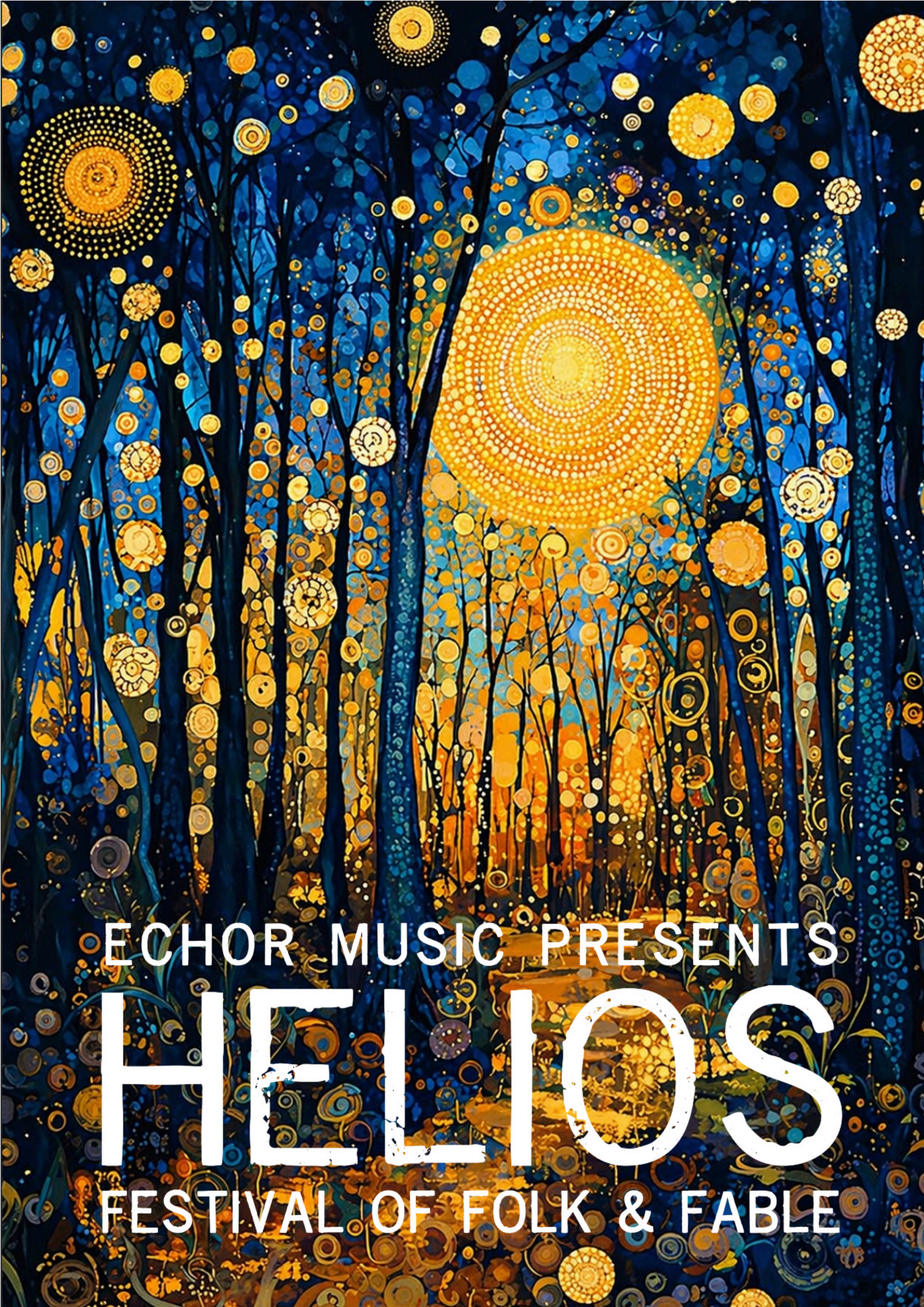

ECHOR MUSIC PRESENTS
HELIOS
FESTIVAL OF FOLK & FABLE

HELIOS

Festival of Folk & Fable

Dundridge Manor

19-21st June, 2026

DEAR GUESTS,

Welcome to *Helios*.

