

**DEAL
MUSIC
& ARTS**

**FESTIVAL
2026
03 - 12 JULY**



Box Office: 01304 370220 | dealmusicandarts.com/festival



TALK

Gavin Esler in Conversation with...

Broadcaster, writer and Deal resident Gavin Esler hosts a series of fascinating conversations with leading political figures. Deploying his expertise in history and current events and a forensic interviewing style honed by his years on BBC Two's Newsnight, he'll encourage his guests to share their opinions and experiences. Expect some surprising revelations!

Dame Penny Mordaunt Pomp and Circumstance

📅 Thursday 09/07

🕒 3pm

📍 The Astor Theatre

Gavin welcomes Dame Penny Mordaunt, former Conservative Cabinet Minister and famously the sword-bearer at the King's Coronation, to talk about *Pomp and Circumstance - Why Britain's traditions matter*. Her book, celebrating the traditions and values that underpin British life, offers a unique perspective from someone who has had a ringside seat at our national events and crises over many years.

See full listing for details.

Sir Jeremy Hunt MP Britain in a Dangerous World

📅 Friday 10/07

🕒 3pm

📍 The Astor Theatre

Gavin Esler's second guest is Sir Jeremy Hunt MP, formerly Conservative Health Secretary, Foreign Secretary and Chancellor of the Exchequer. As Britain struggles to find its place in a shifting world of geopolitics and economic uncertainty, Jeremy Hunt's experience in international relations, and his research for two recent books, *Can We Be Great Again - Why a dangerous world needs Britain*, and *Not Bust Yet: How to Fix the Economy*, will make for a fascinating discussion.

See full listing for details.

Lord Kinnock Can Britain be better than this?

📅 Saturday 11/07

🕒 3pm

📍 The Astor Theatre

To round off his series, Gavin Esler welcomes Neil Kinnock, one of the giants of the Labour Party, for an expansive look at British politics over the six decades since he was elected as MP for Bedwellty in 1970.

See full listing for details.

Design & Artwork: Howell & Hicks
www.hh-creative.com

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www.towerdesignandprint.co.uk

Kanneh-Mason cover image © Decca

Welcome to the 2026 Deal Festival

The 2026 Deal Festival brings a dynamic 10 days of the highest quality arts and music to Deal. We champion extraordinary young musicians through to established professionals at the top of their game. A highlight of 2026 will be the cello and piano duo Sheku and Isata Kanneh-Mason, two of the best-known musicians in the classical music world.

We continue to celebrate a wide range of genres and art forms. This year we build on the success of folk duo Spiers & Boden with the fabulously named Gigspanner Big Band which includes John Spiers. Wild Arts opera returns to present Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* in Sandwich and at the Astor Theatre you can take in Miles in the Sky with renowned jazz bassist Gary Crosby's quintet.

Respected broadcaster and Deal resident Gavin Esler will be presenting a series of conversations with well-known politicians – Neil Kinnock, Penny Mordaunt and Jeremy Hunt.

The festival spills out onto the streets on the opening Saturday with a Town Takeover and on Sunday we take up residence at the Captain's Garden, both events providing a celebration of artists from the community, from local musicians through to a bespoke art trail with South East Artists.

Thank you to all our Friends, Patrons, Donors and funders, including Esperanza Syndicate. Without your support it wouldn't be possible to present a festival of this quality.

A full list of our supporters can be found at www.dealmusicandarts.com/festival

Luke Styles, Artistic Director

Featuring our Young Artist in Association, Xiaowen Shang

In partnership with the Royal Academy of Music, each year we offer an opportunity for a young musician to embed themselves in the festival and create a series of events that reflect Deal, its history and communities. This year, outstanding pianist Xiaowen Shang will collaborate with our young musicians in Learning & Participation, play a lunch time concert and create a theatre and music show about Dickens' Women, all connected to Deal in different ways. Come and discover her unique response to the town and festival.

Composers in focus - Nneka Cummins and Michael Berkeley

This year we focus on two composers across four concerts in the festival. Both composers have distinct and unique voices and reflect different creative phases of their lives, Nneka Cummins a highly successful young composer and Michael Berkeley a composer with decades of experience from chamber music to opera. Catch these composers' works in lunchtime and evening concerts, come and say hello to them in person or hear them speak in pre-concert Q&As.



FRIDAY 03/07

FREE

The Tony Nandi ARPS Photographic Award

📅 03/07, 04/07, 07/07-11/07

🕒 10am-4pm. Duration: All day

📍 Linden Hall Studio, Deal

💷 FREE unticketed

An exhibition of the finalists' photographs of this year's Tony Nandi ARPS Photographic Award responding to the theme 'the Power of Music'. Tony Nandi lived and worked in Deal and continues to inspire emerging photographers.

The winner and runners up will be announced on July 12 at the Festival Day @ the Astor.

MUSIC



© Cameron Millar

Deal's Historic Walking Tour

WALK

🕒 10.30am. Duration: 60 mins

📍 Deal Pier Entrance, Deal

💷 Adult £10. Under 25 £5

Join local tour guide and character George Chittenden as he conjures up Deal's colourful history. Journey back to the Roman landings, meet the notorious smugglers of the 18th-century and hear tales of ghosts and shipwrecks. Even those who have lived in Deal for years will discover something they didn't know!

Book early as George always sells out.

