

ARUNDEL FESTIVAL REVIEW 2007



Arundel Castle lit up by a spectacular firework display

The famous Arundel Festival attracts visitors from all over the world. The extensive grounds and parts of the Castle are used as a venue for everything from classical, rock and pop to drama and operetta.

In 2007 the Arundel Festival took a step forward with a fourth night of music delivering a total entertainment package for those coming to enjoy the festival.



Arundel Castle in dusk with Natasha Marsh in full voice

With headline acts such as classical singers Alfie Boe and Natasha Marsh opening the concert weekend on Friday 24 August followed by a huge firework display by Michael Lakin, the festival really did start the way the organisers hoped for. With no rain and plenty of sunshine, what more could one ask for to enjoy both Castle concerts and the various Fringe & Madfest festival events taking place around the town of Arundel.



Fans, Girls Aloud and Jamelia in action at Arundel Castle

Theatre lovers were treated to Rossini's great comic opera 'The Barber of Seville' in the magnificent Baron's Hall. Glorious singing and knockabout comedy brought huge applause from the audience at the end of the evening.



Fans of Level 42, Girls Aloud, Jamelia & Shayne Ward at Arundel Castle



Mark King with a Level 42 experience



Jamelia rocks the lower lawns



Shayne thrills the crowds



The girls in action at Arundel Castle

ARUNDEL FESTIVAL 2007 - MEDIA QUOTES/REVIEWS FROM 2007:

"Rising stars make it a night to remember"

Could there be a better way to spend a summer's evening sitting on the greensward below the Castle walls listening to a 60 piece orchestra and the thrilling singing of two young rising stars of the opera world? Yes, sitting there bathed in warm sunshine. Natasha showed great clarity and a range of emotions - the delicacy of 'O Mia Babbino', the jauntiness of 'Les Filles de Cadiz' and the tenderness of the duet from 'La Boheme' with Alfie Boe, a fine concert in a grand setting.'

Barrie Jerram - Brighton Argus review: Aug 2007

"Peachy evening... the history and trees setting was inimitable"

The weather was mercifully reformed, with a gentle, peachy evening....the history and trees setting was inimitable and pyrotechwhatevers had wallop and dazzle. The Marsh voice, nearly as alluring as her sheathy dress, duly charmed with 'O My Beloved Father' and the more challenging 'Ladies of Cadiz'. A delightful selection from 'West Side Story' and a couple of Neapolitan specials from Alfie. I haven't heard such a goodnatured groundswell all summer.

West Sussex Gazette - Terry Timblick

"Girls Aloud at their best in big party atmosphere"

It was Girls Aloud who stole the show on the final night of the Arundel Festival open-air Castle concerts. There was a party atmosphere with Jamelia setting the tone with an energetic performance followed by Shayne Ward playing some of his best songs such as his number one hit 'That's My Goal'. Enter Girls Aloud with their energetic dance routines and a string of top ten hits including the song everyone was waiting for, 'Love Machine'. It was the perfect end to the family fun concert which saw the Irish star woo his fans, Jamelia almost steal the show, were it not for the presence of five young women who had everyone in the crowd singing their hits all of the way to the car park.

Kelly Frank - West Sussex Gazette review: Aug 2007

"A cut above the rest" - The Barber of Seville - Barons Hall

Arundel Festival concerts moved out of the grounds into the sumptuous surroundings of the Baronial Hall, the open-air chill gave way to the warmth created by the packed audience for Rossini's great comic opera. An evening of knockabout comedy and glorious singing that soared up to the vast vaulted ceiling and at the end of the evening those same rafters echoed to the audience's applause.

Barrie Jerram - Brighton Argus review: Aug 2007

"We were blessed with good weather... I will certainly be spreading the word"

Just a line to say many thanks for Saturday evening at Arundel Castle, which was absolutely glorious. I thought all three singers – Alison Moyet, Lucie Silvas and Lemar were in fine voice, the orchestra was brilliant, the two 'compere' singers were excellent and of course, we were blessed with good weather, so couldn't have been better. I will certainly be spreading the word amongst my friends and colleagues for next year.

Verity - BSKYB

"Streets are alive - with art, music and jollity"

No matter how long you have lived in Arundel, dropping down the valley from the east, seeing its jutting profile from the south or looking at it from the train across the plain until it disappears from view, the fairytale Arundel Castle makes you catch your breath. Its aura draws one and in this romantic setting the Arundel Festival takes centre stage.

Debbie Kennedy - Arundel Diary

"A natural concert environment"

We had a great evening and it was lovely to see a sold out event. The production team were also really good to work with and the setting was excellent and lends itself to a natural concert environment.

Simon Osborne - Splash FM

"Level 42 really made the Lower Lawns come alive"

The highlight of the Arundel Festival Concerts 2007 was undoubtedly the brilliant Level 42 gig on Sunday 26th August that really made the Lower Lawns come alive. Some fans waited hours to be at the front for the band's only UK gig this year and others had travelled since early morning from the north of England, Devon and even Wales to be there. The concerts were held in a wonderful setting with good facilities; if the festival can continue to attract bands like Level 42 who can play such a brilliant gig and make the event so memorable for all those attending, it can only go from strength to strength.

Festival goer: Mary Field - London

"Absolutely superb"

The Arundel Festival this year was again blessed with good weather, absolutely superb, I took my girlfriend out of Tunbridge Wells to several of the concerts including Alfie Boe & Natasha Marsh, Level 42 and the pop night with Girls Aloud. All of the nights were very different which catered for both of our tastes in music, I am sure we will make it three in a row by coming back next year.

Festival goers: Charlotte & Andy - Tunbridge Wells

"We had a lovely time and wished we owned that Castle"

This was our second visit to the Arundel Festival in two years and we thoroughly enjoyed Level 42 and Jamelia & Girls Aloud. We went into Arundel town to listen to a few local bands and then onto the Castle for the first of our two night yearly music fest without the kids. We had a lovely time and wished we owned that Castle as we would have a concert in our own back garden every night.

Festival goer: Tina Field - St Leonards on Sea

"It was one of the best concerts we have ever been to"

I went to the final night of the Arundel Festival with my two cousins and friend. After queuing for a few hours we could not wait for it to start, and when it did it was amazing. Jamelia was on first and she really got the party started. Then the one we had been waiting for, Shayne Ward, what can I say he was outstanding. Then last on was Girls Aloud they were brilliant and sounded fantastic. It was one of the best concerts we have ever been to and we will all definitely be back next year to this great location at Arundel Castle.

Festival goer: Sarah Pope - Brighton

"Jamelia rocked, very impressed"

Our group thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Picnic idea was great, really made us relax and get in the mood for a party! I think we were all in one of those moods where we would have danced to anything that night! We enjoyed Lemar very much, our type of music! Jamelia rocked, very impressed and the weather, so lucky to have a rain-free four days, see you next year.

Festival goer: Claire Hollingsworth - Arundel

The fun, the excitement, the enjoyment... The 2007 Arundel Festival