Helios began as our way of celebrating the end of our fifth season of music-making in the Chilterns.

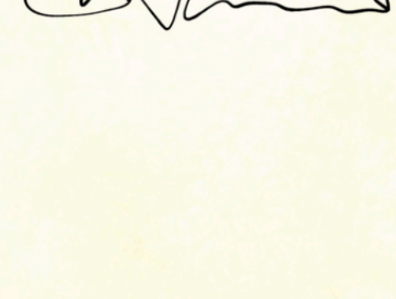
We wanted to mark the occasion by creating something a little different: not just another concert, but an entire weekend shaped by music, stories, folk spirit and imagination.

Storytelling has always been at the heart of Echor. Music has an extraordinary ability to transport us to another place, another century, or somewhere that exists only in our imagination. At a time when the world can feel increasingly uncertain, hurried and serious, we can think of few things more valuable than creating a little space for beauty, wonder and escape.

Helios has been a journey of discovery for us: six very different events, a host of remarkable local artists and musicians, and rather more logistical ambition than two people should perhaps sensibly attempt in one weekend.

Most of all, *Helios* is a celebration of the community that has grown around Echor over the past five years. Whether you have been with us from the beginning or are joining us for the first time, thank you for being here and for becoming part of our story.

We hope you enjoy the adventure.



STOLEN TUNES

19 JUNE 7:30 PM

MUSICIANS

ANNA KONDRASHINA Flute

MAX WELFORD Clarinet

ALISE SILIŅA Accordion

EVA ÞÓRARINSDÓTTIR Violin

NICHOLAS BOOTIMAN Viola

NATHANIEL BOYD Cello

CLARE O'CONNELL Cello

GEORGIA LLOYD Bass

PROGRAMME

GRIEG	Morning Mood
KHACHATURIAN	Sabre Dance
BARTÓK	Stick Dance & Sash Dance
BRAHMS	Hungarian Dance no 4
TCHAIKOVSKY	Canzonetta
BARTÓK	In One Spot
STRAVINKY	Danse Russe
DVORÁK	Slavonic Dance no 2
BORODIN	Polovitsan Dance
BRAHMS	Hungarian Dance no 5
DVORÁK	Largo from New World
BRAHMS	Hungarian Dance no 1
BARTÓK	The Peacock
DVORÁK	Songs My Mother Taught Me
MOZART	Rondo alla Turca
BARTÓK	Dance from Buscum, Polka & Fast Dance

NEW MOON

MOON IS
SILVER SLIVER.

MOON IS
CLIPPED CUP
FROM WHICH TO SIP
A FIRST DROP
OF FRESHLY-PRESSED
MOON JUICE.

MOON IS
SOMERSAULTING C
IN THE BEST MOON FONT
MOON IS A FICKLE FLICKERER

MOON IS
NEW LUNAR LANTERN
TO TRACK A STAR OR TWO

BUT MOSTLY,
MOON IS
SHY TO MEET
ONCE MOOR
THAT
OLD OLD
SKY.

From the children's poetry collection
Moon Juice by Kate Wakeling
published by The Emma Press

WORDS IN THE WILD

20 JUNE 3PM

KATE WAKELING AUTHOR & POET

Kate Wakeling is a poet and librettist who writes for both children and adults. She is the author of three acclaimed children's poetry collections: ***Moon Juice***, ***Cloud Soup*** and ***A Dinosaur at the Bus Stop***, with a new collection, ***The Flying Machine of Dreams***, coming out this August.

Kate's work for children has won the CLiPPA prize and The Week Junior's 'Book of the Year' for poetry, and has been nominated for the Carnegie Medal. Her writing has been praised as 'clever, funny, inspiring' by The Sunday Times and *'both limpidly welcoming and profoundly meaningful'* by The Guardian.

