



## **Gregynog Festival 2020: Generosity**

**15-21 June 2020**

Gregynog Festival (15-21 June), Wales's oldest extant classical music festival, celebrates an important centenary at Gregynog Hall with a strong programme for 2020 entitled 'Generosity', inspired by Welsh patronesses of the past. Headline artists include the mezzo-soprano Lea Desandre and Ensemble Jupiter, who make their UK debut with a Vivaldi programme directed by Thomas Dunford; harpist Maximilian Ehrhardt; and the multi-award-winning folk band VRi. A rich supporting programme of talks and exhibitions is led by the historians Peter Lord, Shaun Evans and Rhian Davies, the Festival's Artistic Director.

2020 marks one hundred years since Gwendoline and Margaret Davies purchased Gregynog Hall, a magnificent manor house near Newtown in the heart of Mid Wales, to realise their vision of creating an arts centre in the wake of the First World War. The sisters, granddaughters of the wealthy industrialist David Davies, Llandinam, left behind an extraordinary legacy at Gregynog - it was home to their famous private collection of paintings (bequeathed to the National Museum of Wales) and also hosted the Gregynog Festival which continues to this day in the Hall's intimate Music Room.

Commenting Rhian Davies said: "It is a great privilege to be the custodian of the Gregynog Festival and the remarkable musical tradition at Gregynog Hall. Inspired as always by the Davies sisters, I have curated a musical and literary programme for this important centenary year that celebrates their heritage in Mid Wales as well as placing them within the wider context of other great Welsh patronesses of the past."

### **Programme**

#### **Wednesday 17 June, 1.00pm - National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, SY23 3BU**

Dr Rhian Davies - 'Communicating loveliness to others': Patronesses of music in Wales

Gregynog Festival 2020 celebrates 100 years since Gwendoline and Margaret Davies purchased Gregynog Hall on 31 July 1920. The Festival's Artistic Director discusses the season which considers the sisters as part of a tradition of musical patronage by women at Welsh country houses.

#### **Friday 19 June, 7.30pm - St Michael and All Angels Church, Kerry, SY16 4NX**

The dynamic chamber-folk band VRi, winners of Best Album at the 2019 Wales Folk Awards, are joined by the historians Peter Lord and Rhian Davies to explore music from the collections of Elizabeth Jenkins (Eos y Bele, d.1854) and her husband Rev. John Jenkins (Ifor Ceri, 1770-1829). This repertoire would have been performed in Kerry Church when Mr Jenkins was Vicar, 1807-29, and the couple lived at The Moat.

**Saturday 20 June, 4.30pm - Gregynog, Tregynon, SY16 3PW**

Dr Shaun Evans - Property, payments and patronage: The account book of Elizabeth Giffard of Nerquis Hall

The Director of the Institute for the Study of Welsh Estates at Bangor University introduces the fascinating life of Elizabeth Giffard (1766-1842), a female estate owner in nineteenth-century Wales.

**Saturday 20 June, 7.30pm - Gregynog, Tregynon, SY16 3PW**

'Forgive, blest shade': Music for a Welsh patroness

The brilliant German harpist, Maximilian Ehrhardt, who specialises in playing historic instruments, recreates the sound world of Elizabeth Giffard by performing selections from her music book on a single-action harp. Maximilian's recital includes repertoire by Welsh and European composers represented in the manuscript, including Benjamin Cunnah (1775-1840) who worked at Nerquis Hall, Wynnstay and Erddig.

**Sunday 21 June, 4.30pm - Gregynog, Tregynon, SY16 3PW**

Dr Rhian Davies - 'Communicating loveliness to others': Patronesses of music in Wales

Another opportunity to hear the Artistic Director speak about Welsh patronesses of music, including Mariamne Johnes (1784-1811) of Hafod, and her Italian music master Giuseppe Viganoni (1753-1822), who have inspired tonight's concert.

**Sunday 21 June, 7.30pm - Gregynog, Tregynon, SY16 3PW - Lea Desandre & Ensemble Jupiter**

Ensemble Jupiter, the multi-award-winning early music group directed by the lutenist Thomas Dunford and mezzo-soprano Lea Desandre make their UK debut in the Music Room with a programme of virtuosic showpieces by Vivaldi.

**Box Office**

For further information about Gregynog Festival 2020 visit: [www.gregynogfestival.org](http://www.gregynogfestival.org)

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Ends

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You can follow the Festival on Facebook



@gregynogfest

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