

# BERTIE THE BEAVER LEADS A MUSICAL TAKEOVER OF BEVERLEY ON NEW PATHS

***New Paths Music Festival is exploring new ways to engage as many people as possible in a musical journey round Beverley. No matter your age or musical preference, there is literally something for everyone!***

Expect something very different on Saturday 7th April when the Bells of St Mary's wake the town to a day of music-for-all. Then follows 10 more events at 10 more venues for all to enjoy - and to prove you have been there, you can get a stamp card to stamp at the venues. Attend more than 8 events and you could win a prize! All the events are free, except for the legendary New Paths ploughman's lunch served in the Minster Parish Hall for £5 - well, you will need something to keep you going as the events go on until 4.30pm!

Events on the day will be held in a diverse range of places - indoors at the Guildhall, Masonic Hall, Minster, Toll Gavel Church, Peter Hall Violins and East Riding Theatre and outside on Syntan Barge at the Beck, Flemingate and Market Cross. There might also be some pop-up events along the way! There will be two more scheduled events on the 7th - a Jorvik Evensong at Beverley Minster at 5pm (also free) sung by the choir of Jesus College, Cambridge, who will be the 'Choir-in-Residence' during the festival. Then a Festival Ceilidh with 'the finest ceilidh band in the UK', Triple Scotch, at the Memorial Hall (with an optional pie-and-pea supper) which rounds off the day from 7.30pm. Do save some energy for that!

The festival is the brain-child of Roland Deller and Libby Burgess. Roland grew up in Beverley, singing in the Minster Choir and the East Riding Orchestra whilst attending Longcroft School before pursuing a career in finance; his parents are resident in the town. Libby first came to Beverley in 2013 after meeting Roland; they were introduced by a mutual friend who happens to be the conductor of the Jesus College Cambridge Choir! Libby, who is an internationally renowned accompanist was looking to set up a festival but where? When she came to Beverley, she knew she had found the perfect location! Libby said: "The warmth of the welcome from the people of Beverley from so many different walks of life is amazing and this has been transferred into the festival. Many of the audience are not traditional classical music fans, encouraged by the fact that at least half of the events won't cost a penny.

Although I'm Artistic Director, ideas for events come from the artists, the venues and the audiences - how many opportunities do you get to watch a choir rehearse; hear from three world-famous (female) composers talking about their life's work whilst enjoying a cuppa or get to sing a solo piece of your choice in an informal setting? On top of this there are workshops, masterclasses and sessions for children and young people who are budding brass or organ players and social events at a variety of Beverley's lovely venues, which mean that everyone, audience and artists, will get the chance to mingle."



New Paths this year promises to go beyond the expectations even of the organisers! It is now a registered charity, thanks to some very generous founder donors, and the festival can now access grants to ensure its sustainability going forward. This means Roland and Libby are able to reach out to people who might, in the past, have been unable to access such fine music.

For example, one of their ventures this year is with Frederick Holmes School in Hull which caters for children with severe disabilities and profound



and multiple needs. New Paths artists have been working with some of the children to create original music which will be performed as Item 11 at Toll Gavel United Church on April 7th. It could be the highlight of the festival! This year there is also a 'warm-up week' from Monday 2nd April (Easter Monday) until the festival-proper starts on Thursday 5th - Sunday 8th April, which includes a trip out to Selby. Putting on a week-long festival is not a cheap undertaking, grants or no, and individuals and businesses are encouraged to help with sponsorship of artists, events or days or by becoming a 'Founder Friend'.

More details can be found on the New Paths website: [www.newpathsmusic.com](http://www.newpathsmusic.com) or contact Roland direct on [roland@newpathsmusic.com](mailto:roland@newpathsmusic.com). 'Founder Friends' get treated to a special concert featuring Matt Wadsworth playing lute and theorbo - but the venue is only revealed to those who sign up to be a 'Friend'!

Keep in touch with New Paths news on **Facebook** and **@NewPathsMusic** on **Twitter**. Tickets, day and festival passes are already on sale through the East Riding Theatre Box Office on **01482 874050** or [boxoffice@eastridingtheatre.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@eastridingtheatre.co.uk) or may be available on the door on the day.

Registration is recommended for some of the unticketed or free events by emailing: [admin@newpathsmusic.com](mailto:admin@newpathsmusic.com) - check out the website to find out which ones: [www.newpathsmusic.com/events-2018](http://www.newpathsmusic.com/events-2018)