

# lower machen festival

21 - 26 June 2016



**Box Office: 0844 8700 887**

(5p per minute, lo call rate)

Advance ticket service including credit card bookings

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/machen](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/machen)

[www.lowermachenfestival.co.uk](http://www.lowermachenfestival.co.uk)

**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS' CHURCH,  
LOWER MACHEN**

AND

**THE RIVERFRONT · NEWPORT**

# Welcome

Welcome to the 49th Lower Machen Festival, just one year to go until we reach the milestone of our half century. Following on from last year in which our programme theme was based around countries, this year we are taking you on a musical journey featuring some of the cities that have had a big influence on composers and musicians.

The festival commission 'Machen Forge' epitomises the core essence of the festival bringing education work centre stage, espousing our ideals of 'Spanning Generations' and promoting a Welsh composer reflecting on the local community.

We have a fantastic line up of artists this year; new ensembles include the **Vida Guitar Quartet**, **La Serenissima** and **Bach to Baby** whilst we are pleased to welcome back pianist **Leon McCawley**, baritone **Jeremy Huw Williams**, the **Carducci Quartet**, **Lucy Parham** and **Henry Goodman** and the **Welsh Chamber Players** who will be joined by the newly formed **Lower Machen Festival Singers**.

A first for this year is our '**Cream Tea**' concert featuring the prodigious 9 year old violinist **Leia Zhu**. Leia is making her debut in Wales following an international profile which at this tender age has included her performing to a sell out Royal Festival Hall.

She is the youngest ever winner of the Nutcracker competition, and the XIII International Russian Rotary Children's Music Competition (2015). Leia will be accompanied by **Louisa Lam** who makes a welcome return to the festival.

The excitement of the 50th anniversary year is almost upon us and we would very much like to hear from you for suggestions of any soloist or ensemble you would like us to invite back next year. We will have a shortlist at this year's festival so you can vote for your favourite performer in the audience choice concert.

As always we are committed to bringing you first class concerts in unforgettable surroundings. Special Early Bird Advance Bookings are available with an incredible value ticket for you to enjoy the entire festival week for just £80.

We look forward to welcoming you at this year's festival to experience what a member of our audience described as "a unique atmosphere, in which the setting and music complement each other perfectly – the ideal way to spend a summer's evening."

A warm welcome awaits you.

**Peter and Alison Esswood**

Artistic Directors

*Please note: The gardens of Machen House and drinks marquee will be open before and during the interval of each concert by kind permission of Mrs Mary Adams.*





**Sunday 19th June 11.15am**

St Michael & All Angels' Church, Lower Machen

## Festival Service

A midsummer celebration in words and music

**Tuesday 21st June 7.30pm**

St Michael & All Angels' Church, Lower Machen

## FROM MACHEN TO PARIS The Welsh Chamber Players

**Peter Esswood** - conductor

**Lower Machen Festival Singers**

**Machen Primary School Choir**

**Ben Willis** - treble

**Jeremy Huw Williams** - baritone

**Elgar** - *Introduction and Allegro for Strings Op.47*

**Andrew Wilson Dickson** - *'Machen Forge'*

*Festival Commission with text written by Dai George*

**Fauré** - *Requiem Op.48*

Composer **Andrew Wilson Dickson** and poet **Dai George** have joined forces for this year's festival commission. Based on the industrial heritage of Machen and the surrounding area the work written for children's choir, adult's choir and string ensemble reflects on the rich industrial past. Elgar's rousing *Introduction and Allegro* and Fauré's reflective *Requiem* complete the programme performed by the **Welsh Chamber Players** and **Lower Machen Festival** singers.

Tickets £16 (£13 early bird advance booking)



Photo Peter Whitaker



Photo Eric Richmond

LA SERENISSIMA

**Wednesday 22nd June 7.30pm**

St Michael & All Angels' Church, Lower Machen

## A European Union

**Music for a Mixed Taste**

Brexit? Still haven't made up your mind? On the eve of the referendum join us for a journey of discovery of European composers from Purcell to Telemann while you consider the options.

