



Press Release

Hellensmusic Festival returns to Herefordshire from 16 to 20 May with most ambitious programme to date

Artistic Directors Christian Blackshaw and Máté Szücs lead group of internationally acclaimed musicians in sixth year of festival that brings the finest music-making to the heart of Herefordshire

- A video introduction to the festival: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZOdPEd7iS4>

World-class concerts, masterclasses, tango at the church and a trip to the pub – Hellensmusic's biggest and most varied edition yet will take place from 16 to 20 May in and around Hellens, one of England's oldest manor houses, with events spreading to St Bartholomew's Church and The Walwyn Arms in Much Marcle.

Firmly established as one of the main events of the musical calendar in Herefordshire, the festival kicks off on **Wednesday 16 May** with an evening dedicated to the bandoneon. Widely recognised as one of tango music's key instruments, its original purpose was in fact quite different: initially invented as a portable organ that would take religious music to the streets of 18th century Germany, the bandoneon soon found its way into the dark alleys of Buenos Aires – a story that Astor Piazzolla cheekily loved to recount. Devised by the virtuoso Argentinean player Omar Massa, Hellensmusic's inaugural concert suggests a musical journey from the instrument's Baroque origins to its stellar role in tango, particularly in Piazzolla's music.

Thursday 17 May brings Christian Blackshaw's much-loved piano recital, also at St Bartholomew's Church. Fresh from a concert at Singapore's flagship Esplanade Concert Hall, the festival's joint Artistic Director will be performing three of his favourite sonatas: Mozart's 15th, Beethoven's 30th and Schubert's Sonata in C minor.

The festival continues at Hellens on **Friday 18 May** with a chamber concert dedicated to Tchaikovsky's first string quartets and Brahms's Clarinet Quintet. The clarinet makes its first appearance at Hellensmusic this year with the distinguished British clarinettist Matthew Hunt. In the first of two concerts, he joins the festival's resident artists: Maya Iwabuchi (Royal Scottish National Orchestra), Markus Däunert (Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Aldeburgh Strings), Máté Szücs and Bruno Delepelaire (both from the Berlin Philharmonic).

Saturday 19 May brings a double-bill. First, at Hellens (6.30pm), a concert that celebrates the diversity of style and form in chamber music, from Lindberg's 1990 *Steamboat Bill Jr.* to Mozart's Kegelstatt Trio, Schumann's miniature suites, Bruch's Eight Pieces and Mahler's Piano Quartet. Hellensmusic's ensemble joins forces for the final work of the programme: Prokofiev's *Overture on Hebrew Themes*, presented in its original chamber version for string quartet, clarinet and piano. Following a wildly successful pub outing in 2017, it's then time to go to the Walwyn Arms (9.30pm) for an entertaining night of tango, folk, classical and

world music with Máté Szücs, Matthew Hunt, Omar Massa and guest appearances by improvisation experts Béla Farkas and Dorian Ford.

The festival ends on **Sunday 20 May** with two concerts (11:30 am and 3pm) that are the culmination of Hellensmusic's celebrated Masterclass Programme, which invites students from the best music schools in Britain to come to Hellens for a week of lessons with the festival's artists. This year, for the first time, students from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, the Royal Northern College of Music, the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music will perform in concert with their tutors.

Hellensmusic will also host a string of educational activities with local primary schools on 16 and 18 May, in partnership with ABF Music and within the context of the BBC Ten Pieces project.

Festivalgoers are welcome to spend the day at Hellens, whether enjoying a picnic with views over the Malvern Hills in the property's beautiful gardens or attending the masterclasses which are free and open to the general public. Tickets to the concerts cost from £5 to £18 and are available from Hellensmusic's new [website](#), [TicketSource](#) and local outlets in Much Marcle, Ledbury, Ross-on-Wye, Malvern and Monmouth.

Press Enquiries

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PROGRAMME

Wednesday 16 May – 8pm, St Bartholomew's Church

Bandoneon Concert: From Baroque to Piazzolla - Revisiting Tango's Star Instrument

First Half: From Baroque to Piazzolla

Frescobaldi: Toccata No. 7 for Organ from "Secondo Libro di Toccate e Canzone"

Bach: Prelude and Fugue No. 1 from "Eight Little Preludes and Fugues for Organ", BWV 553-560

Vivaldi: Cello Sonata in A minor, RV 43

Corelli: Violin Sonata No. 3, Op. 5

Piazzolla: Ave Maria

Second Half: The Music of Piazzolla

Piazzolla: Lo que vendrá

Piazzolla: Bruno & Sarah

Piazzolla: Calambre

Piazzolla: Night Club 1960

Piazzolla: Oblivion

Piazzolla: Milonga Loca

Piazzolla: Café 1930

Piazzolla: Adiós Nonino

Omar Massa, bandoneon; Markus Däunert, violin; Máté Szücs, viola; Bruno Delepelaire, ce

