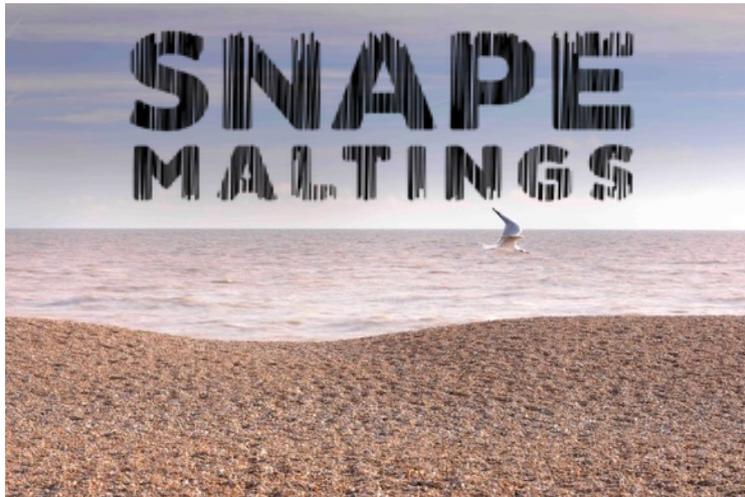


## ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL 2018: 8 - 24 June



### Highlights include:

- Aldeburgh Festival 2018 celebrates Britten, America and the centenary of Leonard Bernstein
- World Premiere of Emily Howard's new opera *To See The Invisible* on the opening weekend
- Artists in Residence: violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja, conductor John Wilson and flautist Claire Chase
- Aldeburgh Festival commissions and world premieres of Harrison Birtwistle's *Keyboard Engine, Construction for Two Pianos* performed by Pierre-Laurent Aimard and Tamara Stefanovich and Colin Matthews' orchestration of Britten's *Seven Sonnets of Michelangelo*
- A total of 15 world premieres including works by featured composers Michael Hersch and Simon Holt
- The Aldeburgh Festival returns to Ely Cathedral for the first time in over 50 years for an eight-choir mass setting performed by Le Concert Spirituel and Hervé Niquet

### Britten and America

2018 is the 70th anniversary of the Aldeburgh Festival, founded by Benjamin Britten on his native Suffolk coast, just two years after his return from the United States where he and his partner, Peter Pears, spent several years during the Second World War. An overarching theme throughout the 2018 festival celebrates Britten and America as well as the centenary of Leonard Bernstein. Britten and Bernstein were both composers, pianists, conductors, programme planners, educators and major media figures who are linked but rarely met. This summer in Aldeburgh they can be heard side by side with many connections that resonate across the festival programming. These links include Peter Grimes, W.H. Auden and their composing friend Aaron Copland.

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## ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL 2018: 8 - 24 June

### World Premiere of Emily Howard's *To See The Invisible*

This year's opera staging reveals a significant new British compositional voice in the world premiere of **Emily Howard's *To See The Invisible* (8, 10, 11 June)** based on a short story by renowned American sci-fi writer **Robert Silverberg** with words by **Selma Dimitrijevic** and directed by **Dan Ayling**. The opera is an Aldeburgh Festival commission and world premiere, which was created on a research and development residency at Snape Maltings. Condemned for a crime of 'coldness' by an authoritarian regime, *The Invisible* is cast adrift from society, only to risk further isolating through empathy with a fellow 'Invisible'. Emily Howard recently won her second British Composer Award in the Orchestral category for *Torus*. In the festival her orchestral piece *sphere* receives its UK premiere together with *Magnetite* performed by **BBC National Orchestra of Wales** on **23 June**. Her string quartet *Afference* is played by the **Piatti Quartet** on **22 June**.

### Artist in Residence: Patricia Kopatchinskaja

Violinist **Patricia Kopatchinskaja** is one of today's major creative forces and has programmed the final days at Snape in collaboration with the **Ojai Music Festival** where she is the 2018 Music Director. This is the first year of a developing partnership with the Ojai Festival and both festivals welcome the **Mahler Chamber Orchestra** in residence at Snape. Kopatchinskaja plays in concert with the MCO on **20 and 22 June** with repertoire ranging from Stravinsky, Bartòk and Ligeti to a staged concert entitled *Bye-Bye Beethoven*. She also explores her native **Moldovan roots (23 June)** with her violin- and cimbalom-playing parents.

### Artist in Residence: John Wilson

Britten and America highlights include two concerts on the opening weekend featuring the **BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra** and its Principal Guest Conductor **John Wilson**, exploring Britten's wartime experience of America, the relationships that took him there and echoes of home. The opening concert on **8 June** presents the Aldeburgh Festival commission and world premiere of a new song cycle arrangement, an orchestration by **Colin Matthews** of Britten's *Seven Sonnets of Michelangelo* with tenor **Robert Murray**. The programme on **9 June** features the *Four Sea Interludes* from *Peter Grimes* which unites Britten and Bernstein, who led the opera's American premiere as a young man and conducted it in his last concert. On the opening weekend Wilson will also conduct his **John Wilson Orchestra** in a programme of popular and less well-known Broadway hits by Bernstein.

