



THE HELLENS MUSIC FESTIVAL
THURSDAY 19 TO SUNDAY 22 MAY 2016

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There are some houses that capture the imagination and will not let go: especially an ancient house, one that has expanded organically with each generation without much concern for architectural rules or symmetries, one also not beset with excessive levels of restoration; a serene house set among barns and roaming chickens, with dogs sleeping in the sun, a smell of apples in the air, and mud-covered Wellington boots in the doorway. Such a house is Hellens, Much Marcle, in Herefordshire, which has worked its magic on Inscape members before, and now elaborates its generosity by hosting intimate music festivals. Run by the internationally-renowned pianist Christian Blackshaw, the Hellens concerts, for 40 guests only, present truly delightful music. Ranging from Schubert to Mendelssohn to Shostakovich, they are performed by professional musicians from the Philharmonia Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhaus, and Berlin Philharmonic. They are intimate concerts in the way their composers intended them to be.

To preserve the atmosphere of organic antiquity surrounding our evenings at Hellens, we stay in a choice of 16c hotels in Ledbury, a medieval market town; the Feathers Hotel or The Talbot have both welcomed guests for over 400 years. We explore the town's 16c painted rooms and foliate church windows. We address some of the most remarkable medieval architecture in the country: the churches of Kilpeck and Abbey Dore. At Kilpeck, the Romanesque architecture itself is impressive, but what really takes the breath away are the dark pink sandstone carvings; masks spew foliage and serpents grin from corbels, beaks bite on mouldings, people embrace or do acrobatics, dragons bite their tails; they have all been engaged in these activities since the 1140s. At Abbey Dore the delights are later and grander, filled with the dignity of the Cistercian Order in an explosion of soaring Early Gothic. From the stone-flagged floor rise arches supporting an array of superbly imagined late Norman and Early Gothic capitals. With these two churches we are transported into the early medieval life of the Welsh Borders invigorated by new influences from Cistercian France.

The Hellens Music Festival is held over only three days each year. Do join us for an experience that will linger in the memory long after the last note has died away.

THURSDAY 19 MAY

- 10:03 Train from London Euston (recommended)
12:57 Arrive Ledbury, taxis to Feathers Hotel or The Talbot
1:30 Light group lunch in Feathers Hotel, introductory talk, *Ledbury's Glorious Past*
3:00 Architectural walk around medieval and Tudor Ledbury
4:00 Return to hotels
5:45 Taxis leave from Feathers Hotel to Walwyn Arms
6:00 Group dinner at Walwyn Arms
8:00 Piano concert in St Bartholomew's Church:
Christian Blackshaw Solo Piano
Liszt - From *Années de Pèlerinage: Suisse*
Les cloches de Genève
Vallée d'Obermann
Schubert - *Moments Musicaux*, D. 780
Liszt - Sonata in B minor
9:30 Minibus back to hotels

FRIDAY 20 MAY

- 09:00 Leave for St Bartholomew's Church Much Marcle
09:15 Guided visit to St Bartholomew's Church followed by coffee and homemade cakes
10:15 Leave for Kilpeck
11:00 Guided visit to Kilpeck Church with Churchwarden James Bailey
12:15 Optional lunch in Kilpeck Inn
1:30 Leave for Abbey Dore
1:45 Abbey Dore Church guided visit
2:45 Taxis for return to hotels
6:00 Leave from Feathers Hotel for Hellens for group pre-concert supper
8:00 Concert at Hellens' Great Barn:
String Trio, Quartet and Quintet
Maya Iwabuchi (violin), Markus Däunert (violin), Máté Szücs (viola), Bruno Delepelaire (cello), Waldemar Schwiertz (double bass)
Beethoven - String trio op. 9 No. 3 in C minor
Mendelssohn - String quartet op. 44 No. 2 in E minor
Dvorak - String quintet op. 77 in G major
10:00 Taxis back to hotels

SATURDAY 21 MAY

- 10:00 Lecture by Nicholas Friend:
The Wye Valley and the Picturesque Movement in English Landscape
- 10:45 Leave for private visit to Langstone Court with Reverend Richard Jones, owner
- 11:00 Coffee and private visit Langstone Court
- 12:45 Leave for Ross-on-Wye
- 1.00 Optional lunch in No. 3 Restaurant
- 2:00 Return to hotels to rest
- 4:15 Leave for Hellens private visit
- 4:30 Arrive Hellens for tea and private tour of Hellens
- 6:00 Wine reception and group pre-concert supper at Hellens
- 8:00 Concert in Great Barn
Piano Quintet
Christian Blackshaw (piano), Maya Iwabuchi (violin), Markus Däunert (violin), Máté Szücs (viola), Bruno Delepelaire (cello), Waldemar Schwiertz (double bass)
Shostakovich - Piano Quintet in G minor
Schubert - Piano Quintet in A major 'The Trout'
- 10:00 Taxis back to hotel

SUNDAY 22 MAY

Please note: Nicholas will be saying his farewells after breakfast, as he is taking our study tour to Burghley House. Sara Pupi, Inscape's Operations Manager, will accompany the private guided visits and lunch. She will make sure taxis are booked for those who wish them.

- 11.00 Private guided visit to 16c Painted Room in Ledbury and Ledbury Market House
- 11.45 Private guided visit to Master's House in Ledbury
- 12:30 Optional lunch in Feathers Hotel
- 1:45 Taxis to station
- 2:22 Train to London Euston (recommended)
- 5:17 Arrive London Euston

OUR HOTELS IN LEDBURY

The Feathers Hotel has 8 rooms available for us. We have, therefore, set aside a further 8 rooms in the hotel closest to the Feathers, the Talbot Hotel, on the opposite side of the road. The difference between the two timber-framed 16c hotels is quite minimal and most obvious in the 'opulence' of the ground floor public rooms, but there is a difference in price. We offer you a choice of either on the basis of 'first come first served.' Nicholas will be staying at The Talbot.



THE FEATHERS HOTEL

£1255 Members, £1305 non-Members, £140 single room supplement, £250 deposit, includes three nights accommodation with breakfasts, one lunch with wine, one dinner with wine, two pre-concert suppers with wine, all tuition and lectures, entry fees, private tours and concerts, all travel during the tour, all gratuities, VAT. This cost **excludes** travel to and from Ledbury.



THE TALBOT

£1105 Members, £1155 non-Members, £80 single room supplement, £250 deposit, includes three nights accommodation with breakfasts, one lunch with wine, one dinner with wine, two pre-concert suppers with wine, all tuition and lectures, entry fees, private tours and concerts, all travel during the tour, all gratuities, VAT. This cost **excludes** travel to and from Ledbury.