

ARUNDEL FESTIVAL REVIEW 2008



Every night the Castle was lit by a huge firework display

This year's concerts were a real success and for the first time all the concerts were picnic style and each night was followed by a fabulous firework finale. Opera and Shakespeare also featured in this year's festival programme and the new Collector Earl's Garden was the spectacular setting for A Mid Summer Night's Dream.



The Levellers enthral the crowds with their best hits

Headline act The Levellers opened the Festival with support from Seth Lakeman and 3 Daft Monkeys, 'The Music of Queen – A Rock & Symphonic Spectacular' rocked the stage to a sold out audience on the Saturday night. Popular Yorkshire-born soprano Lesley Garrett entertained everyone on the last night with a programme of classical favourites accompanied by the National Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Philip Ellis.



Seth Lakeman in action on the opening night

The weekend concerts were bathed in sunshine and both the Castle and the organisers are looking forward to putting the 2009 picnic concert programme together.



The music of Queen, fans sing along to so many well known songs



Lesley Garrett performed with style, grace and elegance

Mid week saw theatre lovers treated to Mozart's delightful and popular light opera 'Cosi fan tutte' performed in full costume with original music by Candlelight Opera in the magnificent Barons' Hall.

For the first time in three years Shakespeare returned to the Castle in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', performed by the British Shakespeare Company in the new Collector Earl's Garden. Oberon's Palace was the centre stage for two nights and again the weather was kind to the 800 strong audiences who enjoyed the sell out performances.



A Mid Summer Nights Dream really was an excellent choice in superb surroundings

The fun, the anticipation, the excitement, the enjoyment, The Arundel Festival 2008 was a remarkable success and enjoyed by all.



The Levellers at Arundel Castle

"As a live act, they are phenomenal and the acoustics were fabulous as they mixed hits and anthems like a brilliant rendition of One Way and Beautiful Day with some new songs. Storm the castle they did. A great evening ended with fireworks (or was that The Levellers blasting the castle?) and I left with the words of Beautiful Day in my head "nothing is impossible".

By Nikki Jeffery - Worthing Herald review: Aug 2008

A Midsummer Night's Dream

"The garden in Arundel Castle - a tribute to Thomas Howard, 14th Earl of Arundel, nicknamed "The Collector" - provided a magical and idyllic setting. A joyous, humorous and physical rendition which delighted the audience on a beautiful and peaceful evening".

The Brighton Argus (Critic)

Concert Review

"Arundel Castle was a beautiful setting for a concert and everyone arrived in high spirits. The Cornish folk band 3 Daft Monkeys delivered a very energetic set that encouraged people to get up and dance. Despite this however Seth Lakeman stole the show for me and his thought provoking and emotive folk music was inspiring , it was easy to get lost in his music. It was no wonder that Lakeman was recently voted Folk singer of the year - utterly fantastic with no room for disappointment. The Levellers were on top form and 20 years of touring as a group together has clearly paid off - they delivered a great performance that still had the feeling of being spontaneous and responding to the crowd. Fireworks after the concert finished off a fantastic evening"

By Amanda Barnes - Haslemere Times and Mail (Main)

A Midsummer Night's Dream

"Shakespeare bounded back into Arundel festival with an outstanding production of a Midsummer Night's Dream in the perfect setting of Arundel Castle's new Collector Earl's Garden. The fabulous features of the garden cast their own mysterious shadows and added to the other-worldly realm of Shakespeare's unfolding story of fairies, spirits, moon-lit assignations and dreamy hours deep in the woodland. Coming just a few years after the memorable Arundel Festival production of the Dream by the outstanding Tour de Force company, this was a bold choice of play to bring back, but any fears of unfavourable comparisons were quickly dispelled by the quality of the acting."

By Roger Green - Littlehampton Gazette