### Artist in Residence: Claire Chase

American flautist **Claire Chase** is a soloist, collaborative artist, curator and advocate for new and experimental music. She was named a MacArthur Fellow in 2012 and in 2017 was awarded the Avery Fisher Prize. For the 2018 festival, she has programmed a Varèse inspired recital of music commissioned and written for her, which takes place on **14 June** and includes *Density 21.5* by Varèse and four European premieres by **Du Yun, Suzanne Farrin, Mario Diaz de Leon** and **Marcos Balter**. On **16 June** she performs **Morton Feldman's *For Philip Guston*** with pianist **Anna D'Errico** and percussionist **Alexandre Babel**. Starting at 4.30 am, the audience, seated or lying on mattresses, encircle the performers to experience Feldman's five-hour memorial to his estranged friend.

### Featured Composers: Michael Hersch and Simon Holt

American composer and pianist **Michael Hersch** has been described by the Financial Times as "one of the most fertile musical minds to emerge from the US over the past generation." He is a regular collaborator with **Patricia Kopatchinskaja** and she has programmed a concert of his works on **21 June** performed by members of the **Mahler Chamber Orchestra**. The centrepiece of the programme

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## ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL 2018: 8 - 24 June

is the European premiere of *I hope we get a chance to visit soon*: an Aldeburgh Festival co-commission, it is an expansive, 60-minute, new chamber cantata based on letters and emails from a now-departed friend as she confronted cancer. On **18 June** violinist **Michael Barenboim** makes his UK recital debut and gives the UK premiere of Michael Hersch's *the weather and landscape are on our side*, a piece for solo violin inspired by fragments of letters written by the Polish philosopher Bruno Schulz. **Simon Holt** celebrates his 60th birthday in 2018 with two Aldeburgh Festival Commissions and world premieres: *Llanto* is scored for oboe d'amore (Melinda Maxwell) and string trio. The **Piatti Quartet** perform the composer's **String Quartet No. 4 Cloud House** on **22 June**. It is inspired by the trinkets and artefacts left untouched for decades in an abandoned farmhouse.

### More New Music

This year's festival features **15 world premieres, six Aldeburgh Festival Commissions, five European premieres** and **five UK premieres**. **Philip Cashian's** *The Book of Ingenious Devices* is a new piano concerto in a single movement that passes through numerous episodes and sudden changes of direction. The world premiere on **16 June** is performed by **Huw Watkins** and the **BBC Symphony Orchestra** conducted by **Oliver Knussen**. **Harrison Birtwistle's** *Keyboard Engine, Construction for Two Pianos* is also an Aldeburgh Festival Commission and receives its world premiere on **18 June** by pianists **Pierre-Laurent Aimard** and **Tamara Stefanovich**. This concert also features the UK premiere of Birtwistle's *3 Moth Songs* (complete version), a work for soprano and ensemble featuring **Claire Booth** and the UK premiere of **Vassos Nicolaou's** *Frames* for piano duet. Seven short works by young composers receive world premieres on **22 June** written in July 2017 on the Contemporary Composition and Performance course at Snape Maltings directed by **Oliver Knussen** and **Colin Matthews**. *Written on Fire* is a co-creation by violinist **Rakhi Singh** and pioneering electronic musician **Vessel** and receives its world premiere on **22 June**. The piece is inspired by Janáček's string quartet *Intimate Letters*.

### Further Highlights

French period instrument ensemble **Le Concert Spirituel** and conductor **Hervé Niquet** make their Aldeburgh Festival debut with three concerts including the little-known mass by 17th century composer **Orazio Benevolo** on **13 June** marking the occasion of the Festival's first concert in at Ely Cathedral for fifty years. The **Belcea Quartet** return to Aldeburgh for a recital of Dvořák, Janáček and Mozart (**15 June**). **Aline Ibragimova** partners with **Cédric Tiberghien** for an eclectic recital featuring Mozart, Crumb, Cage and Beethoven (**16 June**). **Tamara Stefanovich** and **Pierre-Laurent Aimard** both give piano recitals focusing on the wildly original music of the father of American experimentalism Charles Ives: Stefanovich performs *Sonata No. 1* (**15 June**) and Aimard plays *Sonata No. 2 'Concord'* (**17 June**). **The Sixteen** and its conductor **Harry Christophers** focus on two musical friends: Britten and Copland, interspersed with madrigals and sacred music by Morley, Gibbons, Byrd, Sheppard and Tallis (**17 June**). Mezzo-soprano **Anne Sofie von Otter** is joined by fortepianist **Kristian Bezuidenhout** for a recital of songs by Mozart and Schubert (**23 June**). **Bryn Terfel** makes his festival debut in a recital of Schubert, Brahms, Copland and Britten together with **Malcolm Martineau** (**24 June**). The final orchestral concert of the Festival returns to Britten and America: Dvořák's *Symphony From the New World* and Britten's *Violin Concerto* premiered in New York in 1940. The soloist is **Vilde Frang** with the **BBC National Orchestra of Wales** under the baton of **Mark Wigglesworth**.

[www.snapemaltings.co.uk](http://www.snapemaltings.co.uk)

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