

coming soon



Kenny Wayne Shepherd

Explosively talented singer/guitarist Kenny Wayne Shepherd has lived more than half of his life in the spotlight.

Widely considered to be one of the best blues/rock guitarists around (James Brown once referred to him as “one of the wonders of the world”), Kenny Wayne, 42, has played with the likes of BB King, Clarence ‘Gatemouth’ Brown, and Stephen Stills, and has opened for artists such as the Eagles, Van Halen and Aerosmith.

Venue: The Junction (J1)

Date: Monday, November 11

Time: 7pm (doors)

Tickets: £30 adv

Box office: junction.co.uk



Penguin Cafe

The enigmatic Penguin Cafe have announced a UK tour for 2019, ahead of the release of their fifth studio album, bringing their live show that transcends both popular and classical music. Penguin Cafe was founded in 2009 by Arthur Jeffes, following in the footsteps of his father, Simon Jeffes of the Penguin Cafe Orchestra.

Venue: Corn Exchange

Date: Monday, September 30

Time: 7.30pm

Tickets: £27.50-£38

Box office: cornex.co.uk

Bach again for some inspiration

Mahan Esfahani



Cambridge Summer Music Festival will soon be upon us. Festival director David Hill, taking the reins for the second year running, speaks to **Adrian Peel**.

This year’s Cambridge Summer Music Festival, which has two themes – music by women composers and music by, and inspired by, JS Bach – boasts an impressive array of musicians, who will be performing at venues across the city from Saturday (July 13).

Acts set to feature in the long-running event (this year will be the 41st festival) include: Dame Felicity Lott, The Orpheus Sinfonia,



David Hill

Reiko Fugisawa, James Gilchrist, Noga Ritter, and Gesualdo Six.

Festival director David Hill said: “My hope is it’s the sort of programme that will interest a lot of people,” adding that the process of drawing up a list of performers and putting everything into place takes “quite a long while.”

He continues: “I was going to try and look in a more focused way at women composers, particularly the fact that Clara Schumann is being remembered this year – and the fact that Mendelssohn and Schumann between them were revivers of Bach. Bach was revived by Mendelssohn in the shape of the St Matthew Passion, for instance, and Schumann reconstructed the St John passion by Bach. So there is this sort of Bach/Schumann/Mendelssohn connection here. So if you start with a few seeds, you can branch out from there – and that’s what we’ve done.”

David, a graduate of St John’s College, explains the importance of trying to make the festival appealing to everyone: “If you set out to be

intensely serious, that’s fine, but the Cambridge Summer Music Festival is about people dipping in and out of things that really interest them, and throughout must embrace all aspects of music that people might want to be listening to – so jazz, a kind of popular music, light music, classical music, new music, old music...”

“That’s really what it’s about; it’s a smorgasbord really of different things – and hopefully, for that, successful. Last year, we had Blazin’ Fiddles from Scotland and it was really well attended – people loved it, so this is all part of what we’re trying to develop. The idea that Cambridge, which is so rich in terms of its music and art the whole year round with the university at the centre of it, has a chance to bring people and groups from outside who may otherwise not be so often heard in a place like Cambridge, so that people can really enjoy artistry from all over the place.”

Among the newer acts, a more seasoned performer set to grace this year’s festival is Dame Felicity Lott. “She’s still singing wonderfully and

she’s such an entertainer,” says David. “She is a lovely person, great friend and very happy to do this as well. We have got some big names – Mahan Esfahani, a well-known name now in broadcasting and in performing, will be playing the Bach *Goldberg Variations*. I can’t imagine a nicer place to hear those played in, frankly, than in the small, intimate chapel at Jesus College.”

Other venues – some of which haven’t been used in previous years – include Pembroke College Chapel, West Road Concert Hall, Trinity College Chapel, Comberton Performance Hall at Comberton Village College, the Great Hall at the Leys School, and the Cambridge American Cemetery.

“I think that’s the other thing that people like, the idea that they can be popping into places they haven’t been to to hear music before,” says David.

■ The festival runs until July 27. For more information on performers, venues and times, visit cambridgesummermusic.co.uk.

The first week

The opening concert, at West Road Concert Hall, will be Bach’s great oratorio *St John Passion* is presented by the **English Voices and the Orchestra of English Voices**, in a historically-informed performance conducted by Tim Brown. They are joined by Nicholas Mulroy as the Evangelist and Richard Latham as Christ (July 13).

The talented young players of **Junior Prime Brass** perform Bach chorales and works by Judith Bingham, Hildegard von Bingen and Maria Theresia von

Paradis (July 14). Then two instrumentalists, violinist **Jennifer Pike** and pianist **Martin Roscoe** have chosen a Bach sonata for violin and keyboard and a caprice by Poland’s most successful female composer, Grazyna Bacewicz. They will also perform two of the repertoire’s best-known works, Vaughan Williams’ *Lark Ascending* and the *Violin Sonata* by Edward Elgar (July 17). And in his lunchtime recital the same day, pianist **Ben Comeau** explores the dance-like quality of much of Bach’s music (July 17).

Songs by Alma Mahler and Rebecca Clarke feature in a song

recital by soprano **Lucy Taylor** and pianist **Jeremy Thurlow** (July 18). Then the great 19th century pianist and composer Clara Schumann is the subject of an evening of words and music, presented **Crawford Logan** with Japanese/British virtuoso **Reiko Fujisawa** (July 18).

Concerts and events that depart from the main themes include the Danish choir **Lille MUKO** (July 14); a ‘Come and Sing’ event with **Bob Chilcott**, one of the world’s most inspirational choral composers and conductors (July 14, advance booking essential); a new theatrical take on the epic tale of

Beowulf (July 16); and a contemporary choral repertoire, performed by the exceptional **Gesualdo Six** (July 19).

The first week ends with two treats for Bach lovers. First, organist **Stephen Farr**’s lunchtime recital includes music by Bach, music inspired by Bach, and two pieces by women composers – Cecilia McDowall and Judith Bingham (July 20). Then the complete *Brandenburg Concertos* are performed by the period instrument ensemble **Florilegium**, playing the works in reverse order (July 20).

■ Box office 01223 357851 or cambridgesummermusic.co.uk.