

OperaMint

Saturday 23rd June

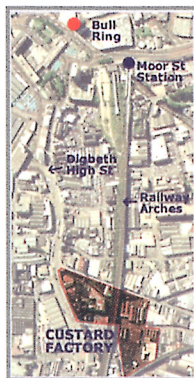
- 2.00pm Poetry Reading: David Hart
- 3.30pm Opera Workshop (part of Willard White's "Operatunity" scheme)
- 5.00pm Coil the Zero (Paul Ramshaw and Zoe Challenor, of London College of Music)
- 7.00pm Two performances of Million Year Old Man
featuring the Tom and Paul poetry and guitar duo, and a specially composed piece, Spam, by Andrew Wilson-Dickson

Sunday 24th June

- 2.00pm The Note-Benders (Andy Hamilton's young people's big band)
- 3.30pm Classical concert
- 5.00pm Coil the Zero (see above)
- 7.00pm Million Year Old Man – single performance

With grateful thanks to our sponsors Douglas Estates of Harborne, Birmingham
Tel 0121 428 2422

Opera Mint International Summer School, Adcote House, North Shrewsbury
22-29 July 2007. For all enquiries contact sara.clethero@operamint.co.uk
or call 07976 388 523



Design: Saramit Bird

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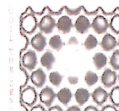
The Million Year Old Man Festival

A two day festival at the Custard Factory, Gibb St, Birmingham

**Saturday 23rd
& Sunday 24th June 2007**

Starts 2.00pm, last performance at 7.00pm

Opera that is not...
Paul Ramshaw
with Zoe Challenor
Live improvised sound processing
of the voice (off-beat)
Featuring "Coil the Zero"
and "Million Year Old Man"



Douglas Estates

ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

The Million Year Old Man



This piece was put together as a classical music response to the poetry and Guitar performance of Paul Foad and Tom Long. We wanted to put together the skills and artistic insights of musicians from two different genres and let them illuminate and comment on each other.

Andrew Wilson-Dickson

Andrew Wilson-Dickson is a composer, pianist and conductor (as well as author, teacher and string-player). During his four years at Cambridge University he studied piano with John Lill and then the organ at York with Nicholas Danby and Francis Jackson, at the same time holding the post of organ scholar at York Minster.

Just prior to his move to Wales in 1984, Andrew won the National Eisteddfod's 'Tlws y Cerddor' with Sefyddfa a Sgwrs for clarinet, strings, horn and accordion. But before and since then his compositions have been played (and broadcast) by many well-known artists such as Peter Lawson, Andrew Ball, Julian Jacobson (piano), Nancy Ruffer (flute), John Wallace (trumpet), Susanne Stanzeleit, Madeleine Mitchell (violin), (piano) Kevin Bowyer (organ), and by ensembles such as Lontano, the Wallace Collection and the Medici String Quartet (who played his string quartet commissioned by the BBC). He has written three operas and other dramatic works. He won the Bournemouth-Parry International Festival composition prize in 1999 with a piece (Psalm 29) which has since been taken on tour in Australia by the Sydney Chamber Choir.

As a result of his long-standing involvement with period music as a player and teacher, he is particularly interested in writing for early instruments, explaining the recent commissions for music from Fretwork and Charivari Agréable. Unknown to the players, he is writing a concerto grosso for the Welsh Baroque Orchestra, a period instrument ensemble which he founded and directs. He is also writing a new piece for the choir 'Godre'r Garth' to be performed competitively at the National Eisteddfod this summer.

Recently completed commissions include Three Hail Marys (ten-piece brass) for the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and The Fox, a cantata for period instruments first performed by the Welsh Baroque Soloists, summer 2005. His Guitar Concerto has been performed three times since its completion in January 2006.

Andrew writes liturgical music for the Christian church in a style vocally accessible to congregations but attempting to avoid adherence to a particular tradition. He has created responsorial settings to nearly 40 psalms, alongside hymns, cantatas and musicals.

Zoë Challenor

Zoë Challenor grew up in Birmingham and studied singing in France. She has sung with Opera Mint for many years, including Jane in *Jane Eyre* by John Joubert at Birmingham's CBSO Centre, Gretel (*Hansel and Gretel*), and Flora in Britten's *Turn of the Screw*, which she repeated at the Britten-Pears Festival in Aldeburgh. Other roles include Cupid (*Venus and Adonis*) with the Geneva Opera Studio, and Gretel for Pocket Opera in Wales. She has just finished playing Emily in a touring production of *Spaghetti Opera* with Opera on the Run, and Zerlina in Hampstead Garden Opera's *Don Giovanni*. Oratorio performances include Fauré's *Requiem* with Christopher Maltman in Birmingham's Symphony Hall, Handel's *Messiah* in Germany for Expo 2000, and the UK première of Galuppi's *Confitebor tibi, Domine* with countertenor James Bowman. Collaboration with Paul Ramshaw began with a live concert of improvised sound processing in London last month.