Ewan Millar oboe Tomos Boyles piano

🕒 1pm. Duration: 70 mins

📍 St George's Church, Deal

💷 Adult £15. Under 25 £7.50

J.S. Bach	<i>Cantata BWV 156: Arioso</i>
Michael Berkeley	<i>Fierce Tears I</i>
Clara Schumann	<i>Three Romances, No.1</i>
Robert Schumann	<i>Abendlied</i>
Mozart	<i>Ah se in ciel, benigne stelle</i>
Poulenc	<i>Oboe Sonata</i>
Piazzolla	<i>Oblivion</i>

This lunchtime concert highlights the soulful voice of the oboe in a sparkling programme featuring Poulenc's much-loved *Oboe Sonata* and romantic works by Robert and Clara Schumann. The pairing of exceptional young oboe soloist Ewan Millar, a BBC Young Musician finalist, with rising Welsh pianist Tomos Boyles, makes for a memorable start to our series of lunchtime concerts. There will be a pre-concert conversation between Luke Styles and Composer in Focus, Michael Berkeley.

Supported by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust and the UK Artists Directory



FRIDAY 03/07

MUSIC

Betteshanger Colliery Welfare Band

Conductor: Mike West

🕒 7.30pm. Duration: 105 mins (inc. interval)

📍 St George's Church, Deal

💷 Adult £15. Under 25 £7.50

A rousing evening from the National Brass Band Championships award winners, this concert mixes brass band favourites with rock anthems from Freddie Mercury to the Rolling Stones and popular classics by Holst, Vivaldi and Rimsky-Korsakov. Betteshanger Brass is the jewel in the crown of the bands that sprang out of the mining communities of East Kent; their colourful, high energy programme will appeal to all generations.



SATURDAY 04/07 TOWN TAKEOVER

FREE



Music

- 🕒 10.30am-2.30pm. Duration: 4 hours
- 📍 St George's Church & High Street, Deal
- 💷 FREE unticketed

Deal High Street is hijacked by roving musicians, with Whitstable's brilliant Native Oysters Band leading the way! Follow the music to the gardens in front of St George's Church where you'll enjoy performances from local musicians and a child-friendly pop-up activity!



Paint Out

Art Trail with South East Artists

- 🕒 10.30am-2.30pm. Duration: 4 hours
- 📍 Locations around town, Deal
- 💷 FREE unticketed

Meanwhile, spot artists at their easels, all around town: in front of St George's, in the Astor bar, on the seafront by Deal Castle, on the beach by the Royal Hotel and Deal Pier and at the Gallery on the Beach in Walmer. See map towards the back of the brochure for locations. This event features artists from SEAS, a network for the vibrant artistic community in Deal and surrounding areas.

Joshua Le Gallienne

Single-Material Performance - a sound performance

- 🕒 3pm & 4pm. Duration: 20 mins each
- 📍 Deal beach, near the Pier
- 💷 FREE unticketed - donations welcome

Joshua uses sculpture, installation, and performance to stage intimate experiences exploring the relationship between sound, physical materials, and environmental phenomena. With Deal Beach as the dramatic backdrop, this site-responsive artwork utilises wind energy to produce acoustic sound from a single material: a biodegradable plastic sheet, to create a thought-provoking and unique experience for its audience.

In collaboration with Sound Art Brighton



© Georges Salameh

SATURDAY 04/07 SINGING DAY

MUSIC

Choral Singing Workshop Workshop Leader: Joanna Tomlinson

- 🕒 10am–5pm. There will be a lunch break
- 📍 St George's Church, Deal
- 💷 Adult £30. Under 25 £15

Joint ticket with Recordare concert

- 💷 Adult £45. Under 25 £20

Calling all keen choral singers! A fantastic chance to work with Joanna Tomlinson, Artistic Director of the Military Wives Choir, who has also sung with the BBC Singers and Gabrieli Consort. Joanna will work on choruses from Verdi's epic *Requiem*, ending in an informal performance at the end of the day. She will bring her lively approach to the art of singing, creating a practical and uplifting skills workshop. If you have experience of singing with a choir, seize this opportunity to work with one of the best choral leaders in the country.

See our website for all practical details.

*In collaboration with the Deal & Walmer
Handelian Choral Society*



Recordare - Beyond the Stars

MUSIC

Conductor: Olivia Tait

- 🕒 7.30pm. Duration: 105 mins (inc. interval)
- 📍 St George's Church, Deal
- 💷 Adult £25. Under 25 £12.50

Joint ticket with Choral Singing Workshop

- 💷 Adult £45. Under 25 £20

The warm, spacious acoustic of St George's Church makes a perfect setting for a choral programme celebrating the wonder of the stars. This performance by Recordare, a chamber choir comprising some of the finest young professional singers in the UK, is the culmination of a joyful day of singing. Their celestial-themed programme includes music through the centuries from Byrd and Monteverdi to Parry, Stanford and 21st-century composers Laura Mvula, Eric Whitacre and Christopher Brown, along with a piece by Composer in Focus, Nneka Cummins.

See our website for fuller programme details.



SUNDAY 05/07

FREE

Sunday at The Captain's Garden

- 🕒 10am-2pm. Duration: 4 hours
- 📍 The Captain's Garden, opposite Deal Castle
- 💷 FREE unticketed

Approximate times:

10am-11am: Storytelling walk for children aged 4-10 (children must be accompanied by an adult). Meet by the garden entrance.

