

Tamsin Waley-Cohen announces this year's Two Moors Festival, *Arcadia Unlocked*, with composer-in-residence Huw Watkins



The Two Moors Festival: Arcadia Unlocked

Friday 1 – Sunday 3 October 2021 Dartmoor **Friday 8 – Sunday 10 October 2021** Exmoor

Stile Antico, Joby Burgess, George Fu Ruby Hughes & Jonas Nordberg The Barbican Quartet, Cordelia Williams & The Two Moors Festival Orchestra	Huw Watkins, Nicky Spence Sam Lee & The Nest Collective Pavel Kolesnikov, Lawrence Power & Matthew Hunt
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Tamsin Waley-Cohen Artistic Director
Huw Watkins composer-in-residence

In an all-embracing celebration of wilderness in the South West, following a year of rediscovering the world outside our doors, Artistic Director and violinist **Tamsin Waley-Cohen** announces the 2021 **Two Moors Festival** and its theme, ***Arcadia Unlocked***.

The internationally-renowned Festival takes place over two weekends in October: **Dartmoor** is the focus for 1-3 October 2021, while concerts taking place from 8-10 October 2021 centre around **Exmoor**, with concerts held in close proximity to each other in beautiful venues from rural arts centres to churches around the vast and arresting wilderness of the moors.

The natural world provides the inspiration for cycles of waste and renewal – natural and manmade – by percussionist Joby Burgess, and is heard in birdsong with folk singer Sam Lee and pianist George Fu. Ruby Hughes and Jonas Nordberg bring the ancient beauty of Albion to the moors, while memories of the Welsh countryside are central to the world premiere of composer-in-residence Huw Watkins' *Welsh Songs* by Nicky Spence, one of many internationally-renowned artists visiting the moors this year, including Pavel Kolesnikov, Lawrence Power and Stile Antico.

The Festival was founded by the visionary John and Penny Adie as an artistic response to the Foot and Mouth crisis of 2001, which was devastating to the area. Following the 2020 online Festival in the wake of the pandemic, Waley-Cohen returns to curate her first full Festival in the area in which she has strong links.

Tamsin Waley-Cohen said:

"This year we bring the Festival back to its roots on the Moors, this ancient land where people have lived and farmed for millennia. The theme and title of the Festival is Arcadia Unlocked, a celebration of the Natural World, which makes itself felt so powerfully here. During the planned Festival, we will explore the seasons, the passing of time, environmental issues, ecological concerns, and nature as metaphor, inspiration, and as our ultimate source of beauty, which we return to again and again."

Further events associated with the Festival will be announced in the autumn. Tickets are available from twomoorsfestival.co.uk

Dartmoor: Friday 1 – Sunday 3 October 2021

The Two Moors Festival opens in Dartmoor on the evening of Friday 1 October, with soprano **Ruby Hughes** and lutenist **Jonas Nordberg** in recital, bringing the magic of English folklore and the beauty of Albion to Widecombe-in-the-Moor with a programme of Dowland, Purcell, Britten and Errollyn Wallen. In the late evening, pianist **Cordelia Williams** charts a journey from the depths of night towards dawn, acknowledging music's cathartic ability to bring peace and consolation in tumultuous times, traversing works by Mozart, Scriabin, Liszt, Schubert and Schumann.

Birdsong heralds the morning on Saturday 2 October, with American pianist **George Fu** performing avian-inspired works by Messiaen, Respighi and Ravel and the world premiere of his own work *Three Paraphrases from Respighi's The Bird.*, after a pre-concert talk on birdwatching by **Emma Cunis**, 'Dartmoor's Daughter'.

In a lunchtime concert performed by the **Barbican Quartet**, Young Artists at St John Smith's Square, the young ensemble pair Haydn's radiant "Sunrise" *Quartet Op. 76, No. 4* with Schubert's transcendent final *String Quartet No. 15*.

On Saturday evening, Vivaldi's Mediterranean *Four Seasons* are paired with the sultry South American seasons of **Astor Piazzolla** (*The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*), performed in his centenary year. Tamsin Waley-Cohen appears as soloist. The evening concludes with late-night jazz from City Music Foundation artist **Nishla Smith**.

On Sunday 3 October, **Joby Burgess** brings a topical percussion programme of waste and renewal to Dartmoor, exploring our changing weather and ecology in Tōru Takemitsu's *Seasons* and combining African soda bottles and live looping in Gabriel Prokofiev's *Fanta* to turn waste into music, in a programme that also includes works by Rebecca Dale and John Luther Adams. Burgess appears following a talk on local environment and conservation.

The Dartmoor weekend closes with Renaissance polyphony experts **Stile Antico** contrasting the earthly delights of pastoral Elizabethan madrigals with the luscious heavenly gardens of the Bible's Song of Songs, with a piece by composer-in-residence Huw Watkins.

Concerts over the weekend are held in Ashburton Arts Centre and Chagford, Widecombe, Ashburton and Hatherleigh Churches, all local towns in and around **Dartmoor National Park**, a vast moorland of crags, forests, rivers, wetlands and granite tors. The Park is home to the wild Dartmoor ponies, Wistman's Wood – a [temperate rainforest](#) – and has a rich history, from ancient Neolithic tombs to picturesque market towns.

Exmoor: Friday 8 – Sunday 10 October 2021

The second weekend of the Festival opens in Exmoor as **Pavel Kolesnikov** performs Bach's *Goldberg Variations* on the evening of Friday 8 October. He is joined by musicologist

and presenter **Katy Hamilton** in a Q & A and talk on the mathematics of beauty. Appearing across the weekend, Kolesnikov is joined by violist **Lawrence Power** on Saturday evening for an evening of Brahms, following a concert given by winners of Young Musicians Competition Concert.

