

**4 December 2017**

**Grassington Festival has announced its dates for the Headliners and Highlights for 2018**

Grassington Festival has announced the acts who will be headlining next year's hugely popular event, including a rather fabulous twist to the usual format.

The final weekend gets off to an amazing start with Friday Night's Party Night in the Marquee on 29 June, presenting a unique and exciting performance by British Electric Foundation, brainchild of Martyn Ware of The Human League and Heaven 17 fame. The night will showcase a stellar line-up featuring the full Heaven 17 band plus special guests including: Peter Hooton (The Farm) Glen Matlock (The Sex Pistols) Jaki Graham, Mari Wilson and of course, Glenn Gregory from Heaven 17. It's going to be a great party night, topped off by the ever-popular resident Festival DJ.

Saturday 30 June will, for the first time, bring a full day of Festival Fun down at the Festival Field. Kicking off at 12 noon, there will be entertainment for all the family right through till 11pm. Promising a fantastic mix of local bands and musicians from all over the country, food and drink, magic and top-notch entertainment, the day rounds off with a show-stopping performance by The Fratellis. Songs such as the incredibly addictive Chelsea Dagger and Whistle for the Choir, will be interspersed with tracks from their new album, In Your Own Sweet Time, which is released March 2018. With their thrilling mix of razor-sharp guitar riffs, punchy piano stabs and melodies you could hang your coat on, this is sure to be a fitting end to a brilliant day.

Other Festival Highlights include the legendary Smokie who will perform in the Festival in the Field Marquee on Wednesday 27 June. Originally hailing from Bradford, the band continue to enjoy international success, with sell-out tours and over 25 million albums sold worldwide. Appealing to old and new fans alike, expect plenty of fun and audience participation as the band rekindle hits such as Living Next Door to Alice.

Classical offerings include The Gala Concert on Sunday 17 June in the delightful setting of Bolton Abbey Priory. An exciting programme of Mozart will be performed by acclaimed soprano Peyee Chen, prize-winning concert violinist, Sophie Rosa, BBC music fellow, Ben Crick and classical partners, Skipton Building Society Camerata.

On Sunday 24 June, Grassington Festival and Skipton music present the Benyounes Quartet, at the stunning Scargill House in Kettlewell. Celebrating its 10-year anniversary, the Benyounes Quartet has forged a reputation for fresh, vivid performances and interpretations of refinement and integrity. It is certain to be an unforgettable afternoon of classical music.

Grassington Festival brings a remarkable calibre of artists and performers to this beautiful Dales village. The level of talent and diversity is staggering and next year's Festival, now in its 38<sup>th</sup> year, promises to deliver once again.

Running over 15 days, there will be music, art, free events and creative fun from 15 June to 30 June 2018. Further artists will be announced over the coming weeks and the full programme is due to be released in March. Organisers are gearing up with tickets for the acts announced so far to go on general sale from Monday 11 to Friday 15 December.

These can be purchased from the Festival Box Office at the Hub in Grassington Square, open 10am till 4pm and online via the website, 24 hours a day and at weekends. From December 16, tickets can still be purchased online.

Next week- look out for Festival Fringe news and details.

Further information about these highlights can be found on the Festival website at:

[www.grassington-festival.org.uk](http://www.grassington-festival.org.uk)

### **ADDITIONAL NOTES TO EDITOR:**

For all press enquiries contact Rosemary Pegg, at [press@grassington-festival.org.uk](mailto:press@grassington-festival.org.uk).

High resolution images are available upon request.

### **About Grassington Festival**

Founded in 1980, Grassington Festival is a not for profit, registered charity. This annual multi-arts festival takes place across the last two weeks of June in the heart of the beautiful Yorkshire Dales, with close to 100 events in a diverse and varied programme. The Festival aims to deliver a wide ranging programme of high quality, top-class performances and workshops, alongside community involvement. Its mission is to educate, in the broadest sense, by providing enjoyable experiences for all, and encouraging active involvement – from audiences, Sponsors, Friends, volunteers and the local community at large.