11am-1pm: Music and dance

1pm-2pm: Poetry open mic session

Following 2025's popular event, this is another chance to bring the family to a celebration of music, storytelling, dance and poetry in this beautiful community garden. Starting with a storytelling walk through the garden for children and their families, with Naomi Cortes, there will be music and dance from a host of local performers. Rounding off the day, there's a poetry open mic session under the beautiful weeping tree at the end of the garden. Bring your deckchairs and picnic rugs – you're welcome to come for as long as you wish.

See our website for details of taking part in the poetry open mic.



THEATRE



© Asia Werbel

Charles Dickens' Women

Xiaowen Shang *piano*

Elizabeth Huskisson *actor*

- 🕒 3pm. Duration: 60 mins
- 📍 The Astor Theatre, Deal
- 💷 Adult £15. Under 25 £7.50

This tapestry of music and text is inspired by Dickens' female characters and musical muses, including his sister Fanny, a notable composer and pianist. The performance includes extracts from his writings, along with original readings from actor Elizabeth Huskisson. Pianist Xiaowen Shang, DMA's Young Artist in Association, has devised this programme to include works by Liszt, Mendelssohn, Bax, Fanny Dickens and a theme and variations based on Fanny's work by Xiaowen herself.

In partnership with the Royal Academy of Music

SUNDAY 05/07

MUSIC

Hoda Jahanpour's Ensemble Nomad with Dudù Kouate

Iona Kaye *soprano*

Elena Orsi & Ailsa Burns *violin*

Hoda Jahanpour *cello*

🕒 7pm. Duration: 105 mins (inc. interval)

📍 The Astor Theatre, Deal

💷 Adult £25. Under 25 £12.50

Last year's Young Artist in Association, Hoda Jahanpour, won hearts with her energy, invention and virtuosic cello playing. She returns to the festival with another exciting collaboration, bringing together her Manchester-based ensemble Nomad and Dudù Kouate, the internationally acclaimed Senegalese percussionist and multi-instrumentalist. Their sound merges Celtic folk, jazz, classical arrangements and African influences, drawing on Dudù's vast collection of instruments. The result is a vibrant and dynamic fusion of global rhythms, traditions and melodies.



MONDAY 06/07

MUSIC

Tamar File soprano
Anthony Halstead piano
Coffee Concert

- 🕒 11am. Duration: 60 mins
- 📍 St Andrew's Church, Deal
- 💷 FREE unticketed - donations welcome

A programme pairing two glorious Britten song collections celebrating Britain's culture and landscape with Mahler's poignant *Kindertotenlieder*. Distinguished horn player and pianist, Anthony Halstead, joins lyric soprano Tamar File.

This concert is promoted in association with St Andrew's Church

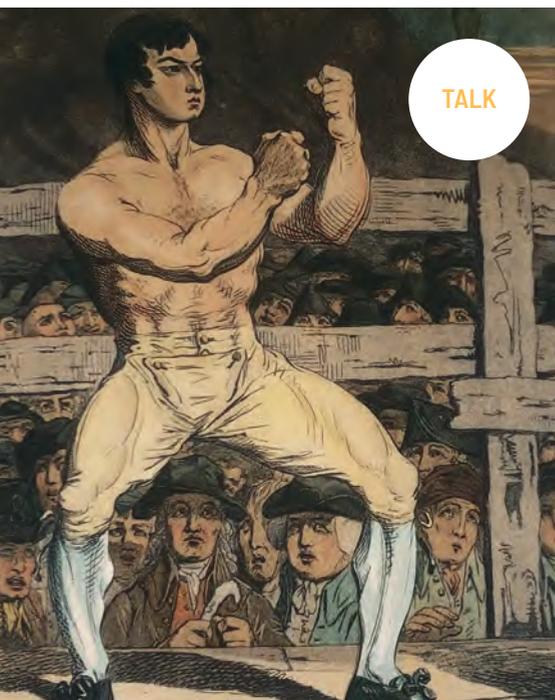


MUSIC

Players of One
World Orchestra

- 🕒 1pm. Duration: 60 mins
- 📍 Charlton Church, Dover
- 💷 Adult £5. Child FREE

One World Orchestra is a ground-breaking professional ensemble drawing players from diverse musical traditions. Joined by special musical guests, they will perform music and songs from around the world in the beautiful Charlton Church. This lively, interactive concert provides opportunities to be involved in music-making, or simply sit back, listen and enjoy.



TALK

Gawain Douglas
Fist, The Story of Prizefighting

- 🕒 5pm. Duration: 60 mins
- 📍 The Astor Theatre, Deal
- 💷 Adult £13. Under 25 £6.50

Lord Gawain Douglas, great grandson of the 9th Marquis of Queensberry, who devised the famous 'Queensberry Rules', draws on family records to recount the extraordinary history of pugilism. From the ancient Greeks and 18th and 19th-century bare-knuckle bouts, to boxing in the ring, he uses poems, anecdotes, illustrations and artefacts to reflect how men, like racehorses, were once treated as chattels.



