



THE HELLENS MUSIC FESTIVAL
MUCH MARCLE
HEREFORDSHIRE

FRIDAY 5 TO SUNDAY 7 MAY

There are some houses that capture the imagination and will not let go: especially when the house is ancient and has responded organically to each generation's needs and requirements without undue concern for formal architectural rules or symmetries. Such a house is Hellens, Much Marcle, in Herefordshire. Hellens remains a living home, and not a museum, although it contains a wealth of period furnishings, artifacts, paintings and decorations. Hellens has worked its magic on Inscape members during past Inscape study visits, and now further elaborates its bounty by hosting intimate music festivals run by the internationally-renowned pianist Christian Blackshaw. The Hellens concerts- for 40 privileged guests only- present truly wonderful music performed by musicians of international stature. These concerts are truly the way the composers intended them to be, intimate and clear interpretations. We return to Hellens after thoroughly enjoying last year's festival.

To preserve the atmosphere of cosy antiquity surrounding our evenings at Hellens, we again stay at the lovely Feathers Hotel which has welcomed guests for over 400 years. We have been offered a private visit to Birtsmorton Court, a Grade I listed fortified medieval moated manor house near Malvern in Worcestershire, in the former woodlands of Malvern Chase. Birtsmorton will make a wonderful comparison to Hellens. We shall also be comparing two simply superb and extremely unusual Victorian churches: St Catherine's Hoarwithy, finest church in Herefordshire, by JP Seddon, teacher of Voysey; and All Saints Brockhampton-by-Ross by WR Lethaby, Master of the Art Workers Guild and first Director of Central School of Arts and Crafts, the most unusual church of its date (1901) in England, still with its original Arts and Crafts fittings.

The Hellens Music Festival is held over only three days each year. Each year's musical programme is superbly crafted by Christian Blackshaw, a most remarkable man, and a superb musician. Do join us for a privileged experience that will linger in the memory long after the last note has died away.

FRIDAY 5 MAY

IF COMING FROM LONDON

- 1.03 Suggested Train departs London Euston
- 3.57 Arrive Ledbury Rail Station for taxis to The Feathers Hotel
- 5.45 Minibus leaves Feathers Hotel for Much Marcle
- 6.00 Group Dinner in Hellens
- 7.30 Concert at Hellens Great Barn with String Quintet consisting of Maya Iwabuchi (violin), Markus Däunert (violin), Máté Szücs (viola), Bruno Delepelaire (cello), Waldemar Schwiertz (double bass) Schumann piano quintet, Quintet by Gubaidulina; Mozart concerto K.414 as sextet
- 9.30 Minibus back to our hotels

IF COMING FROM BERKELEY CASTLE WITH NICHOLAS

- 3.45 Minibus leaves Berkeley Castle for Ledbury
- 4.45 Minibus arrives Ledbury Feathers Hotel
- 5.45 Minibus leaves Feathers Hotel for Much Marcle
- 6.00 Group Dinner in Hellens
- 7.30 Concert at Hellens Great Barn with String Quintet consisting of Maya Iwabuchi (violin), Markus Däunert (violin), Máté Szücs (viola), Bruno Delepelaire (cello), Waldemar Schwiertz (double bass) Schumann piano quintet, Quintet by Gubaidulina; Mozart concerto K.414 as sextet
- 9.30 Minibus back to our hotels

SATURDAY 6 MAY

- 10.00 Minibus to Hoarwithy Church
- 10.30 Arrive Hoarwithy Church
- 11.30 Leave for Brockhampton Church
- 12.45 Leave Brockhampton for lunch
- 1.00 Lunch in Craven Arms Brockhampton
- 2.30 Return to Ledbury
- 3.00 Arrive Ledbury hotels
- 5.00 Minibus to Hellens Manor for private visit
- 6.30 Pre-concert supper and wine
- 7.30 Concert at Hellens' Great Barn by String Quintet consisting of Maya Iwabuchi (violin), Markus Däunert (violin), Máté Szücs (viola), Bruno Delepelaire (cello), Waldemar Schwiertz (double bass)
Schubert programme including Quintet in C Major for Strings D956.
- 9.30 Minibus back to our hotels

SUNDAY 7 MAY

- 10.00 Minibus to Birtsmorton Court
- 10.15 Coffee reception and private visit Birtsmorton Court
- 12.00 Minibus to Ledbury
- 12.15 Lunch in the Feathers Hotel, Ledbury
- 1.30 Minibus to Ledbury Station
- 1.51 Train departs for London Euston
- 6.05 Arrive London Euston



THE FEATHERS HOTEL

25 High Street
Ledbury
HR8 1DS

TEL: 01531 635266

Originally known as 'The Plume of Feathers', the present building dates back to at least 1564. It is believed that the Booth Hall, the meeting place of the borough court since the 13c, stood on the site where The Feathers now rests. The Feathers has acted as an Excise Office, a Corn Exchange and Assembly Rooms, and, in the 19th century, a place for the Gentlemen of Ledbury to play snooker. During the late 18th century the building was clad to remove all signs of its black & white exterior which was considered unfashionable. The sash windows were added in the 18c. The cladding was removed in the early 20th century. The three bay windows, with differing architecture, still survive today from the original building, yet it was not until around 1603 that the third floor was added. Privately-owned since 1970 by David Elliston who still runs the hotel with his sons and Mary Diggins, the Feathers' handsome black and white building is the most well-known hotel in the pretty market town of Ledbury. The stylish, individually designed rooms and open fireplaces create a warm, cosy atmosphere, complemented by friendly staff.

COST £975 Members, £1025 non-Members, £95 single room supplement, £250 deposit, includes two nights accommodation with breakfast, two lunches with wine, two dinners with wine, lectures by Nicholas Friend, two concerts, private visit to Birtsmorton and all travel during the tour, VAT, tips and service. Includes travel to Ledbury if attending Berkeley Castle tour, otherwise excludes travel to and from Ledbury.