convert disused urban buildings into performance venues because there is no concert hall in Colchester. Audiences can clap when they want, bring drinks into the concerts, and no shushing is allowed! We run bars and often serve food as well.

With our partners Dance East, the Mercury Theatre, and Colchester Arts Centre, we commission new work and collaborations, nurture emerging talent. We give artists the time and space to develop their skill and create new work among the salt marshes and wide open skies of coastal Essex.

We create opportunities for over 1,000 young people to compose, perform or listen to music and get involved in the performing and visual arts.

Active involvement in music by schoolchildren has been shown to improve concentration, self-confidence, social awareness and ability in maths and English. Giving young people the chance to listen to live music and develop their own music-making has remained at the core of our organisation, and our dream is to give every schoolchild within reach of the festival the life-enhancing opportunity to compose, perform or listen to music.

The charity combines strong grassroots support from over 100 volunteers with a truly international quality programme. The summer festival 2017 concerts will be broadcast on Radio 3.

### **How did it start?**

It all started one misty autumn Saturday in 2000 as a one-day event – a music day for 12 young people among the medieval whitewashed walls of Fingringhoe Church in North Essex, with a quartet concert in the evening given by Juliet Jopling and friends.

The autumn festival has steadily grown in popularity and each year over 100 international quality performers give 25 concerts in 15 unusual venues, enjoyed by almost 4,000 ticket buyers and funded by Arts Council England, sponsors, individuals, Trusts and the Friends of Roman River Music.

### **Funding?**

A talented young bass player learns from one of the UK's top professional players. Roman River Music's community work and festival could not happen without amazing support from the Essex Community Foundation, our Friends organisation, several Trusts and Foundations, generous businesses and individuals, and Arts Council England both via their Lottery-funded Grants for the Arts programme, and via the local Music Education Hub.