**Henry Purcell** - *Trumpet Overture from The Indian Queen*

**Nicola Matteis the Younger** - *Balletti for strings and continuo*

**Antonio Vivaldi** - *Concerto III for strings & continuo in D, RV 124, Op.12*

**Johann Sebastian Bach** - *Trio III for violin, viola & continuo in D, BWV 527*

**Johann Sebastian Bach? (Wilhelm Friedemann Bach?)** - *Overture for strings & continuo in G, BWV 1070*

**Jean-Marie Leclair** - *Sonata II for 2 violins & continuo in B flat, Op.4*

**Georg Phillip Telemann** - *Concerto for trumpet, strings & continuo in D, TWV 51:D7*

This programme presents music by Bach, alongside works by Vivaldi (whose concertos so influenced the younger Bach), Telemann, (friend of Bach) and Purcell, the last of a great line of English composers, and whose style the Anglo-Italian composer Matteis revived for the Imperial Court ballets in Vienna. Also included in the programme is a wonderful concerto by Torelli for trumpet and strings, written to be performed in what was once the largest church in Christendom, the Basilica of S. Petronio, Bologna.

**La Serenissima** has now firmly established itself as one of the leading exponents of the music of Antonio Vivaldi and his Italian contemporaries. Since its first CD release in 2003, La Serenissima has been universally applauded by publications including Gramophone Magazine, The Sunday Times, BBC Music Magazine, The Independent and The Strad for its performances. Their recording *Venice by Night* - made the Top 10 of the UK Classical Charts in 2012.

Tickets £16 (£13 early bird advance booking)



PETER ESSWOOD

**Thursday 23rd June 7.30pm**

St Michael & All Angels' Church Lower Machen

**FROM LONDON TO BERLIN AND NEW YORK**

## Vida Guitar Quartet

**Mark Ashford**  
**Amanda Cook**  
**Mark Eden**  
**Christopher Stell**

**Ralph Vaughan Williams – English Folk Songs (arr. Mark Ashford)**

**Peter Warlock – Capriol Suite (arr. Mark Eden)**

**Gershwin – Rhapsody in Blue (arr. Chris Stell)**

**Bach – Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G major, BWV 1048 (arr. Mark Eden)**

**Nick Cartledge – The Great British Rock Journey (written for the Vida Guitar Quartet)**

**Johannes Brahms – Three Hungarian Dances (arr. Chris Stell)**

VIDA's ability to "conjure up an orchestral palette of colour and effects" (Classic FM) combined with their "exquisite tonal and dynamic control" has firmly established them as a passionate and masterful ensemble who sparkle with "vitality and spontaneity" (Acoustic). VIDA's seemingly effortless sense of ensemble and their broad range of timbres and dynamics evoke "listening to an entire orchestra and not merely to four guitars. There's only one word for it: magic" (Gramophone).

Since forming in 2007, VIDA has performed to critical acclaim in major UK, USA and European venues and are sought-after festival artists. The programme includes arrangements of Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No.3* and Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and a work by Nick Cartledge written for the quartet.

Tickets £16 (£13 early bird advance booking)



VIDA GUITAR QUARTET



CARDUCCI QUARTET

**Friday 24th June 7.30pm**

St Michael & All Angels' Church Lower Machen

**FROM VIENNA TO PRAGUE 'RETURN'**

## Carducci Quartet

**Matthew Denton** - violin  
**Michelle Fleming** - violin  
**Eoin Schmidt-Martin** - viola  
**Emma Denton** - cello

**Mozart – Quartet No.17 in Bb major K458 'The Hunt'**  
**Dvořák – Quartet No.12 in F major Op.96 'American'**  
**Beethoven – Quartet No.8 in E minor Op.59 No.2 'The Rasumovsky'**

A programme to delight all lovers of the string quartet repertoire with all three quartets having nicknames: Mozart's 'Hunt' perhaps the most popular of Mozart's "Haydn" quartets gets its nickname from the first movement's opening fanfare. Dvořák's Quartet nicknamed the 'American' is the 12th string quartet composed during his time in the United States and remains one of the most popular in the chamber music repertoire. The second of three 'Rasumovsky' quartets, penned in 1806 at the commission of a Russian Ambassador in Vienna, has a characteristically Russian flavour in honour of their patron.

The **Carducci** is recognised as one of today's most successful string quartets performing over 90 concerts worldwide each year. The quartet run their own recording label Carducci Classics; an annual festival in Highnam, Gloucester; and in September 2014 curated their first Carducci Festival in Castagneto-Carducci: the town from which they took their name.

Tickets £16 (£13 early bird advance booking)



**Saturday 25th June 11am**

Riverfront Newport

## From Bach to Baby – Shakespeare 400

Bach to Baby is the critically acclaimed classical concert series for baby and you. Hosted in inspiring venues across London and the South East, Bach to Baby brings outstanding musicians from the top concert stages to perform for families right on their doorsteps.

