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World-class artists and something to please all tastes at Arts Festival

Now is the time to book your tickets for the excellent range of entertainment being offered in the East Finchley Arts Festival, which this year celebrates its 21st anniversary.

The festival runs from 7-15 October at All Saints' Church in Durham Road, N2, and the 2017 programme offers a carefully curated mix of virtuoso instrumentalists, accessible opera, singer-songwriters, spoken word and visual arts.

Extra special events include a school concert given by

children from Martin Primary School, a screening of the classic dark comedy *The Ladykillers* at the Phoenix Cinema and a chance to join the singing yourself in a performance of Fauré's *Requiem*.

Find prices and buy your tickets directly from the box office at Black Gull Books, 121

High Road, N2 (telephone 020 8444 4717) or buy them online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/efinchleyarts (10% surcharge).

The East Finchley Arts Festival supports Noah's Ark Children's Hospice and the Harington Scheme for young people with learning difficulties. Here's the full programme:

Saturday 7 – Sunday 15 October

Festival Art Exhibition: open every weekday evening from 6pm and at weekends from 12 noon to 10pm offering every kind of art for sale, including ceramics, jewellery, digital art, paintings and photographs. 40% of all sales will support the festival charities.

Saturday 7 October

The Massive Viols: six singing cellists perform their versions of rock and pop classics, from Queen to Eminem; 7.30pm.

Sunday 8 October



London Mozart Players Chamber Ensemble (10 Oct)

School concert: performed by children from Martin Primary School; free admission with a collection in support of the festival charities; 2.30pm.

Life of Dickens: a celebration of the life and work of Charles Dickens, performed by actor Robert Powell; 7.30pm.

Monday 9 October

Masayuki Tayama: recital by one of the world's most accomplished pianists, including works by Beethoven, Chopin and Rachmaninov; 7.30pm.

Tuesday 10 October

The London Mozart Players Chamber Ensemble: a thrilling programme of

works for strings, woodwind and brass by Brahms and Tchaikovsky, and a new work by festival director Geoffrey Hanson; 7.30pm.

Wednesday 11 October

Kosmos: these festival favourites perform their inspirational mix of music influenced by tango, gypsy, Balkan and Japanese styles; 7.30pm.



Robert Powell (8 Oct)

Thursday 12 October

London Metropolitan Brass: founded in 2012 and based in Muswell Hill, these musicians will play a collection of 1950s and 1960s bandstand classics alongside many more contemporary arrangements; 7.30pm.

Friday 13 October

Tim Arnold: singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and film maker, famous for his music about London's Soho, gives his first solo performance in the area; 7.30pm.

Saturday 14 October

Come and Sing Fauré: this year's ever-popular 'Bring It and Sing It' performance will be an all-Fauré programme, including his sublime *Requiem*. Afternoon rehearsal from 3pm, evening performance from 7.30pm. Book your place at: eastfinarts@btinternet.com.

Sunday 15 October

The Ladykillers (1955): enjoy this darkly comic British classic starring Alec Guinness, Peter Sellers, Herbert Lom and Katie Johnson at the Phoenix Cinema; 4.15pm.

Pop-up Opera: this very mobile opera company perform Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, a magically sinister tale of getting lost in the woods; 7.30pm.

The minstrel returns to his home ground

By Daphne Chamberlain

Tim Arnold is a newcomer to the East Finchley Arts Festival but he's not new to the area. His first stage performance was in his mother's one-woman show at Hornsey Town Hall in 1980. He grew up with his mother and brother in Muswell Hill, and went to Tetherdown Primary School. He told us: "I think it's important for a storyteller to share

stories with the people who are nearest. It often seems that musicians focus on taking their music far and wide, which of course is wonderful. But if the people on your doorstep have open hearts and minds to hear what you have to say in song, that's a valuable gift."

We are now on his doorstep since he returned to North London after years in Soho. Mainly using guitar and piano on stage, he has played bass, glockenspiel, mandolin, ukulele, harp, recorder and harmonica on his albums. "Whatever the song needs," he says. He has been compared with David Bowie.

Storytelling in song is what Tim is about. When he started the Save Soho Group with actors Stephen Fry and Benedict Cumberbatch, he was



Singer Tim Arnold


described as a "wandering minstrel who chronicles London's famous square mile".

If he was Mayor of London, what would he do? He would create grass roots music venues that would be used as subsidised community spaces during the day time.

Catch Tim's Arts Festival performance at All Saints' Church on Friday 13 October at 7.30pm.







Pop up Opera (15 Oct)



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