Thursday 17 May – 8pm, St Bartholomew’s Church
Piano Recital by Christian Blackshaw

Mozart: Sonata No.15 in F major, K. 533/494

Beethoven: Sonata No.30 in E major, Op. 109

Schubert: Sonata in C minor, D. 958

Christian Blackshaw, piano

Friday 18 May - 8pm, Great Barn at Hellens
Chamber works by Tchaikovsky and Brahms

Tchaikovsky: *Adagio misterioso - Allegro con moto* from String Quartet in B flat Major

Tchaikovsky: String Quartet No. 1, Op. 11

Brahms: Clarinet Quintet in B Minor, Op. 115

Markus Däunert, violin; Maya Iwabuchi, violin; Máté Szücs, viola; Bruno Delepelaire, cello; Matthew Hunt, clarinet

Saturday 19 May - 6.30pm, Great Barn at Hellens
All-Star Chamber Music Evening

Lindberg: Steamboat Bill Jr.

Mozart: Kegelstatt Trio, K. 498

Mahler: Piano Quartet in A minor

Schumann: Märchenerzählungen, Op. 132

Bruch: Eight Pieces (excerpts)

Prokofiev: Overture On Hebrew Themes, Op. 34

Markus Däunert, violin; Maya Iwabuchi, violin; Máté Szücs, viola; Bruno Delepelaire, cello; Matthew Hunt, clarinet; Christian Blackshaw, piano

Saturday 19 May - 9.30pm, The Walwyn Arms
Hellensmusic’s Pub Concert

Piazzolla: Bruno y Sarah

Piazzolla: Night club 1960

Piazzolla: Oblivion

Piazzolla: Fugata

Unknown: Two guitars

Unknown: Ja vstretil vas (Russian folk song)

Brahms: Hungarian Dance No. 5

Brahms: Hungarian Dance No. 6

Kalman: “Ringó vállú csengeri” from Gräfin Mariza

Monti: Czardas

Unknown: Golden Jerusalem

Unknown: Ose Shalom

Unknown: Yiddishe Mame

Bock: Fidler on the Roof - Sunrise, Sunset

Reinhardt/Grappelli: Minor Swing
Kosma: Autumn Leaves
Legrand: Papa can you hear me? (from the movie Yentl)

Béla Farkas, violin; Maté Szücs, viola; Omar Massa, bandoneon; Matthew Hunt, clarinet; Dorian Ford, piano

**Sunday 20 May - 11:30am (Part I) and 3pm (Part II), Great Barn at Hellens
Masterclass Programme Finale**

Mozart: Clarinet Quartet in B Flat Major, KV 317d
Debussy: String Quartet in G minor, Op 10
Fuchs: Quintet in E Flat Major, Op 102
And solo/chamber repertoire by the students of Hellensmusic's Masterclass Programme

Markus Däunert, violin; Maya Iwabuchi, violin; Máté Szücs, viola; Bruno Delepelaire, cello; Matthew Hunt, clarinet

And students from Hellensmusic's Masterclass Programme

TICKETS

Bandoneon Concert: £10 (£5 with student concession)
Evening Concerts on 17, 18 and 19 May: £18 (£5 with student concession)
Pub Concert: £5
Masterclass Concerts: £8 each, £12 for both (free for students)
Festival Pass: £80
Masterclasses: Free

Tickets available from TicketSource
www.ticketsource.co.uk/hellensmusic
T. 0333 666 3366

And also from Ice Bytes (Ledbury), River Music (Ross-on-Wye), Premier Stores (Much Marcle), Tourist Information Center (Malvern), Tourist Information Center – Shire Hall (Monmouth)

NOTES TO EDITORS

Hellensmusic Festival

Hellensmusic is a music festival that takes place every May in and around Hellens Manor in Herefordshire. The festival aims to create opportunities for world-class musicians to collaborate outside the concert circuit and explore new ideas, as well as to provide a platform for students from the best music schools and colleges to learn from leading experts. It also aims to inspire local audiences (both children and adults) to a greater understanding and appreciation of all music, inviting them to hear exceptional music in a beautiful environment.

Hellens Manor

Hellens Manor, a historic house in the centre of Much Marcle, Herefordshire, is a living monument to much of England's history: in 1096 it was granted by King William II to Hamelin de Balun, whose family later witnessed the signing of the Magna Carta. The Manor contains a wealth of period furnishings, paintings and decorations, as well as a Tudor garden. It is open to the public and serves as a venue for educational, musical and literary events all year round.

For biographies of the artists please visit: www.hellensmusic.com/biographies