Her poetry for adults has been published widely. She was commended in the 2025 National Poetry Competition, and recent work has appeared in The Poetry Review, The Guardian, Poetry London, Magma and The Stinging Fly, as well as on BBC Radio 3 as 'The Friday Poem'. A pamphlet of her poetry, ***The Rainbow Faults***, is published by The Rialto.

Kate works regularly with orchestras, festivals and composers on texts for performance. She is writer-in-residence with Aurora Orchestra, and her texts have been commissioned by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra and Royal Scottish National Orchestra. Her work has been performed at the Southbank Centre, Barbican, Kings Place, LSO St Luke's, Usher Hall, Snape Maltings and Melbourne Festival, and broadcast on BBC Radio 3.

Recent commissions also include libretti for new song cycles and choral works, in collaboration with composers Cheryl Frances-Hoad, Cecilia McDowall and Emma-Ruth Richards.

Kate is a keen player of Balinese gamelan music and an enthusiastic champion of guinea pigs.

20 JUNE 4PM

PROKOFIEV'S PETER & THE WOLF



20 JUNE 7:30PM

& THE TALEMAKER



CONDUCTOR

NICHOLAS BOOTIMAN

VIOLINS

EVA ÞÓRARINSDÓTTIR
EVA ARONIAN
GABRIEL BILBAO
GAIA RAMSDELL
ALFREDO REYES LOGOUNOVA
ROSIE WAINWRIGHT
EMILY TRUBSHAW
THEA SPIERS
YURIY SOROKA
ALISON WYATT

