



Kathryn Stott, Giovanni Guzzo & Friends ...

Celebrated pianist stars in outstanding musical line-up at DAF 2013

Internationally renowned classical pianist Kathryn Stott returns to Didsbury Arts Festival 2013 for an unforgettable night of music-making on Thursday 27 June.

Following a sell-out concert at DAF 2011, which raised more than £3,000 for charity, the Lancashire-born virtuoso is planning an encore performance at Didsbury's Emmanuel Church, Barlow Moor Road, beginning at 7.30 pm on 27 June.

Considered one of the most outstanding musical talents of her generation, Ms Stott will head an impressive line-up including rising star, Giovanni Guzzo, the young and charismatic Venezuelan-born violinist who is leader of Manchester Camerata.

The evening will feature contributions from Hallé cellist Simon Turner and Hallé principal bass Roberto Carillo-Garcia who, as well as playing double bass in the concert, will be performing on his 'first study' instrument, the classical guitar. Rachael Clegg, principal oboist of Manchester Camerata and Didsbury-based soprano, Jill Taylor, will also be performing.

The concert is being held in aid of Francis House Children's Hospice in Didsbury. Funds raised from ticket sales (£15 each) will help boost the charity's work supporting children with life threatening conditions and their families throughout the North West.

Each of the artists has a hectic performance schedule taking them to all the major concert platforms worldwide. Kathryn Stott will arrive fresh from a tour of Brazil and Chile with the celebrated American cellist, her long-time friend and musical collaborator, Yo-Yo Ma.

Said Ms Stott: 'I'm very much looking forward to returning to Didsbury Arts Festival. After such a busy year of international travel, I'm delighted to be performing close to home in support of such a worthy cause, and also to be joined by my musical friends and colleagues who have agreed to give up their time and efforts free of charge to support Francis House Children's Hospice.'

Kathryn Stott, Giovanni Guzzo & Friends will provide a highlight of the DAF 2013 classical music programme which will include afternoon and evening recitals at local venues throughout Festival week.

The nine-day Festival, now in its fifth year and running from 22 – 30 June, will showcase a huge range of arts from music, theatre, dance, film and comedy to visual arts, crafts and writing.

For details about the charity concert, including ticket info, visit:

www.didsburyartsfestival.org

Call 0161 434 9612.

DAF 2013 is sponsored by Aba Quality Monitoring Ltd, Manchester City Council and Siemens.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About the artists:

Kathryn Stott

As a concerto soloist, Kathryn Stott enjoys associations with major orchestras world-wide and is a favoured partner of many distinguished chamber musicians. Kathryn has been performing and recording with Yo-Yo Ma for nearly 30 years. They have just returned from touring Chile and Brazil. Future tours include visits to Europe, the Far East and USA.

In the recording studio she has created a large and eclectic body of work including concertos and solo repertoire on a wide variety of labels including the complete solo piano music of Faure: solo pieces by Koechlin, Foulds, Schulhoff and Smetana: a solo piano disc, 'Dance'; chamber music CDs with YoYo Ma, Truls Mork, Christian Poltera, the Hermitage piano Trio, cellist Guy Johnston ('Milo'/Orchid Classics). Current and the Doric String Quartet.

In 2008 Kathryn Stott celebrated her 50th birthday with 25 musician friends in a charity gala concert at the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, raising £30k for HIV research and Nordoff Robbins, the music therapy charity of whose fundraising committee she is a member.

<http://www.kathrynstott.com/biog.htm>

Giovanni Guzzo

A keen recitalist and chamber musician, Giovanni has worked closely with some of today's leading musicians such as Maxim Vengerov, Martha Argerich, Joshua Bell, Martin , Daniel Hope, the late Sir Colin Davis, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Gábor Takács-Nagy, the Maggini and Takacs Quartets, Gerhard Schulz, Mats Lidstrom, Colin Carr, to name but a few.

Giovanni has performed on several occasions for the Royal Family, most recently performing for Her Majesty the Queen on the famous 'Viotti ex-Bruce' Stradivarius violin (one of the most precious Stradivarius violins in the world).