Nick Allen

Nick Allen enjoys a varied career as a cellist. As a chamber musician he is much in demand and is a founder member of both the Solaris Quartet and Trilogy Piano Trio with whom he enjoys a busy schedule performing throughout the country. He is currently involved in recording and performing Bach 2 the Future, a solo cello project involving the works of Bach and new commissions for cello and electronics. He has also recently recorded a duet with Billy Bragg.

Nick freelances as an orchestral player and regularly plays principal with the London Soloists Chamber Orchestra and Welsh Chamber Orchestra. He also works regularly with Matthew Slater creating and performing chill out dance tracks.

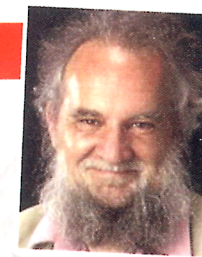
As an educationalist, Nick is currently Acting Head of Strings at the London College of Music and also works for Newham Music Trust teaching in East End schools. He has also created Strings n Things – a primary schools concert that investigates the possibilities of using ICT with music.

In his spare time he enjoys playing squash and hiking and will be climbing Kilimanjaro later this year.

David Hart

David Hart has been long ago a Birmingham University chaplain, then theatre critic, then arts administrator, now poet, with recent posts at Warwick (Writing Programme) and B'ham (Lifelong Learning) Universities; residencies at poetry festivals, in psychiatric & general hospitals & at Worcester Cathedral; B'ham Poet Laureate 1997-98, has won 1st & 2nd in the National Poetry Competition. New book, 'Running out', Five Seasons Press (ISBN 0 947960-49-X) is a collecting together of work since 'Setting the poem to words' (1998)

& Crag Inspector (2002), including residency poems, poems from a week in Poland, libretti [incl. the performed 'Song of the Mapmaker'], other sequences including 'All Saints Elegies' (response to Rilke), 'Work, the work' (in the imagined voice of Beethoven) along with single poems.



Ben Gummery

Ben has been involved with live events for over 6 years, working on many school theatrical productions, local events, concerts and festivals. He has also worked as local crew on several large shows including the current Cats UK tour. His work as a lighting designer includes the Modular 2003 Concert (electronic music), 'Chedfest' (a local festival) and many other small events.

Niall Webb

Niall Webb was born in Guernsey, the Channel Islands. He studied at Trinity College of Music with Keith Puddy and Anthony Jennings and at the Royal Academy of Music with Nuck Rodwell and Richard Addison, during which time he represented the United Kingdom in the Keihanna Youth Trust Concerts in Japan.

In 1998 he was appointed sub-principal clarinet with the Kwa-Zulu Natal Orchestra in Durban, South Africa, and in 1999 became the principal clarinet with the New Arts Philharmonia of Pretoria.

In 2000 Niall returned to London, where he is based as a freelance musician, recently working with Northern Ballet theatre orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, London Concert Orchestra and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

With the JC's band he plays jazz and popular classics, works with the Galliard Ensemble as a guest and plays in the clarinet quartet, Aura.

On stage work includes The Clod Ensemble, Primitive Science, Glastonbury and Thursford Christmas Spectacular

Million Year Old Man Festival programme insert

Paul Ramshaw is the composer and creative leader of the 5.00 concerts
We apologise to him that he was omitted from the printed programme

From a musical and artistic family, Paul performed as a bassist in various musical groups in the late 70's and early 80's. In the late 80's he studied music and recording (including synthesis with Bob Moog) and in the early 90's played in a jazz quartet in Paris where he also composed production music. Returning to the UK in the mid 90's, Paul focused on academic work and also performed in an Afro/Jazz-dance band Mambo Jambo. More recently he has scored production music for commercial DVD's and a few short films.



Paul's current compositional style incorporates cutting edge real-time improvisational technologies with acoustic vocal and orchestral performances to produce new music. The music contains the sonic character of the performance, but none of the original content. This creates new meaning within the sound and what Paul calls 'active ambient' music, which he says is 'ambient music for the foreground'.