VIOLAS

GIJS KRAMERS
JILL VALENTINE
JULIA KORNIG
CHRIS PITSILLIDES

CELLOS

NATHANIEL BOYD
CLARE O'CONNELL
JULIA GRAHAM
CHRIS WORSEY

BASS

LEWIS REID
SIMON OLIVER

FLUTE

ANNA KONDRASHINA

OBOE

KATIE BENNINGTON

CLARINET

FIONA MITCHELL

BASSOON

LOUISE WATSON

HORNS

KIERSTEN GUSTAFSON
BENJAMIN HARTNELL-BOOTH
SCHMECKEL HORNBURGER

TRUMPET

JONATHAN CLARKE

TROMBONE

PAU HERNÁNDES

TIMPANI & PERCUSSION

ADRIAN BRENDING
EMMANUEL JOSTE
LAURA BRADFORD

THE TALEMAKER PROGRAMME



MASKS
Romeo & Juliet

DEATH OF TYBALT
Romeo & Juliet

TROIKA
Lieutenant Kijé

ANDANTE
Violin Concerto no 2

MARCH
The Love of Three Oranges

WALTZ
Cinderella

DANCE OF THE KNIGHTS
Romeo & Juliet

&

PETER & THE WOLF

ROBERT WILFORT ACTOR & NARRATOR

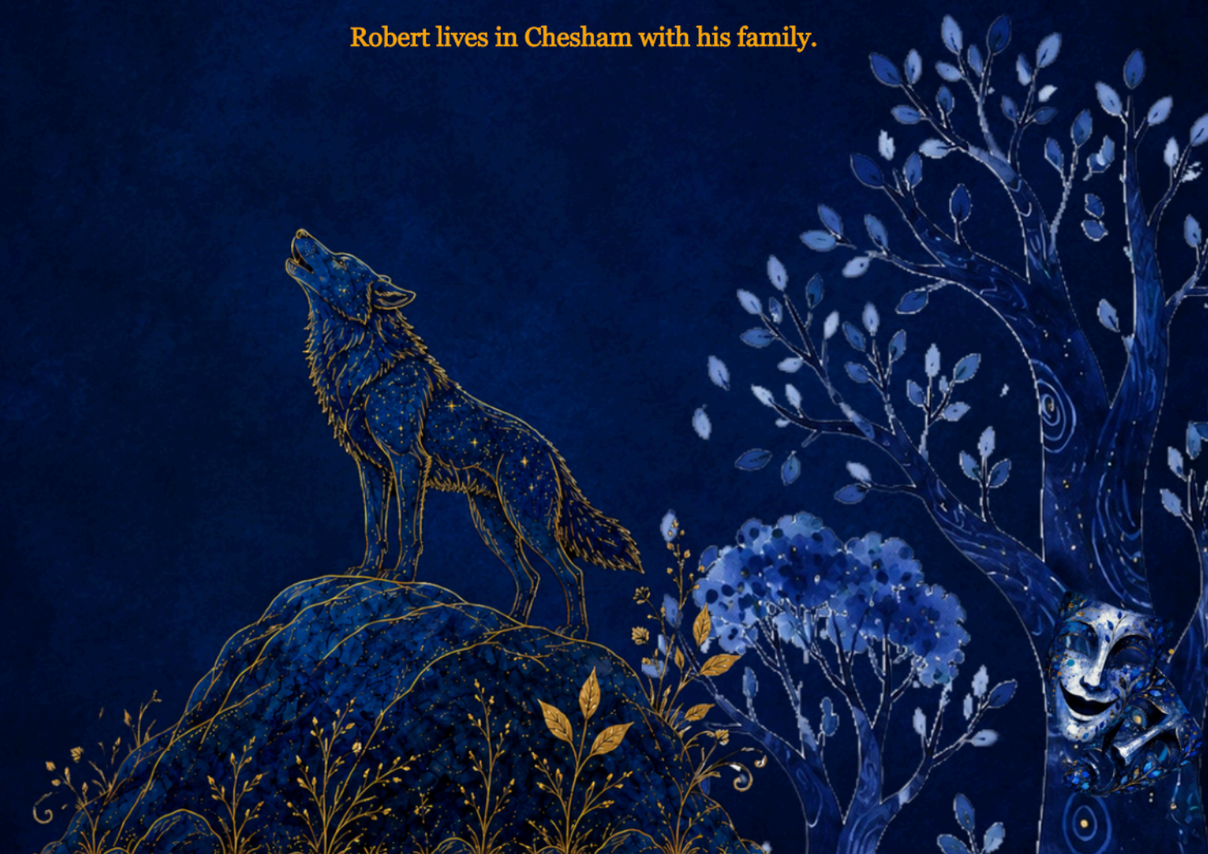
Perhaps best known as the long-suffering Jason in *Gavin & Stacey*, Robert Wilfort has enjoyed an extensive career across television, film and theatre.

His television credits include *Death Valley, A Woman of Substance, Father Brown, Vera, Sex Education, Dalgliesh, Bridgerton, Grace, Wolf Hall, Dickensian, The Crown, Miss Scarlet and The Duke, Plebs, Power Monkeys, Endeavour, Skins* and *Grass*.

His film work includes *Joy, The Dig, Peterloo, Grimsby, Man Up, Last Summer, All or Nothing* and *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*.

On stage, Robert played Spike Milligan in the national tour of *Spike* by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman, and has appeared at Soho Theatre, Leeds Playhouse, Trafalgar Studios and Chichester Festival Theatre.

Robert lives in Chesham with his family.



NORDIC ECHOES

VIOLIN

EVA ÞÓRARINSDÓTTIR
EVA ARONIAN
ALFREDO REYES LOGOUNOVA
DANIA ALZAPIEDI
KATE COLE
HANNA TRACZ

VIOLAS

NICHOLAS BOOTIMAN
GIJS KRAMERS

CELLOS

NATHANIEL BOYD
CLARE O'CONNELL

BASS

HUGH KLUGER

INTO THE SMOKE

21 JUNE 8PM

MARTIN HARLEY GUITARIST & SONGWRITER

For three decades, Harley has captivated audiences worldwide, recording albums in Texas, Nashville, and Wales. His spellbinding slide guitar style and ability to blend Americana, Blues, and Folk have earned him acclaim, including nominations for the Americana Music Awards Instrumentalist of the Year and Best Acoustic Blues Artist.

Harley's intimate and dynamic solo performances, paired with sold-out shows at iconic venues like London's Union Chapel, and appearances at major festivals including Glastonbury and the Royal Albert Hall, showcase his remarkable talent. His music has featured on hit TV shows like The Vampire Diaries and Banshee and in live segments on PBS's Music City Roots and VH1's Big Morning Buzz.

