

FORT WILLIAM MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL 2009

6 - 14 March

A celebration of mountain culture

<http://www.mountainfestival.co.uk>

News Release - Friday 20 February 2009

4-MALITY TO OPEN A NEW SCHOOL OF ROCK!

Nevis Connections Evening presented by The Nevis Partnership
Wednesday 11 March 2009

As part of the Nevis Connections Evening at this year's Fort William Mountain Festival, on Wednesday 11 March 2009, the world-renowned 4-MALITY percussion quartet will premiere a new work inspired by the mountains and developed by school children and youth groups from the Lochaber area, following an afternoon workshop.

Participants of the workshop will be drawn from Lochaber secondary schools, outlying High Schools and local youth groups. The workshop will offer percussion skills and hands on experience of a wide range of percussion instruments. It will also offer the chance to develop skills in improvisatory composition work and creative approaches to the use of found materials in music. Rocks from the Lochaber Geopark, together with found objects, including gravel, twigs and pebbles from the Nevis area, will provide instruments and inspiration for the 4-MALITY percussion quartet and their workshop attendees.

The workshop will culminate in a performance of the composition Rock and Rhythm as the opening piece of the Nevis Connections Evening. Combined with audio-visual projections of the Nevis Mountain Range and surrounding landscape the evening performance of this unique percussion composition aims to echo the powerful sweeping majesty of the mountains. The 4-MALITY Percussion Quartet will be present throughout the evening performing pieces from their internationally toured repertoire.

4-MALITY is one of the world's most compelling and innovative percussion quartets. It was formed by Adrian Spillett, the first percussionist to win the prestigious BBC Young Musicians Competition. The 4-MALITY artists have command of over eighty drums, gongs, cymbals and tuned percussion. The music and performance is unique. Defying categorisation, it is visually spectacular, physically demanding and presented with the skill and artistry of dedicated chamber musicians.

The Nevis Connections Evening is the cultural hub of the Fort William Mountain Festival incorporating music, poetry, photography and film, including contributions from professionals and local amateurs. This year, as well as the 4-MALITY percussion performances, the event will feature readings by poets and writers, Linda Cracknell and Hamish MacDonald; the screening of a film based on the Gallop and Grind charity event and prize giving for the Festival's English and Gaelic writing competitions. Compered by Dick Balharry, former chairman of John Muir Trust, this year's Nevis Connections Evening promises to be an arts event like no other.

High School students and youth group members (between the ages of 11 and 25) in the Lochaber and Highlands areas keen to be part of the 4-MALITY percussion workshop and

evening performance can contact Liz Wilshaw, Administrator, The Nevis Partnership on 01397 701088 or info@nevispartnership.co.uk. The workshop is free to attend and runs from 3pm to 5.30pm with the Rock and Rhythm performance taking place at 7pm.

ENDS

For further information contact Paddy Cuthbert from Podge Publicity on 07968 699 636 or email Paddy@podge.co.uk

Notes to Editors:

Name of Event: Nevis Connections Evening

A Nevis Connections Day event presented by The Nevis Partnership

Brief description: Join the celebrations of the iconic Nevis name as The Nevis Partnership brings us a fabulous programme of music, poetry, prose, photography and film with special guests, 4-MALITY Percussion Quartet and poets/writers, Linda Cracknell and Hamish MacDonald. Highlights include a multi-media performance of the new collaborative percussion piece, Rock and Rhythm, inspired by the Nevis landscape, more mesmerising music by 4-MALITY, readings by our guest writers and the results and prize giving for the Festival's English and Gaelic writing competitions

For further information contact The Nevis Partnership on 01397 701088 or info@nevispartnership.co.uk

Date: Wednesday 11 March 2009

Venue: Nevis Centre Festival Theatre, Fort William

Time: 7-10pm

Price: £6/£2 for under 16's, young groups Ticket (5 or more) just £1 per head

To book tickets: 01397 705005 for group offer, 01397 700001 full price/concession tickets only <http://www.mountainfestival.co.uk/tickets.asp> from mid-December. All online sales are subject to a £2 fee. This can be redeemed against the price of a Festival T-shirt (£10 instead of £12).

Nevis Centre, An Aird, Fort William

Festival Info: 01397 700 001 / info@mountainfestival.co.uk

4-MALITY

4-MALITY percussion quartet is a world-class ensemble with an excellent track record of performance and education work. The quartet was selected for this workshop/performance because of its unique combination of relevant experience, enthusiasm and commitment to the project as a whole, including the links with the environment; and its willingness to allow participants practical access to the group's own vast range of instruments. <http://www.4-mality.com/>

The influences in the music are so diverse that 4-MALITY concerts always appeal to a wide audience. Comparisons with the music of Japan, Africa, the Caribbean and the minimalism of Steve Reich are common, providing the audience with a sense of familiarity amidst the excitement of experiencing something new.

'...as much performance art as it is music.'_The Guardian

'...superbly virtuosic!'_Western Australian Times

4-MALITY have performed in many prominent venues and at world renowned festivals including the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, The Berlin Philharmonie, Manchester's Bridgewater Hall, London's Wigmore Hall and Purcell Room, The Snape Proms, Rhythm

Sticks, The Cheltenham Festival, The Bath Festival and The Edinburgh Fringe. International tours have taken the group to Australia, Taiwan, Turkey, France, Spain, Ireland, Belgium and Finland.

Commissioned works are at the heart of 4-MALITY's originality. Composers who write for the group are Jan Bradley, Ian Vine, Benjamin Wallfisch, Russel Du Plessis, Julian Warburton, Eric Sammut, Dinuk Wijeratne and Geir Rafnsson.

As a member of 4-MALITY, Jan Bradley's compositions play a vital role in the quartet. His works embody the 4-MALITY ethos, demanding high energy, great dexterity and showcasing some unorthodox percussion instruments! The result is virtuosic, flamboyant and an experience not to be missed!

THE FORT WILLIAM MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL

The Fort William Mountain Festival 2009, presented with The Nevis Partnership, is a nine-day celebration of mountains and the culture that surrounds them. It runs from 6 - 14 March 2009. During the best winter walking and climbing conditions of the year, audiences will be entertained by a varied and packed programme of mountain sports, films, lectures, guided walks, workshops, exhibitions, literature, photography and music for residents and visitors who want to learn about and celebrate mountain culture.

The full programme for the 2009 Fort William Mountain Festival can be found at - <http://www.mountainfestival.co.uk>.

Mountains inspire us all in different ways - and you won't find a better example of the diversity of mountain culture than in this year's festival lectures and films. Discover the excitement of extreme whitewater kayaking, the drama of Dave MacLeod's envelope-pushing climbs, the fascinating story of Scottish skiing, the secrets of high-alpine climbing and the rich heritage of the working mountains. Plus we celebrate the iconic Nevis name and enjoy the very best in mountain films from around the world.

BOOKING MAIN FESTIVAL EVENT TICKETS:

T: 01397 700 707

W: <http://www.mountainfestival.co.uk/tickets.asp>

All online sales are subject to a £2 fee. This can be redeemed against the price of a Festival T-shirt (£10 instead of £12).

FESTIVAL INFORMATION:

T: 01397 700 001 / E: info@mountainfestival.co.uk

NEVIS PARTNERSHIP - Presenting Partner of The Fort William Mountain Festival

A charitable company formed in 2003 to guide future policies and actions affecting Ben and Glen Nevis and the surrounding area. The Partnership is committed to protecting, managing and maintaining this unique and special environment in a sustainable and balanced way. <http://www.nevispartnership.co.uk>

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