© Emilie Bailey

MONDAY 06/07

MUSIC

Sacconi Quartet & Timothy Orpen *clarinet*

🕒 7.30pm. Duration: 110 mins (inc. interval)

📍 St George's Church, Deal

💷 Adult £25. Under 25 £12.50

Haydn *String Quartet No.3, "The Bird"*

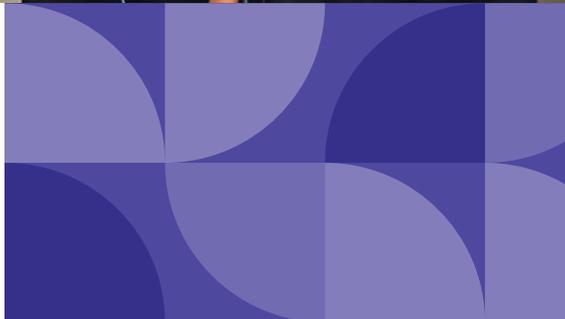
Luke Styles *Ripples of Como*

Purcell *Chacony*

Mozart *Clarinet Quintet*

One of the UK's most compelling string quartets at their peak. Celebrated at their annual Folkestone festival, Deal audiences will now have a chance to experience this superb quartet whose joyful communication has come from 25 years playing together. After Haydn's glorious *Bird Quartet*, they are joined by a leading light of the clarinet world, Timothy Orpen, for Mozart's magical *Clarinet Quintet* and for a virtuosic piece by DMA's Artistic Director, Luke Styles, written for him.

This concert is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Paddy Barrett MBE



TUESDAY 07/07

MUSIC

Xiaowen Shang *piano*

🕒 1pm. Duration: 60 mins

📍 Trinity Church, Deal

💷 Adult £15. Under 25 £7.50

Cohen *Russian Impressions*

Bartók *Six Dances in Bulgarian Rhythm*

Gibbons *Five Keyboard Pieces*

Bax *Piano Sonata No.2*

DMA's Young Artist in Association, pianist Xiaowen brings a programme inspired by another great pianist, Harriet Cohen, in whose footsteps she followed at the Royal Academy of Music. Xiaowen has chosen a fascinating selection of music dedicated to this extraordinary British pianist, at its heart the grand, romantic *Sonata No. 2* by Arnold Bax, Cohen's one-time lover, as well as a piece by Cohen herself.

In partnership with the Royal Academy of Music



© Ian Daisley

Gary Crosby Quintet Miles in the Sky

Gary Crosby *bass*

Denys Baptiste *saxophone*

Rod Youngs *percussion*

Andrew McCormack *piano*

Klara Devlin *trumpet*

🕒 Support Act: 6.45pm. Duration: 25 mins

🕒 7.30pm. Duration: 105 mins (inc. interval)

📍 The Astor Theatre, Deal

💷 Adult £25. Under 25 £12.50

Bassist, band leader and co-founder of Tomorrow's Warriors, Gary Crosby OBE leads his quintet in a celebration of the life, music, and impact of one of the most iconic jazz innovators of all time, Miles Davis. In the year that marks the 100th anniversary of Davis' birth, Gary's extraordinary quintet will be joined by Tomorrow's Warriors Emerging Artist and BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year finalist, Klara Devlin, on trumpet, to delve into the ground-breaking musical hallmarks of Davis' formidable Second Great Quintet between 1964 and 1968.

First on the programme tonight is DMA's own Creative Jazz Orchestra under their director Joe Browne. This intergenerational band meets regularly in Deal experimenting with improvisation, funk and groove. Tonight's programme features music by Nikki Iles, with whom the band collaborated last year in a concert with Norma Winstone's trio.



WEDNESDAY 08/07

Deal's Historic Walking Tour

🕒 10.30am. Duration: 60 mins

📍 Deal Pier Entrance, Deal

💷 Adult £10. Under 25 £5

Join local tour guide and character George Chittenden as he conjures up Deal's colourful history. Journey back to the Roman landings, meet the notorious smugglers of the 18th-century and hear tales of ghosts and shipwrecks. Even those who have lived in Deal for years will discover something they didn't know!

Book early as George always sells out.



WALK



MUSIC

Versa Winds

🕒 1pm. Duration: 70 mins

📍 Trinity Church, Deal

💷 Adult £15. Under 25 £7.50

Gershwin	<i>An American in Paris</i>
Rivier	<i>Grave et Presto</i>
Nneka Cummins	<i>Melody Please</i>
Ravel	<i>Le Tombeau de Couperin</i>

A concert from Versa Winds, a dynamic young saxophone quartet formed at the Royal College of Music in 2021. After recent performances at Kings Place and St James' Piccadilly, they bring an exciting selection of works showcasing their versatility, from jazz-infused Gershwin to Ravel's lyrical *Le Tombeau de Couperin*. There will be a pre-concert conversation between Luke Styles and Composer in Focus, Nneka Cummins.

© Marc Tunguz

WEDNESDAY 08/07

MUSIC



© Decca

Sheku Kanneh-Mason *cello* & Isata Kanneh- Mason *piano*

🕒 7pm. Duration: 100 mins (inc. interval)

📍 St George's Church, Deal

💷 Premium £42. Standard £37.

Upstairs (pews) £28

Upstairs (very restricted view) £15

Under 25 All half price

Mendelssohn *Cello Sonata No.1*

Boulanger *Three Pieces for cello and piano*

Schumann *Five pieces in Folk Style*

Clarke *Viola Sonata*

Sheku Kanneh-Mason first came to prominence winning BBC Young Musician, going on to perform at the wedding of Harry and Meghan in 2018. His pianist sister Isata opened the 2024 BBC Proms to rave reviews: "*superb, joyous, and utterly magnificent*".