Tots dance, roam about and revel in the wonder of live music, while parents get to hear great musicians with their young babes in tow. Bach to Baby believes children can enjoy exceptional classical music from their very earliest moments.

Bach to Baby now presents monthly concerts in over 45 venues across London, Surrey, Kent, Thames Valley and Essex, with special events at the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace and the Royal Albert Hall.

We are delighted to present Bach to Baby for the very first time in Wales, at the Lower Machen Festival.

### THE BARD IN BRASS

*Celebrating Shakespeare's 400th Birthday*

Featuring **Andrew Kershaw**, tuba, ophicleide, serpent and more!

Meet the slithery serpent and tottering tuba of Shakespeare's era. Embark with us on a daring quest to trace the brassy Bard's musical legacy from Ophelia to

Ophicleide! 'If music be the food of love, play on!'

Tickets: £5.50 (£4.50 concessions) Under 2's FREE

Family ticket: £15 (2 adults & 2 children)

**Saturday 25th June 7.30pm**

St Michael & All Angels' Church Lower Machen

## FROM TO HAMBURG TO WARSAW

### Leon McCawley

 – piano

**Haydn** – *Variations in F minor Hob XV11:6*

**Schubert** – *Wanderer Fantasie D766*

**Hans Gál** – *Three Preludes Op.65*

**Mendelssohn** – *6 Songs Without Words Op.19*

**Chopin** – *Ballade No.1 in G minor*

**Leon McCawley**, one of Britain's foremost pianists, has forged a highly successful career since winning 1st Prize in the 1993 International Beethoven Piano Competition in Vienna and 2nd



LEON McCAWLEY

Prize at the Leeds International Piano Competition. Championing core repertoire together with the more unfamiliar, McCawley's CD releases have been impressing critics far and wide. His 2015 CD of *Rachmaninoff's Complete Preludes* for Somm Recordings is no exception: 'a distinguished issue' (*Gramophone* May 2015) and 'Leon McCawley is a real poet of the keyboard in these performances that are alive to *Rachmaninoff's wonderful melodic invention*' (*The Classical Reviewer* March 2015).

His most recent recording is Vaughan Williams *Double Piano Concerto* with John Lenehan and Royal Scottish National Orchestra/Martin Yates (Dutton Epoch), described as 'not been better served on record before' and awarded 5 stars by BBC Music Magazine.

Tickets £16 (£13 early bird advance booking)

**Sunday 26th June 3.00pm**

St Michael & All Angels' Church Lower Machen

## Cream Tea Concert

**Leia Zhu** – violin

**Louisa Lam** – piano

*Music by Vitali, Mozart and Lalo*

Born in Newcastle upon Tyne (UK) in 2006, Leia began playing the violin at three and a half and at the age of four made her solo debut in the North East Last Night of Proms in Newcastle City Hall and has since performed as a soloist extensively throughout the UK and Europe. Leia has been featured in some of the most prestigious international media including the Strad, the violin channel, violinist.com, BBC News, ITV News, Sky TV as well as Italian TV, Bulgarian National TV, Spanish National TV, Russian Cultural TV and many other media.

Leia has been the top prize winner in many national and international competitions. Amongst others, 1st prize (Gold Nutcracker)

in the 16th International Television Contest for Young Musicians 'The Nutcracker' in Moscow (2015) and 1st prize in XIII International Russian Rotary Children Music Competition (2015) as well as the Grand Prix "Discovery of the Competition" award in the 11th International Competition "Young Virtuosos" (2015), Bulgaria. Leia recently made her solo debut in London's Royal Festival Hall with the London Schools Symphony Orchestra as part of IMAGIN Children's Festival.

Tickets: £10.00 (Early Bird booking £7.50) to include cream tea

Children £5 to include cream tea



LEIA ZHU

**Sunday 26th June 7.30pm**

St Michael & All Angels' Church Lower Machen

**FROM NOVGOROD TO LOS ANGELES**

## **Élégie – A Heart in Exile**

**Lucy Parham** – piano

**Henry Goodman** – narrator



LUCY PARHAM

No one personifies the sense of longing for his homeland more than Rachmaninoff through his music. *Élégie* is the fifth Composer Portrait concert to be compiled and scripted by **Lucy Parham**. Known internationally for her Composer Portraits in words and music, pianist Lucy Parham makes a welcome return to this year's festival with **Henry Goodman**

in a new programme created for 2016 which chronicles the life of composer and pianist Sergei Rachmaninoff. The narrative, scripted from letters and diaries, follows Rachmaninoff from his youth in Novgorod Russia, through his subsequent self-imposed exile in 1917 and finally to California USA, where he died in 1943.