He appears regularly in live Television and Radio broadcasts, most recently on BBC's Radio 3 performing the Mendelssohn Violin concerto. He was also the youngest musician ever invited to perform a solo recital at the World Economic Forum in Davos (Switzerland), in front of world leaders and some of today's most influential personalities.

Giovanni continues to perform as soloist in some of the most prestigious venues around the world, including the Wigmore hall and Zurich Tonhalle, and is a regular guest at Music Festivals such as the Verbier festival in Switzerland, Schloss Cappenberg and Mecklenburg festivals in Germany.

He is the leader of the Manchester Camerata Orchestra and principal Guest leader of the Budapest Festival Orchestra.

www.giovanniguizzo.com

Roberto Carrillo-Garcia

Born in Tenerife, Roberto Carrillo-Garcia first graduated on the guitar. He then studied the double bass with Peter Jones in Tenerife and then at the RNCM where he won the Double Bass Prize.

In 1992 he joined the Northern Sinfonia of England as principal double bass and during his stay in Newcastle he was a member of several chamber groups, playing as a soloist on the double bass as well as on the guitar. He has played principal double bass with the London Symphony Orchestra, Mahler Chamber Orchestra and European Union Chamber Orchestra.

In September 2001 he joined the Hallé Orchestra as principal double bass. He plays in chamber music ensembles as well as making solo guitar appearances at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall. He is double bass teacher at the Royal Northern College of Music and coaches the double bass section of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

Simon Turner

Simon Turner has been based in Manchester since the age of 16, studying at Chetham's School of Music, the RNCM, and then becoming a member of the BBC Philharmonic.

Regular trips to Canada with the contemporary music group Trio Phoenix eventually led him to leave his job with the BBC and enrol in the Master of Music programme at McGill University, Montreal. After gaining his degree he returned to England, and was appointed no 2 cello in the Halle in 2003.

Since then he has combined orchestral life with chamber music and solo performances across the North West, as well as enjoying some very early mornings as an artisan baker...

Rachael Clegg

Rachael Clegg is one of Britain's busiest freelance oboists and enjoys a varied performing career alongside her teaching commitments.

Born in Lancashire, Rachael has based herself in the north of England after completing her studies at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester.

Since 1999, Rachael has held the position of Principal Oboe with Manchester Camerata.

Rachael is also a regular guest principal oboist with London Symphony Orchestra, Budapest Festival Orchestra, Northern Sinfonia, Royal Scottish National Orchestra and BBC Philharmonic Orchestra.

Jill Taylor - soprano

Jill Taylor is a regular choral society guest soloist and her oratorio performances have included Duruflé and Fauré requiems, Handel's Messiah, Verdi Requiem, Vaughan Williams "Sea Symphony", Mozart C Minor Mass, Bach B Minor mass, Haydn's Nelson Mass and Elgar's Dream of Gerontius.

In solo recital she has performed in the Lake District, Stoneyhurst College, The Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool, Rochdale Midday Recitals and Preston midday recitals. Concert work has included performances of John Tavener's Russian song cycle 'Akhmatova's Songs' for voice and cello, Mahler's song cycle 'Leider Eines Fahrenden Gessellen' and Ravel's 'Chanson Madecasses'.

Operatic and light opera/musical roles include Carmen, Cherubino, Alphonse in 'Une Education Manque', Bastienna, the Mother in 'Amahl and the Night Visitors' and Kate in 'Kiss Me Kate'.

Jill recently took part in the Bryn Tyrfel 'Bad Boys Tour' of the UK and Paris, and in 2012 appeared in concert with Pulp at the Royal Albert Hall and Sheffield Arena. Jill is a founder member of voice and piano trio Voci Dolci.

www.vocidolci.co.uk

Francis House Children's Hospice

Since its opening in 1991, Francis House has provided respite and end-of-life care for children and young people with life-limiting conditions from all over the North West.

Francis House costs £3.5m a year to run, with the vast majority of funds coming from charitable donations. It currently cares for more than 230 sick youngsters, together with their families.

As well as providing medical care, the charity's 160 staff and volunteers offer respite care, support groups for siblings of the sick child and provide bereavement support for families in the long term.

2013 sees the completion of a new seven-bedroom extension, doubling the size of Francis House.

<http://www.francishouse.org.uk/>