His collaborations with luminaries such as Jerry Douglas and Grammy-winning drummer Derek Mixon have further cemented his place in the roots music world. Albums including *Static in the Wires* and *Live at Southern Ground* topped the iTunes Blues charts, while his latest release, *Morning Sun*, continues to showcase the warmth, grit and restless spirit that have become his trademark.

Harley remains a distinctive force in contemporary roots music, equally at ease on stages around the world and around the fire pit at his home in Tring with his two daughters.



BE PART OF OUR STORY

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO OUR FRIENDS AND SPONSORS WITHOUT WHOM, ECHOR WOULD NOT EXIST TODAY. AS TICKET SALES COVER LESS THAN 40% OF OUR COSTS, YOUR SUPPORT HELPS US TO CONTINUE BRINGING EXTRAORDINARY MUSIC TO THE CHILTERN HILLS.

ECHOR FRIENDS

£30 SOLO - £50 DUO

Our Friends are a growing family of supporters, many of whom have become personal friends along the way.

DREAMERS

£100 - £299

The 'Dreamers' are our visionaries, who help bring our ideas to life. Without them, there is less scope for storytelling.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

£300 - £999

Our 'Movers & Shakers' give us a chance to brave our more daring artistic ideas and help us cover the vital costs of our performances.

THE MUSIC MAKERS

£1000 +

Our 'Music Makers' ensure the future of Echor. A donation of this kind keeps the music alive and our imagination running, and for that, we couldn't be more grateful.

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+ 2 ANONYMOUS
ANONYMOUS

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GILL & PATRICK HUDGELL
ELIZABETH & RUPERT VAN HÜLLEN
ALASDAIR & ALISON MURRAY
JOHN & YVONNE RUSH

DREAMERS

IMOGEN BRIGHT
WENDY DRINKWATER
KAY ELLIOTT
PATTY GRIFFITHS
DAVID & SANDRA HALL
GRAINE & ROGER HYSLOP
HILARY & IAN NEEDLEMAN
HELEN SALMON
MARION TURNER
LIZ WAGER
ALICE & RICHARD WILNE
ALASTAIR & FABIENNE WOODGER
+ 4 ANONYMOUS

& A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR 98 ECHOR FRIENDS

PROGRAMME NOTES

STOLEN TUNES

The title *Stolen Tunes* is playful, but it points towards something that composers have done for centuries: listening to the music around them, borrowing from it and transforming it into something new.

The folk melodies that inspired the composers in this programme were not simply decorative additions. They belonged to particular communities, landscapes and ways of life. They were music for singing and dancing, carried by memory and passed from one musician to another.

For composers such as Bartók, folk music opened the door to an extraordinary new soundworld. Its unusual rhythms, harmonies and melodic shapes offered something very different from the conventions of the concert hall. The resulting music can be raw and energetic, distant and dreamlike, or suddenly wild.

Many of these melodies survived because someone remembered them, sang them, played them or took the trouble to write them down. We have inherited them because others chose not to let them disappear.

Keeping them alive means continuing to play and make them our own. In doing so, we become another link in the chain, carrying these melodies forward for those who come after us.

THE TALEMAKER

Few composers understood the storytelling power of music as instinctively as Sergei Prokofiev: how a melody could become a character, how rhythm could set a scene in motion, and how an orchestra could open the door to an entire world. It felt only natural, then, that he should become the heart of our festival.

In *The Talemaker*, we meet Sergei Prokofiev in 1935. He has just completed *Romeo & Juliet* and stands at a turning point in his life. Nearly two decades have passed since he left Russia, carrying with him enormous confidence and equally enormous ambitions. His years in America and Paris have brought flashes of success, but also delays, disappointments and the uncomfortable sense that he has never quite found his place.

He is known across the musical world, but recognition has not always brought security or belonging. Now, increasingly drawn back towards the country he left behind, he finds himself wondering what he has sacrificed, what awaits him there—and whether any of his music will truly endure.

