



To: Suffolk Press

Date: 11 July 2017

PRESS RELEASE

The King's Singers, a World Premiere and the Country's Top Baroque Experts; Classical Music at it's Finest in Stoke By Nayland, Suffolk

St Mary's Church in Stoke by Nayland, Suffolk, is to become the setting for a crescendo of concerts in the final weekend of Roman River Festival '17 by Roman River Music.

Starting with the highly acclaimed King's Singers on Thursday 28 September, the church will come alive with a variety of music by Mendelssohn, Bob Chilcott, Lennon & McCartney and many more, all in King's Singer's inimitable style. Described by BBC Music Magazine as having "voices of spun gold", the King's Singers are in global demand.

On Friday 28 September Roman River Music's "Festival Orchestra" comprising internationally renowned stars of classical music will join together in a world first, to perform Mahler's 9th Symphony, conducted by Orlando Jopling.

Orlando, who is also Artistic Director for Roman River Music, explains the importance of the piece, "Mahler poured his rich life experience into his symphonies and this, the last, is the deepest and most personal. Iain Farrington has created a wonderful new arrangement for us and, along with the stunning group of world-class musicians we have, this will be an incredible world premiere to experience in the perfect acoustics of Stoke by Nayland Church."

Bach's greatest masterpiece, Bach Mass in B Minor, will follow the line-up on Saturday 30 September. Performed on period instruments by the country's top baroque experts, this concert will also be conducted by Orlando Jopling. He anticipates the concert to be "colourful, beautifully shaped and totally compelling."

Completing the weekend, on Sunday 1 October, is the Festival Finale with music by Handel, Eric Whitacre and Mozart. This event will bring together local singers and young players with

acclaimed horn-player Alec Frank-Gemmil and talented conductor Frank Zielhorst. The Finale will showcase Roman River Music's education and outreach work throughout North Essex and South Suffolk.

If you would like to get involved with the festival, and even join in with the Finale performance, there is a "Come and Sing" event on 10 September in Great Horkesley, hosted by choir director Ben Vonberg-Clark. Ben says, "This is an uplifting session for all ages and singing abilities to enjoy a day of singing, socialising and learning something new. Absolutely no experience necessary!"

Tickets and further information can be found at romanrivermusic.org.uk. Ticket prices range from £6 - £36 and start from just £3 for under 30s.

ENDS

Issued by Loudmouse PR. For further information, please contact Frances Fleming on 07946 268341 or email frances@loudmousepr.com

Notes to editor:

Image attached for your use. Caption; The King's Singers, performing in Stoke by Nayland on 28 September as part of Roman River Festival '17.

Further images available on request.

About Roman River Festival '17

Over 100 international stars of music, dance and theatre are heading to some very unusual locations in north Essex and south Suffolk 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.

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.