Now this extraordinary duo, members of the multi-talented Kanneh-Mason family, come to Deal. Don't miss this unique chance to hear a spellbinding performance of music by Nadia Boulanger, Schumann, Mendelssohn and Rebecca Clarke.

THURSDAY 09/07

WALK

Hiding in Plain Sight

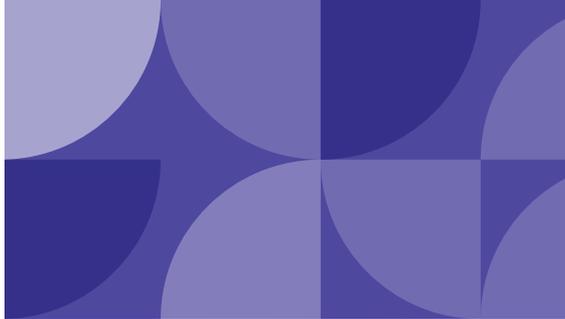
An architectural walk from Dover to Deal

- 🕒 10.30am. Duration: Approx 5.5 hours
- 📍 Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club, Dover
- 💷 Adult £18. Under 25 £9

A glorious ramble along the White Cliffs, this architecture walk from Dover to Deal is led by architect Charles Holland. It includes some of the nine 21st-century structures of CHALKUP21 as well as other buildings of interest along the route and will address issues of local history, art and the environment. Charles Holland's book *How to enjoy Architecture - a guide for everyone*, is published by Yale University Press.

Please note: This walk requires a good level of physical fitness. Tickets must be purchased in advance. See our website for all practical details before booking.

In association with Dover Arts Development



Jack Hancher guitar

MUSIC

- 🕒 1pm. Duration: 60 mins
- 📍 Trinity Church, Deal
- 💷 Adult £15. Under 25 £7.50

A triumphant return to the Festival for Jack Hancher, one of the UK's finest young classical guitarists. Jack's debut album *The Memory Garden* was described as "an enticing programme....played with incredible sensitivity and intelligence". His concert will include a performance of José's beautiful *Sonata for Guitar* and Malcolm Arnold's *Fantasy for Guitar* written for Julian Bream, along with music by Ravel, Albeniz and contemporary composers Laura Snowden and Composer in Focus, Michael Berkeley.

See our website for more details of the programme.



THURSDAY 09/07

TALK

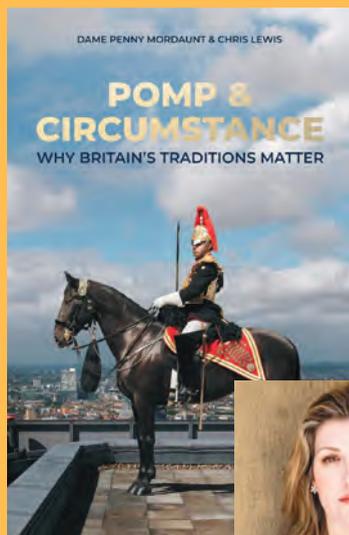
Gavin Esler in conversation with Dame Penny Mordaunt Pomp and Circumstance

- 🕒 3pm. Duration: 60 mins
- 📍 The Astor Theatre, Deal
- 💷 Adult £13. Under 25 £6.50

Gavin welcomes Dame Penny Mordaunt, former Conservative Cabinet Minister and famously the sword-bearer at the King's Coronation, to talk about *Pomp and Circumstance - Why Britain's traditions matter*. Her book, celebrating the traditions and values that underpin British life, offers a unique perspective from someone who has had a ringside seat at our national events and crises over many years.

There will be a book sale and signing in the Astor bar after the talk.

In association with The Deal Bookshop



Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing

THEATRE

Changeling Theatre
Director: Rob Forknall

- 🕒 7pm. Duration: 150 mins (inc. interval)
- 📍 In front of the keep, Dover Castle
- 💷 Adult £30. Under 25 £15

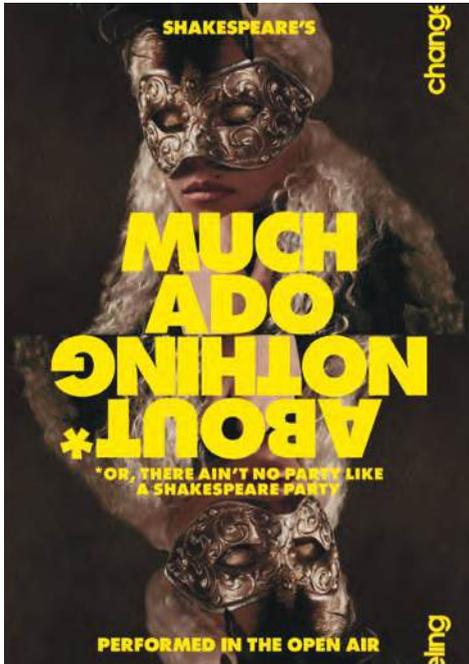
Join us in the spectacular surroundings of Dover Castle for Changeling Theatre's bold and unapologetically fun *Much Ado About Nothing*. It's sharp, it's funny, it's Shakespeare's ultimate romcom. Beatrice and Benedick swear they can't stand each other. Hero and Claudio seem picture-perfect until a little drama crashes their party. Lurking behind the cocktails and confetti is one deliciously devious Don John stirring up trouble. Just the thing for an English summer's night!