The script was written especially for this performance, tracing Prokofiev's journey from his childhood beneath the enormous skies of Sontsovka, through revolutionary Russia, America and Paris, and towards his eventual return to the Soviet Union. It is not intended as a conventional biography, but as a theatrical portrait of the composer: brilliant, ambitious, restless, difficult, funny and, beneath it all, deeply uncertain about his place in the world.

NORDIC ECHOES

The Danish String Quartet have been an enormous inspiration to me and musicians all over the world. Their arrangements of Scandinavian folk music opened my ears to what can happen when traditional melodies are brought into the soundworld of a string ensemble without losing their rough edges or individual character.

In their hands, the music remains earthy, strange and full of life, while taking on new colours, textures and possibilities. Their three folk CD's, *Woodworks, Last Leaf* & *Keel Road*, were the direct inspiration for *Nordic Echoes*.

As an Icelandic musician myself, it has also encouraged me to look more closely at the folk music of my own country. There are some remarkable tunes, that deserve to be heard and played more widely. One day, I would love to create my own collection of arrangements, allowing these tunes to find a new voice while preserving something of their original spirit. But perhaps we should let the dust settle on this festival first. In the meantime we can at least start thinking of a name... *Sound of Sagas*, perhaps?

Folk tunes belong to the places and people from which they came, but they also depend upon each new generation to keep them moving. By listening, arranging and performing them, we do not merely look backwards. We allow their echoes to continue.

SPECIAL THANKS & GOODBYE

HELIOS COULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT THE GENEROSITY, TALENT AND HEROIC LEVELS OF PATIENCE OF A GREAT MANY PEOPLE

Our heartfelt thanks go first to **Katharine Dallas**, for welcoming us to Dundridge Manor Farm and being such a wonderfully generous and accommodating host. Thank you for embracing all our ideas—even the slightly ambitious ones—and for rarely looking alarmed when we explained what we were planning next.

To our brilliant lighting technician, **Tom Wall**, who has been with us since our very first concert in the barn at Ray's Hill. Tom has gone far beyond anything that could reasonably be described as "lighting" in helping us prepare for this festival. Quite simply, we could not have done this without him.

Thank you also to our wonderful guest artists, **Robert Wilfort**, **Kate Wakeling** and **Martin Harley**. It has been a privilege to collaborate with you and to witness the imagination, generosity and extraordinary talent each of you has brought to the festival. Thank you, too, for saying yes before fully discovering what you had let yourselves in for1

To **Jo & Neville** and everyone who offered accommodation and lifts for the musicians, who helped with poster distribution, and all the festival **volunteers** who offered their time, energy and practical wisdom to help with this enormous undertaking: you made a team of two feel very supported.

Thank you to all our remarkable **musicians**, both familiar faces and those joining the Echor family for the first time. It is your artistry, commitment, and remarkable tolerance for our increasingly elaborate ideas that make everything we do possible. We look forward to the next five years of music-making together.

Last but not least, a huge thank you to you, our **audience**, for being here with us this weekend. Thank you for your support and for taking a chance on this! To the brave new faces, we hope to welcome you again!

Finally, a special word of thanks to the British weather which, at the time of going to print, has not yet ruined everything...

...we remain cautiously grateful.

TEAM

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/CONDUCTOR	NICHOLAS BOOTIMAN
CREATIVE DIRECTOR/LEADER	EVA ÞÓRARINSDÓTTIR
ORCHESTRA	ECHOR MUSIC
MUSIC ARRANGERS	NICK/EVA/DSQ
STAGE/LIGHTING	TOM WALL
PROGRAMME DESIGN	EVA ÞÓRARINSDÓTTIR
TALEMAKER SCRIPT	EVA ÞÓRARINSDÓTTIR
MARKETING	EVA ÞÓRARINSDÓTTIR
PHOTOGRAPHERS	OSKAR CHU/PATRICK HUDGELL
VIDEOGRAPHER	TIM HAND
BAR TEAM	THE VAULT


ECHOR MUSIC