Artistic Director **Tamsin Waley-Cohen** appears on violin with her composer-in-residence **Huw Watkins** on piano in the morning of Saturday 9 October, performing works by Debussy, Beethoven and Watkins; the pair are currently recording all of Beethoven's *Violin Sonatas* for Signum Classics. Mercury Prize nominated folk singer **Sam Lee** and his band break the boundaries between ancient and contemporary folk song in a late-night set on Saturday 9 October.

Lawrence Power appears again on Sunday afternoon with clarinettist **Matthew Hunt** and Huw Watkins at the piano for a programme of music written for the unlikely pairing of instruments, first heard together in Mozart's *Kegelstatt Trio*. As part of a programme that also includes works by Schumann and Bruch, the trio perform Huw Watkins' *Speak Seven Seas*, which evokes the flow of water from lapping waves to tossing seas, apt for its 2011 premiere in a hydroelectric plant.

The Festival closes on Sunday afternoon with a recital from tenor **Nicky Spence** featuring the **world premiere** of composer-in-residence **Huw Watkins' Welsh Songs**, setting Welsh folk songs of unforgotten love and half-forgotten memories. The concert closes with Janáček's *The Diary of One Who Disappeared*, the country tale of a ploughboy's love for a gypsy girl. Spence's recent recording of the work won best vocal recording at the BBC Music Magazine and Gramophone Magazine Awards 2020.

Huw Watkins said:

"Some of the first music I truly fell in love with were the folksong arrangements Britten made for himself and Peter Pears. It still astonishes me how he was able to take such familiar tunes and make them completely his own. I've long wanted to do something similar with Welsh folksongs, and when Tamsin asked me to write something for Nicky Spence, I thought this would be the perfect opportunity."

The weekend's performances take place in and around **Exmoor National Park**, with remote landscapes from spectacular coastal views and high sea cliffs to wooded valleys. Many historic and listed churches are found around the moor, which also has a great diversity of wildlife, from lichen to wild red deer. Performances will take place in Dulverton, Bampton, and Wiveliscombe Churches.

Dartmoor

Friday 1 October 2021

Evening

The Golden Morning Breaks:

Dowland, Purcell, Britten & Wallen

Ruby Hughes soprano

Jonas Nordberg theorbo/lute

Night

Through Darkness to Dawn:

Mozart, Scriabin, Liszt, Schubert & Schumann

Cordelia Williams piano

Saturday 2 October 2021

Morning

Birdsong:

Messiaen, Ravel, Respighi & George Fu

George Fu piano

Birdwatching

Talk with **Emma Cunis**

Lunchtime

Haydn *String Quartet Op. 76, No. 4 "Sunrise"*

Schubert *String Quartet No. 15*

Barbican Quartet

Evening

The 8 Seasons:

Vivaldi *Le quattro stagioni*

Piazzolla *Cuatro Estaciones Porteñas (The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires)*

Tamsin Waley-Cohen violin

Night

Nishla Smith jazz singer

Sunday 3 October 2021

Morning

Waste and Renewal:

Takemitsu, Rebecca Dale, Gabriel Prokofiev & John Luther Adams

Joby Burgess percussion

Lunchtime

Talk on local environment and conservation

Afternoon

The Garden of Earthly and Heavenly Delights

Stile Antico

Exmoor

Friday 8 October 2021

Night

Bach *Goldberg Variations*

Pavel Kolesnikov piano

The Mathematics of Beauty

talk with **Katy Hamilton**

Saturday 9 October 2021

Morning

Beethoven, Watkins & Debussy

Tamsin Waley-Cohen violin

Huw Watkins piano

in discussion with **Katy Hamilton**

Afternoon

Young Musicians Competition Concert

Evening

Brahms sonatas

Lawrence Power viola

Pavel Kolesnikov piano

Night

Sam Lee folk singer

The Nest Collective

Sunday 10 October 2021

Afternoon

Watkins *Speak Seven Seas*

Mozart *Kegelstatt Trio*

Schumann *Märchenerzählungen (Fairy Tales), Op. 132*

Bruch *Acht Stücke Op. 83*

Lawrence Power viola

Matthew Hunt clarinet

Huw Watkins piano

Evening

Janáček *The Diary of One Who Disappeared*

Huw Watkins *Welsh Songs* **WORLD PREMIERE**

Nicky Spence tenor

Two Moors Festival



Since 2001, the Two Moors Festival has welcomed outstanding international artists and the rising stars of the next generation to perform for our large and enthusiastic audiences in one of the most beautiful and unspoilt corners of the UK.

The Festival was founded by the visionary John and Penny Adie in the wake of the Foot and Mouth crisis, which was devastating to the area. They not only started the festival, but maintained it over a nearly 20-year period, developing it with great expertise and imagination into a greatly loved festival in one of the most rural parts of the UK, with an international renown.

Performances are given in beautiful and historic venues, including country houses, village halls, rural arts centres, museums, churches, cathedrals, pannier markets and even Nissen huts and railway stations across Devon and West Somerset.

Since its foundation, the festival has won widespread acclaim for innovative commissions of operas, song cycles and chamber pieces, and for its work with hundreds of children and adults from local communities. The festival has also helped scores of young musicians and emerging professional artists to take the next step.

twomoorsfestival.co.uk

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