© English Heritage

THURSDAY 09/07

MUSIC



Please note: the gates to Dover Castle open at 6pm for the audience to enjoy a picnic. There are no chairs or seating in the grounds. Please bring your own picnic chairs to enjoy this outdoor performance. In the event of very bad weather, the performance will move to an indoor location on-site, in which case you will still need your own chair! Free, unlimited parking is available at the castle.

In association with English Heritage



Jazz at The Lighthouse Donovan Haffner Quintet

Donovan Haffner *alto sax*
Francisco Garcia De Paredes *guitar*
Jay Verma *piano*
Harry Pearce *double-bass*
Luke McCarthy *drums*

- 🕒 8pm. Duration: 105 mins (inc. interval)
- 📍 The Lighthouse, Walmer
- 💷 £ Adult £24. Under 25 £12

Alto sax talent Donovan Haffner and his quintet play selections from his acclaimed debut album *Alleviate*, which draws on influences such as Kenny Garrett and Freddie Hubbard, enhanced with his own distinctive style. Donovan was mentored by Gary Crosby, founder of Tomorrow's Warriors and still performs as part of the Tomorrow's Warriors family. He has also wowed audiences at London's Ronnie Scott's and Pizza Express.

Please note: doors open at 7pm

FRIDAY 10/07

MUSIC



© Clara Evens

Andrea Molteni *piano*

- 🕒 1pm. Duration: 70 mins
- 📍 St George's Church, Deal
- 💷 Adult £15. Under 25 £7.50

- J.S. Bach** *Toccata in C minor, BWV 911*
- Beethoven** *Sonata No. 21, "Waldstein"*
- Agatha Bocedi** *Ninfee*
- Brahms** *Sixteen Waltzes*

A lunchtime concert from an exciting young Italian piano talent, Andrea Molteni, who in a short time has built up an international profile and released three acclaimed albums. His concert will include one of Beethoven's greatest and most challenging piano sonatas, the *Waldstein* and Brahms' romantic *Sixteen Waltzes Op. 39*.

Supported by the Keyboard Trust

Gavin Esler in conversation with Sir Jeremy Hunt MP

Britain in a Dangerous World

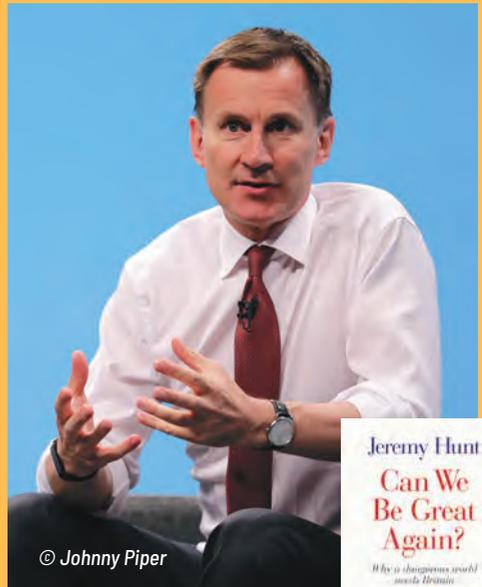
TALK

- 🕒 3pm. Duration: 60 mins
- 📍 The Astor Theatre, Deal
- 💷 Adult £13. Under 25 £6.50

Gavin Esler's second guest is Sir Jeremy Hunt MP, formerly Conservative Health Secretary, Foreign Secretary and Chancellor of the Exchequer. As Britain struggles to find its place in a shifting world of geopolitics and economic uncertainty, Jeremy Hunt's experience in international relations, and his research for two recent books, *Can We Be Great Again - Why a dangerous world needs Britain*, and *Not Bust Yet: How to Fix the Economy*, will make for a fascinating discussion.

There will be a book sale and signing in the Astor bar after the talk.

In association with The Deal Bookshop



© Johnny Piper

Jeremy Hunt
Can We Be Great Again?

Why a dangerous world needs Britain



FRIDAY 10/07

MUSIC



© Elly Lucas

Gigspanner Big Band

Peter Knight *violin*

Roger Flack *guitar*

Sacha Trochet *drums*

Hannah Martin *violin, banjo, tenor guitar*

Phillip Henry *dobro, harmonica*

John Spiers *melodeon*

🕒 7.30pm. Duration: 130 mins (inc. interval)

📍 St George's Church, Deal

💷 Adult £30. Under 25 £15

"With the Gigspanner Big Band, Peter Knight has assembled a group of musicians intent on making some of the most important and exhilarating art ever to sit under the banner of folk music" Folk Radio UK

The Gigspanner Big Band is a unique force in British folk music. Their high-energy, virtuosic performances appeal equally to traditionalists and to those looking for something more experimental. Beginning life as a trio - with fiddle player Peter Knight being joined by percussionist Sacha Trochet and guitarist Roger Flack - the line-up has been expanded to form the Gigspanner Big Band, with acclaimed multi-instrumental duo Edgelarks (Phillip Henry and Hannah Martin - BBC Folk Awards' "Best Duo") and Bellowhead co-founder and melodeon player extraordinaire, John Spiers, joining the fray after wowing Deal audiences last year with Jon Boden. As collaborations go, it doesn't get much more mouth-watering than this.

