

The Proms at St Jude's North London's world-class festival on your doorstep

JO LEWIS

Do you live in Hampstead Garden Suburb and have you ever been to Proms at St Jude's? If the answer is no, then you may not be aware that it is home to the world-class arts festival in North London and it is on your doorstep.

It is a summer festival that takes place for nine days every year and has been held for 30 years. In 2023, it runs from Saturday 24 June to Sunday 2 July. Events are held on and across Central Square in St Jude's, the Free Church, Henrietta Barnett School and the Central Square Minyan.

"It's a festival which brings people together from across the



Jaren Ziegler (Photo: Ben Wilkin)

Suburb. While we are local, we offer West End concerts with musicians who perform all over the world. But the Festival is not just about fantastic music. It also includes a Literary weekend 'LitFest' (24 & 25 June this year), where we attract best-selling authors and interviewers. There is also a programme of walks, comedy and family events. On Sunday 2 July, we plan to hold a Family Day for children of all ages and their families: a range of events from a Teeny Prom for toddlers to an exploration of unusual instruments for all the family," says Kate Webster, Chair of Proms.

"We want as many people as possible from the Suburb to come and experience the magic of Proms. We have many wonderful supporters who return every year because they love the concerts and the atmosphere, joining friends for drinks or food before the concerts. For those who have never been, we encourage you to come up, see what we are about and to come to a concert, talk or walk. See what you are missing on your doorstep."



Pico Players

We offer music to suit all tastes. If you like jazz and Duke Ellington, Peter Long, musical Director of Ronnie Scott's, leads a 16-piece orchestra in a tribute to Ellington and Holst, with new arrangements of their popular music on Sunday 25 June. This will include The Jazz Planets and Ellington's greatest hits, including Caravan, Satin Doll and Mood Indigo.

A really fun evening is promised, on Monday 26 June, with the 1927 German Expressionist science-fiction film Metropolis accompanied by the Covent Garden Sinfonia playing a UK premiere of a new adaptation of the original score, conducted by Ben Palmer. When first performed in Berlin, this sold out three times in a weekend. Not to be missed.

For a night of glamour and glitz, locals Emma Kershaw and Katie Birtill give a knock-out performance of Broadway favourites, including All That Jazz, Cabaret and Wouldn't it be Lovely in a Broadway and All That Jazz concert on Saturday 1 July.

If you prefer classical music, we open on Saturday 24 June with



Armonico Consort

the Fantasia Orchestra and Jennifer Pike on violin, performing Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor, the piece that launched Pike's career when she became the youngest-ever winner of the Young Musician of the Year competition. They also perform Beethoven Symphony no 8.

For opera fans, the Armonico Consort present Purcell's masterpiece Dido and Aeneas, including the melancholic Dido's Lament, as a semi-staged opera on Tuesday 27 June. This is followed by Pergolesi's haunting Stabat Mater.

The Sitkovetsky Trio, Chamber winners of the prestigious BBC Music Magazine Awards 2022 will perform a programme including pieces by Beethoven and Schubert on Wednesday 28 June.

On Thursday 29 June, The Purcell School String Orchestra, including their own star horn player Chloe Harrison, team up with famed tenor soloist James Gilchrist to bring us Britten's evocative Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings. The programme also contains the Adagietto from Mahler's 5th Symphony and Beethoven's 2nd Symphony.

The Pico players will give us A Night in Vienna on Friday 30 June. They will perform arias and duets from Fledermaus and The Blue Danube Waltz by Strauss, Summer Evening by Kodaly and Enesco's Romanian Rhapsody No 1.

The London Mozart Players will perform at The Last Night of the

Proms on Sunday 2 July. Highlights are Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings and Mendelssohn's String Symphony no 8, as well as last night favourites.

For more information, you can visit www.promsatstjudes.org.uk. We will also be door dropping our leaflet in early April with the complete programme, and posters and banners will be popping up in May. You can also join our online mailing list by going to the website.

Tickets go on sale to Friends on 27 March and Public Booking opens on 25 April. Ticket prices range from £10 to £38.



Emma Kershaw

Of Russia

*onion domes surround the steeple
ordered 1555 by Ivan the Terrible
'shaped as a bonfire flame rising into the sky'*
St Basil your colours astonish
- secularised 1929
Turgenev, Dostoyevsky, Chekov -
they awaken our minds
many marvels
many horrors
a girl holds up a placard in 2014
'Putin you need a doctor'*

Liz Goldin

**from a guide book*

Proms at St Jude's Festival 2023

Saturday 24 June to Sunday 2 July

Our teenage volunteer crew is an essential part of Proms. Crew work behind the scenes, set up concerts and events, act as runners, help with refreshments and may operate cameras and technical equipment. All contribute to make the Festival successful.

It's hard work, but fun. Qualifies as volunteering for a Duke of Edinburgh award and looks good on a CV. You don't need to be a classical music fan (but will love it if you are!).

If you are interested in about a week's work with us in the Suburb this summer, please register on our website at promsatstjudes.org.uk/volunteering