



For immediate release

12 July 2022

‘Oh, What a Night’ at the Leeds Castle Concert

This year’s patriotic Leeds Castle Concert over delivered with a Jubilee cocktail of world-class music, captivating soloists and ground shaking field guns. Added to the mix, was a spine-tingling Spitfire flyover and two firework displays that danced to the music, leaving the audience truly elated.

As John Rigby opened the event to introduce swing band **Down for the Count**, it was clear this concert would be a special one and the audience confirmed this as the night progressed.

Thousands of excited party goers filled the hill in front of the stage, all enjoying the perfect view that Leeds Castle’s natural amphitheater provides, with the stunning back drop of the castle itself. A dazzling sea of red, white and blue was created, as flags were waved in appreciation of the world class performances, making it such an uplifting and wonderful occasion.

A very special ‘royal’ guest made a surprise appearance much to the audience’s delight. Her ‘Royal Highness’ was warmly received as she chatted to people walking through the crowd and graciously posed for selfies on her throne.

As the sun shone, **Down for the Count** opened the show and got everyone concert ready with their blend of tunes from the Swing era. Performed in their own unmistakable style and fun approach that engaged the audience with their humour and entertainment style, setting the scene for much more to come.

John Rigby returned as Conductor and Artistic Director, masterfully conducting the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The first half opened with ‘Fanfare for the Common Man’ leading the way for a stunning set of classical pieces concluding with ‘Pomp & Circumstance No.1’.

All eyes were to the sky to watch the magnificent Spitfire roar overhead above the 900-year-old Castle to open the second half and John donned a dazzling sequin jacket to lead a finale of recent songs including ‘Sweet Caroline’.

Kelly Mathieson made her debut performance with an emotional rendition of ‘Send in the Clowns’. In contrast **Louise Dearman** was back for her fourth appearance. Her recital of ‘Let it Go’ connected with the audience as they sang along. She was later



joined for a duet with **Jon Robyns** singing the perfect choice of song 'Especially for You'. Critically acclaimed Welsh tenor **Timothy Richards** delighted the audience with a pitch perfect performance of the classical favourite, Nessun Dorma.

John Rigby told us:

"It was amazing to be back at Leeds Castle for such a glorious summer evening of music making! I think the breadth of this year's concert was the broadest yet - hopefully ensuring that there truly was something for everyone! I can't wait for next year - it really is the most special event!"

The audience erupted at the penultimate performance of 'Dancing Queen'. The event finished, on this Jubilee year, with an emotional finale of 'God Save the Queen' and the audience were in full voice. Images on the big screens showed visits the Queen had made to Kent over the years.

Some feedback from our audience:

"We attended to celebrate our wedding anniversary and it didn't disappoint. It's not just for classical music lovers! We went as a group of eight, four of which were children and they equally thoroughly enjoyed it! Lots to see and do, we will 100% be there again next year. Well done to the organisers!" Mr & Mrs Tempest from Charing

"Having never been to the Leeds Castle Classical Summer Concert before, we were bowled over by the organisation that went into making this event such a success and of course, The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra was absolutely amazing. The combination of music, singing and fireworks created an atmosphere that is something I have never quite experienced and with the added celebration of our Queen's Platinum Jubilee, seeing everyone come together on theme to celebrate this event, made an evening that will remain unforgettable, a truly 'proud to be British' moment. Thank you." James Farmer from Canterbury

Every year a charity benefits from a collection raised at the Leeds Castle Concert. This year Heritage Events who organise the event, choose the Leeds Castle Charitable Foundation.

Award-winning law firm **Brachers** were headline sponsor of the Leeds Castle Concert for the sixth year.

Join us on Saturday 8th July 2023 for a truly memorable evening, you will be enthralled by world-class music, captivated by famous performers, and amazed by our fireworks finale – all this while you have fun with your friends sipping champagne.

Tickets are now on sale until 31st August at our Early Bird prices of £47 picnic and £57 seated. Purchase ten or more tickets and receive a 10% discount.

-ENDS-



EDITORS NOTES

Event name Leeds Castle Concert
2022 date: Saturday 9th July 2022
2023 date: Saturday 8th July 2023



2022 event logo



2023 event logo

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