

# INTERNATIONAL ORGAN FESTIVAL

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## Folk gets in the festival spirit at Organetto concert

**F**olk at the Maltings becomes part of the IOFringe when it stages Organetto, a concert featuring smaller members of the organ family, from 8pm next Friday, July 10.

The line-up includes Leveret, a trio including leading players of free reed instruments, some of the smaller members of the organ family. Made up of Andy Cutting, Rob Harbron and Sam Sweeney, Leveret will be supported by young melodeon player Saul Bailey and local trio, Said the Maiden.

Leveret is a new trio with melodeon player Andy much in demand both as soloist and accompanist. Sam is the fiddle

player in Bellowhead and 2015 BBC Radio 2 Folk Musician of the year and Rob has virtually reinvented the English concertina.

Each is regarded as a master of their instrument and has worked with a huge range of artists before deciding to come together as an instrumental trio. Leveret's music is firmly rooted in the English tradition but each performance is improvised, ensuring that no two shows are ever the same.

St Albans-based vocal trio Said the Maiden is making waves on the national folk scene. Jess Distill (vocals, flute, whistles, ukulele), Hannah Elizabeth (vocals, violin, accordion, mandolin) and Kathy Pilkinton (vocals, guitar, clarinet) sing traditional and contemporary

English, Irish and American folk songs, creating their own arrangements, often in acapella three-part harmony.

Saul Bailey, from North Herts, plays mainly English traditional music on melodeon and English concertina and was a finalist in 2014 and 2015 in the St Albans New Roots event for young musicians. He enjoys experimenting with old and new folk tunes mainly from England, with some influences from overseas.

Tickets are £12, students £10 and under 16s £6, on the door or in advance at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/ovo](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ovo), by phone on 0333 666 3366 or in person at St Albans Tourist & Information Centre, Town Hall, Market Place on 01727 864511.



■ Leveret

## Fringe precedes festival start

A week of fringe events around the city precedes the start of the St Albans International Organ Festival next Saturday, July 11.

Opening proceedings in the festival proper are ensemblebash at 12.30pm in St Saviour's Church, regarded as Britain's leading percussion ensemble.

At 7.30pm in the cathedral, St Albans Bach Choir and Sinfonia Verdi present two British choral masterpieces, Dona Nobis Pacem by Ralph Vaughan Williams and the

theatrical and rhythmic, Belshazzar's Feast by William Walton.

Also to be found across the festival period, which runs until July 18, are sopranos Joan Rodgers and Kate Semmens, Orchester Wiener Akademie playing Mozart and Haydn, dance, choirs, harpsichord and many organ recitals.

For full details of all the events in the festival and to book tickets go to [www.organfestival.com](http://www.organfestival.com). The box office is open daily in the cathedral.



■ ensemblebash

## Barn hosts festival art show

An art exhibition which sits alongside the International Organ Festival is being held in Kingsbury Barn in Branch Road, St Albans, and opens to the public next Wednesday, July 8.

Debenhams Ottaway is sponsoring the exhibition which features the work of established artists from Herts and beyond who produce mixed media art, ceramics, silverware, sculpture and glasswork.

They include Virginia Corbett, Leo Cincicolo, Dick Onians, Juliet Nail-Cain and Dione Verulam.

The exhibition will be launched at a private view next Tuesday, July 7, and will be open to the public from 11am to 5pm daily until July 18.



## Garden party gets set to rock the Fringe fest

An eclectic mix of music acts and street entertainers to complement this year's St Albans International Organ Festival (IOF) get underway from this Saturday, July 4. IOFringe as it has been dubbed runs until next Saturday, July 11, and offers an extensive programme of live music, street performance and workshops.

That includes live music at the Clock Tower and Christopher Place or rock, jazz and blues at the Vintry Garden on the second Saturday.

The IOFringe Garden Party in the Vintry Garden also takes place next Saturday, July 11, and will close the fringe festival as the IOF begins. It will feature Fat Walter's Band, Tuesday Club, Livzi Em, Daria Kulesh, Rae Kelly and The Hill Street Blues Band.

A celebration of Paddy the recently departed and much-loved Accordion Man, will also take place on his busking pitch. Street performance comes in the shape of The Dragon and Balloonatic. At Christopher Place there will also be live music and a community



■ Tuesday Club

piano. In addition, there are opportunities to make music by joining workshops in harmonica with Keith Parker, didgeridoo and WOOFY!, a wooden, one octave organ. IOFringe is provided by a partnership of the district council and St Albans Arts Team.

Leader of St Albans council, Cllr Julian Daly, said: "The new IOFringe provides a fascinating mix of music and entertainment designed to

complement the St Albans International Organ Festival. The Organ Festival and its fringe will attract people with a range of musical tastes to the City. I hope they explore both and support the local visitor economy at the same time." A full programme of IOFringe events is available at St Albans Tourist Information Centre and at other participating venues. Details can also be downloaded at [www.enjoystalbans.com/iofringe](http://www.enjoystalbans.com/iofringe).

## Jazz with dinner for diners

Leading jazz musicians are performing live at a city centre restaurant during the International Organ Festival.

Festival Jazz brings a quartet of musicians to Lussmanns in St Albans from next Wednesday, July 8, until July 19.

Appearing from July 8 to 10 will be pianist Dom Pipkin who records and tours with Paloma Faith as well as being leader of Ronnie Scott's regulars Dom Pipkin & the Ikos.

From July 11 to 13, it will be the turn of Bob Hadrell, The Barcodes and Incredible Blue Puppies pianist, while from July 14 to 16, Iain MacKenzie will be performing classic jazz and swing standards with a contemporary edge.

Completing the line-up from July 17 to 19 is Gareth Hunt who studied classical and jazz piano at the Guildhall School and has led his own quartet and trio.

All performances start at approximately 8pm and are free to guests dining at Lussmanns. Reservations can be made directly with the restaurant on 01727 851941 or online via [www.lussmanns.com](http://www.lussmanns.com), where the full line-up can also be found.



■ Iain MacKenzie