SATURDAY 11/07

CREATE

Writing workshop with Jacob Sam-La Rose

The Music of Language

- 🕒 10.30am-4.30pm. Duration: All day
- 📍 McKellen Studio, The Astor Theatre, Deal
- 💷 Adult £20. Under 25 £10

A day-long creative writing workshop exploring poetry as an act of attention and response to sound, place and memory. The day is led by renowned poet, educator and mentor Jacob Sam-La Rose. Jacob is a force on the British poetry scene in his many roles, including as artistic director of the Barbican Young Poets programme. The day will balance individual writing, collaborative exchange, and moments of reflection, and will conclude with an informal sharing of work for those who wish to take part. Open to writers of all levels of experience.

Please see our website for full timing and details.



© Eduardo Martinez

Ilmatila - Sokol

Ilona Jäntti *choreographer/acrobat*

- 🕒 Performance: 10.30am. Duration: 25 mins
- 🕒 Performance + skills workshop: 11.20am
Duration: 40 mins approx.
- 📍 Deal Parochial C of E Primary School,
Walmer
- 💷 Adult £10. Under 25 £7

From the creator of last year's ingenious and enjoyable human croquet, comes another breathtaking, beautiful show of physical dexterity, Sokol. Named after a Czech movement based on the principle of "a strong mind and a strong body", Ilona's solo acrobatic performance will use ropes and wall bars, inspiring children with what's possible in the familiar surroundings of a school hall, with an uplifting musical soundtrack.

Please note: this event is designed for children aged 5+. The show is short to hold children's attention. After the second show, there will be a chance to talk to the performer along with a short skills demonstration for children who'd like to learn a little more.

Supported by the Finnish Cultural Foundation



© Peter Cook

SATURDAY 11/07

MUSIC

Will Clark *violin*
Mark Rogers *piano*

- 🕒 1pm. Duration: 60 mins
- 📍 The Astor Theatre, Deal
- 💷 Adult £15. Under 25 £7.50

Ethel Smyth	<i>Violin Sonata</i>
Morley	<i>Rêverie</i>
Bowie	<i>Medley arranged by William Clark</i>
Britten	<i>3 Pieces - Suite for Violin & Piano</i>
Bernstein	<i>'Somewhere' - West Side Story</i>

Classical music with a swagger.....and a generous helping of eyeshadow and mascara! Will Clark, a classically trained young violinist from the Royal Academy of Music, transforms from model student to exotic Anna Cruzis to celebrate Pride in Deal. Playing the foil to the flamboyant Anna, is pianist Mark Rogers. Together, their classical programme (with a touch of David Bowie) packs an emotional punch.



Gavin Esler in
conversation with
Lord Kinnock

TALK

Can Britain be better than this?

- 🕒 3pm. Duration: 60 mins
- 📍 The Astor Theatre, Deal
- 💷 Adult £13. Under 25 £6.50.

To round off his series, Gavin Esler welcomes Neil Kinnock, one of the giants of the Labour Party, for an expansive look at British politics over the six decades since he was elected as MP for Bedwellty in 1970.

SATURDAY 11/07

OPERA

Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro – Wild Arts

Conductor: Orlando Jopling
Director: Danielle de Niese

- 🕒 7pm. Duration: 160 mins (inc. interval)
- 📍 St Mary's Arts Centre, Sandwich
- 💷 Front row £60. Standard £50. Back £40
Under 25 All half price

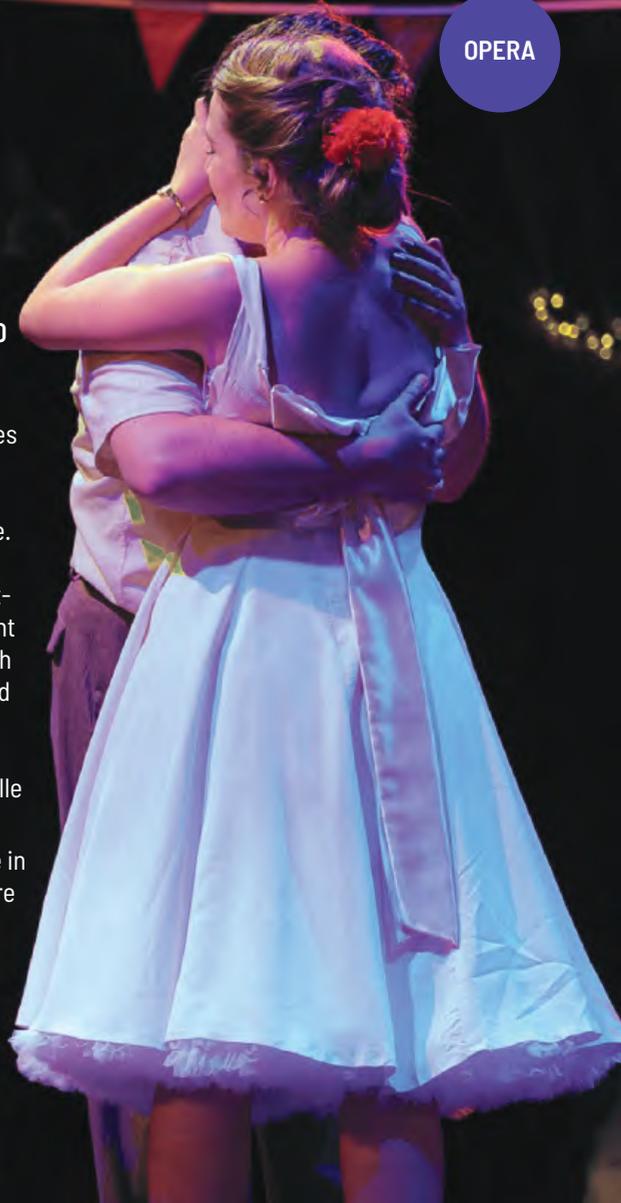
Wild Arts returns to the festival with *The Marriage of Figaro* after whirlwind successes in 2024 and 2025. It's the wedding of the year but with mistaken identities, cheeky servants, and a Count with a wandering eye. Enjoy Mozart's glorious music all the way from the fizzing overture through the heart-stopping beauty of 'Dove sono' to the jubilant finale. This is a fully staged production, with the Wild Arts chamber orchestra conducted by Artistic Director Orlando Jopling. The production sees the directing debut of internationally-acclaimed opera star Danielle de Niese.