The programme includes many of his best-loved works for solo piano, including a selection of *Préludes*, *Études-Tableaux* and *Moments Musicaux*, some of his own transcriptions and the haunting *Élégie*, as well as works by Scriabin and Tchaikovsky.

Tickets £16 (£13 early bird advance booking)



HENRY GOODMAN

The Lower Machen Festival is grateful for support for this year's festival from



Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru  
Arts Council of Wales



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## **HOW TO BOOK**

### **By Phone**

Contact our advance ticket service Ticket source Box Office Line on 0844 8700 887

All major credit cards accepted.

Tickets for the family concert can also be booked via The Riverfront 01633 656679

### **Online**

Tickets can be bought online from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/machen](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/machen)

Tickets will be on sale for evening concerts until 2pm on the afternoon of the performance. At that point any unsold tickets will be available to purchase at the door.

### **Ticket Discounts Evening Concerts**

Tickets for all evening concerts £16 (Early Bird Booking £13 in advance until 7th June)

### **Concessions**

Available to disabled people and their companion if requiring accompaniment: £13 per person.

Children and full time students £1.00.

### **Cream Tea Concert**

Cream Tea Concert £10 (£7.50 in advance) to include cream tea  
Children £5 ) to include cream tea

### **WAYS TO SAVE**

Book early to take advantage of our Early Bird Bookings available until 7th June

**Full week of Concerts in St Michael and All Angels' Church** for £80 saving £26 on individual door prices

**Individual Early Bird tickets** are available for £13 saving £3 on each concert and for the **Cream Tea** concert for £7.50 instead of £10



### **Disabled Access**

The Lower Machen Festival welcomes disabled visitors. Access into and within the church is suitable for wheelchair users and semi-ambulant visitors. Disabled toilet facilities are available.



Text: Large print notes are available.

Please ring in advance to let us know your requirements on 0844 8700 887

All seats are unreserved at St Michael and All Angels' Church.

Doors open at 6.30pm.

Festival bar opens 6.30pm prior to evening concerts and during the interval.

**Website:** [www.lowermachtenfestival.co.uk](http://www.lowermachtenfestival.co.uk)

**Email:** [info@lowermachtenfestival.co.uk](mailto:info@lowermachtenfestival.co.uk)

## Getting to Lower Machen

Lower Machen is just ten minutes' drive away from Junction 28 of the M4 motorway.

### By Car

Lower Machen is situated on the A468 trunk road between Newport and Caerphilly. Postcode for Sat Nav NP10 8GU



### Trains

The nearest stations with bus links are Caerphilly and Newport. See [www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk](http://www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk) for details of timetables.

### Bus

Buses running between Newport and Caerphilly pass by Lower Machen. See [www.traveline-cymru.org.uk](http://www.traveline-cymru.org.uk) for details of timetables.

### Places to Stay

Visit [www.visitwales.com](http://www.visitwales.com) for details of accommodation in the area.

## 2016 FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

Date	Time	Event/Artist	Programme	Venue
Sunday 19 June	11.15am	<b>Festival Service</b>		St Michaels
Tuesday 21 June	7.30pm	<b>The Welsh Chamber Players</b>	Elgar, Wilson Dickson, Fauré	St Michaels
Wednesday 22 June	7.30pm	<b>A European Union</b>	Purcell, Mateis, Vivaldi, Bach, Leclair, Telemann	St Michaels
Thursday 23 June	7.30pm	<b>Vida Guitar Quartet</b>	Vaughan Williams, Warlock, Bach, Brahms, Gershwin	St Michaels
Friday 24 June	7.30pm	<b>Carducci Quartet</b>	Mozart, Dvořák, Beethoven	St Michaels
Saturday 25 June	11am	<b>From Bach to Baby – Shakespeare 400</b>		Riverfront
	7.30pm	<b>Leon McCawley</b> piano	Haydn, Schubert, Gál, Mendelssohn, Chopin	St Michaels
Sunday 26 June	3.00pm	<b>Cream Tea Concert</b>	Vitali, Mozart, Lalo	St Michaels
	7.30pm	<b>Elégie - A Heart in Exile</b>	Rachmaninoff, Scriabin, Tchaikovsky	St Michaels

*Details correct at time of going to press. Please visit website for most recent information*

**Website: [www.lowermachtenfestival.co.uk](http://www.lowermachtenfestival.co.uk)**

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