



INSCAPE RETREAT II ASKHAM HALL

A MUSICAL WEEKEND IN THE VALE OF EDEN

FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY TO MONDAY 29 FEBRUARY 2016

Blazing fires, the company of kindred spirits, lectures, talks and gentle walks, and music await us in a picturesque village in the Vale of Eden this winter. Nestled between the Lakes and the northern part of the Pennine Range, Askham village is regarded by Pevsner as the prettiest in Westmoreland. Askham Hall, a fine Grade I-listed house with a pele tower dating back to the 13c, is now run as a comfortable and informal country house hotel run by Charles Lowther, son of the 7th Earl of Lowther, who will welcome us for a special weekend.

The hall sits in part of the Lowther estate, where Charles rears his own meat for Askham's resident chef, Richard Swale. The promise of beautifully-prepared seasonal estate food alone constitutes an incentive for us to visit. It is fitting that we hold our second Inscape Retreat in Askham, and even more appropriate to combine our retreat with the Hall's first winter music festival. Our recently inaugurated and timely retreats are intentional escapes from a task-driven everyday existence into more gentle days of talks, readings, occasional excursions, rest, meals, and, now, music. In two superb settings for an intimate winter music festival events will take place fireside at Askham Hall and in the nearby Askham Church. We will be amongst the first most fortunate to partake!

Soloist, recitalist and chamber musician Noam Greenberg will be featured in the weekend's performances. Appearing frequently on music stages across Europe, he previously studied with the late Mario Curcio, one of the most influential piano teachers of the late 20th century. Also taking to the stage will be the Ardeo Quartet, a highly praised French chamber music ensemble, who has won numerous international prizes and played in an array of well-known European venues and festivals. There will be a total of four piano and quartet concerts with music by Mozart, Beethoven, Dvorak and, exclusively for Askham Hall guests, an evening fireside recital of Chopin Nocturnes.

FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY

- 09.30 Train leaves London Euston for Penrith
- 12.30 Train arrives Penrith for taxis to Askham Hall
- 13.00 Lunch and free time at Askham Hall
- 16.00 Tea and *Wordsworth in Penrith* lecture in hotel
- 17.30 Early dinner at Askham Hall
- 18.45 Leave for Askham Church for Mozart concert
- 21.00 Return to Askham Hall

SATURDAY 27 FEBRUARY

- 11.00 Lecture *The Prehistory of the Vale of Eden, From Long Meg and her Daughters to Mayburgh Henge*
- 12.30 Lunch in Askham Hall
- 13.30 Free time, or optional visit by taxi and walking to Penrith Museum, Mayburgh Henge and King Arthur's Round Table Prehistoric Monument
- 16.00 Return to Askham Hall for tea
- 16.15 Tea at Askham Hall
- 17.30 Concert in Askham Church (Mozart and Dvorak)
- 19.30 Dinner in Askham Barn
- 21.00 Return to Askham Hall for evening recital of Chopin Nocturnes

SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY

- 11.00 Coffee and Lecture by Nicholas Friend on 'Great Houses of the Lakes'
- 13.00 Lunch in Askham Hall
- 15.00 Finale concert in Askham Church (Mozart, Beethoven and Bartok)
- 16.00 Return to Askham Hall, free time
- 19.30 Dinner in Askham Hall

MONDAY 29 FEBRUARY

- 10.30 Leave for Dalemain House, Grade I listed country house and recipient of the Garden of the Year 2013 award from Christies and the Historic Houses Association
- 10.45 Coffee in Dalemain House
- 11.00 Private visit in Dalemain House
- 12.30 Private lunch in Dalemain House
- 13.50 Leave Dalemain
- 14.22 Train Penrith to London arrives
- 18.34 Arrival in London Euston Station

COST £1095 Members, £1145 non-Members, £95 single room supplement, includes three nights accommodation with breakfast, all lunches with wine, one of which is a private lunch at Dalemain House, three dinners with wine, two private coffees, tea, lectures by Nicholas Friend, four concerts, private visit to Dalemain, and all travel during the tour. Excludes travel to and from Penrith.