

Mozart Premier for Suburb in Hampstead & Highgate Festival

To many, it may seem that the Hampstead and Highgate Festival has been established for at least a decade. In fact, this is only its second year, though the Festival has already made a considerable impact. This year St Jude's Church in Central Square plays host to the highlight of the 2000 Festival, the European premiere in modern times of 'Der Stein der Weisen' (The Philosopher's Stone), a recently rediscovered opera

with music by Mozart as well as others connected with the first performance of 'The Magic Flute' in Vienna. This performance, already attracting international attention, will be recorded by BBC Radio 3.

Other concerts in Hampstead and Highgate include the celebrated Nash Ensemble who will give a programme of Romantic string sextets at Christ Church in Hampstead, and The Fibonacci

Sequence, known for their innovative programmes and exhilarating performances, who appear at Highgate School. One of the world's leading organists, Dame Gillian Wier, performs on the recently restored organ of Hampstead Parish Church and singer Stacey Kent joins the justly celebrated Jazz series at Lauderdale House in Highgate. Also at Lauderdale House, the Festival offers a Sunday morning recital with coffee and Danish pastries prior to a glittering recital by the gifted Japanese pianist Norika Ogawa, and the BBC Radio 3 personality David Owen Norris is joined by the actor Roger Lloyd Pack, known to many from his numerous appearances on television, in a programme of works by poets, writers and composers associated with Hampstead and Highgate.

Award-winning harpsichordist Carole Cerisa gives a recital in a suitably 'period' setting, the exquisite Queen Anne building, Burgh House. In addition, the Highgate Choral Society return to the Festival under its dynamic conductor Ronald Corp to give Elgar's sublime oratorio 'The Kingdom' and the Finchley Children's Music Group perform Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms at St Jude's.

Local writers with an international reputation take part in a series of lunchtime Literary Talks at the New End Theatre in Hampstead; guests will include television's wine expert Jancis Robinson, novelist Deborah Moggach, broadcaster and music writer Jeremy Siepmann and one of our most respected pianists, Alfred Brendel, who will read from his published poetry.

The Camden Arts Centre hosts a family workshop and open evening and the art expert Michael



Finchley Children's Music Group appear in Bernstein's Chichester Psalms at St Jude's on May 24.

Rosenthal, who has recently published an acclaimed biography of Thomas Gainsborough, talks on his subject at Kenwood House, well worth a visit for those out there who have somehow missed the glorious Gainsborough paintings at Kenwood. For a touch of Hollywood glamour, the Festival links with the Made in Camden film festival at the Everyman Cinema, when Emma Thompson introduces 'The Tall Guy', in which she starred with Jeff Goldblum, followed by a question and answer session.

Out of doors, the choice includes a Saturday morning ramble on Hampstead Heath, a late night bat walk near Hampstead ponds and expert guided walks in Hampstead, Highgate and the Suburb. Those who prefer to stay inside might enjoy the visits to Fenton House, the Jewish



Kenwood 'Going to market' by Thomas Gainsborough c1770, subject of a talk by Michael Rosenthal on May 26.

Museum, Keats House - all of which will be open for private Festival visits with illustrated talks.

Pick up your free copy of the Guide to Events from The

Gallery in Hampstead Way, Michael Joseph's bookshop in Temple Fortune or the Library in Market Place.

BARRY MILLINGTON




Hampstead Heath, for a Saturday morning ramble on May 20 and an evening walk on May 24 with bat expert Cindy Blaney.




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