



## **Hallé stars headline a week of DAF Musical Gems**

**Hallé Soloists, Friday 26 June, 7.30pm**

**Didsbury Baptist Church, School Lane, Didsbury**

Stars from Manchester's Hallé Orchestra will headline an exceptional week of music-making as part of Didsbury Arts Festival 2015 (20-28 June).

Hallé leader, Lyn Fletcher, along with fellow Hallé soloists, clarinettist Rosa Campos-Fernandez, cellist Simon Turner and acclaimed pianist, Didsbury-based Paul Janes, will give a performance of Olivier Messaien's *Quartet for the End of Time*, a moving testament to the freedom and resilience of the human imagination.

The concert is being held in aid of Genesis Breast Cancer Prevention and will take place at 7.30 pm (pre-concert drinks 7 pm), Friday 26 June, at Didsbury Baptist Church on School Lane. Funds raised from ticket sales (£10) will boost the UK charity's work supporting life-saving research into the prediction and prevention of breast cancer.

The charity concert will be among several musical highlights during the nine-day arts festival, which will feature daily music events from smooth classics to folk, rock and jazz. Jazz guitarist Stuart McCallum raises the roof with singer Rioghnach Connolly

on 20 June. Meanwhile, engineering giants, Siemens, will host an evening featuring new music from chamber ensemble, *The Vonnegut Collective*, and the *MIF Sacred Sounds Choir*. The event, taking place at Siemens' West Didsbury site on 25 June, will be attended by Alex Poots, Artistic Director of Manchester International Festival. Proceeds from the night (tickets £15/£10) will go to the Alzheimer's Society.

Join Stuart Overington, Didsbury's answer to Gareth Malone, for a day of choral singing with 'Sing Didsbury!' (20 June). Enjoy daily music recitals, lunchtime and evenings, including contributions from Chethams College students. Internationally acclaimed cello and piano duo, Hannah Roberts and Simon Parkin, from Didsbury, will return to DAF to provide a stunning finale to the DAF recital programme on Sunday 28 June.

DAF Festival Director, Daniel Williamson, said: 'This year's exciting music programme boasts a rich and diverse mix of musical styles and genres. The festival has attracted a huge range of talents, both homegrown (from Didsbury and Manchester), and from the rest of the UK. Whether your musical preference is for choirs, jazz, new music or classical, there will definitely be something to suit all tastes.'

Featuring more than 100 artists and more than 80 events at venues all over Didsbury, the festival, now in its seventh year, will embrace a huge range of arts - including specially commissioned works - from music, theatre, dance and comedy to visual arts, crafts and writing – all taking place at Didsbury venues. Don't miss the opening celebrations outside Didsbury Library on Saturday 20 June (from 12 noon), with live music, theatre and craft market launching a whole weekend of al fresco fun!

Most events free.

For tickets and further details, visit: [www.didsburyartsfestival.org](http://www.didsburyartsfestival.org)

ENDS

## **Notes for editors:**

### **Didsbury Arts Festival 2015**

Founded in 2009, Didsbury Arts Festival is a volunteer-led, community arts festival celebrating creative culture in Didsbury, south Manchester, through working with local, national and international artists and engaging the support of local businesses, organisations and people.

### **About Genesis Breast Cancer Prevention**

Based at the Nightingale and Genesis Prevention Centre at the University Hospital of South Manchester, Genesis Breast Cancer Prevention is the UK's only charity entirely dedicated to the prediction and prevention of breast cancer. Genesis' researchers work tirelessly to find new ways to create a breast cancer-free future, through gene research, early detection and screening, preventative drugs and lifestyle changes.

[www.genesisuk.org](http://www.genesisuk.org)

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