Book early for a night to rival Glyndebourne in the beautiful setting of St Mary's Arts Centre – the perfect summer treat.

Wild Arts takes opera to beautiful and intimate settings in the UK and Europe, in an environmentally sustainable way, according to the One Planet Living Model.

***** "An utter delight" Opera Now

© Lucy J Toms



SUNDAY 12/07

MUSIC

FAMILY



© Peter Cook

Festival Day @ The Astor

🕒 11am-4pm. Duration: 5 hours

📍 The Astor Theatre, Deal

💷 Adult £10. Under 25 £6

Approximate times:

11am-11.45am: An interactive concert for children by Clea Llewellyn (ideal for children up to 10 years)

12 noon -12.45pm: DMA's Community Band

1pm-1.45pm: Music from the Irene Taylor Trust

2pm-2.45pm: Izzy Woodland & Joe Mulroe

3pm-4pm: DMA's Young Person's Showcase, featuring Xiaowen Shang

This year's festival comes to an end with a day-long celebration of local music-making at Deal's gem of a community theatre. The day showcases the talents of local musicians, many of whom take part in our year-round Learning & Participation programme including DMA's Community Band, with the best of intergenerational music-making.

Our Young Artist in Association Xiaowen Shang's work with young musicians will be on display in the afternoon's uplifting Young Person's Showcase. Deal musicians who have been working on ground-breaking new works in collaboration with the award-winning Irene Taylor Trust in the run up to the Festival, will perform during the afternoon. The day ends with the presentation of the Tony Nandi ARPS Photographic Award for young photographers.

Two talented Kent singer-songwriters will also be appearing: Clea Llewellyn kicks off the day with a lively, interactive concert for children and their carers and Izzy Woodland plays indie-folk originals, joined by Joe Mulroe for some melodic covers.

Please note: your ticket is valid all day and there is a bar to enjoy at the Astor. You're welcome to come for as much of this day as you wish.

In association with the Irene Taylor Trust

SUNDAY 12/07

TALK

The Conversation Continues

🕒 10.45am-12 noon. Duration: 75 mins

📍 Deal Library

💷 FREE ticket required

A chance for those who have attended one or more of Gavin Esler's talks to come together, with coffee and cake, to chew over their themes. This will be a relaxed, informal gathering in the peace of Deal library for anyone interested in sharing their thoughts and ideas.



Listen al fresco

Kersten Glandien *author, curator, producer*

🕒 2pm, 3pm & 4pm. Duration: 60 mins

📍 The Captain's Garden, opposite Deal Castle

💷 Adult £10. Under 25 £5

Imagine sitting in the Captain's Garden on a summer's day, with the bees buzzing and the sea breeze moving the grasses around you. Through headphones, the natural sounds of the garden blend with curated sound works to create a unique experience, where listening in a shared environment becomes a surprising communal encounter.

The sounds are selected by Kersten Glandien of Sound Art Brighton who specialises in the fields of Sound Arts, Aesthetics and Experimental Music.

Please note: you will need your own phone and headphones. A QR code to access the sound works will be provided. People with no phone or headphones will be given an mp3 player and headphones so each listener can experience in their own time, and in their own way.

To get you in the mood...

Get your tickets for 'Hallelujah!', a gala concert celebrating the 80th anniversary of The Deal & Walmer Handelian Choral Society, featuring Handel's superb 'Dixit Dominus' and many of his best loved choruses, arias and orchestral pieces.

📅 Saturday 27/06

🕒 7.30pm

📍 St George's Church, Deal

💷 Adult £15. Student & under 16 £8

Available from www.dwhsociety.co.uk

Booking and access information

2026 Festival Booking information

General Booking opens on Thursday 9 April at 10am.

Friends and Patrons

Priority booking opens on Monday 23 March at 10am for online, in person and phone booking.

All bookings made by Friends and Patrons between 23 March and 8 April include a discount.

To make your Friends' priority booking in person, you may wish to come to the Astor Theatre on Monday 23 or Tuesday 24 March for special assistance between 10am and 1pm. If you are a Friend and have a query that is not answered in the information that has been sent to you or have a question relating to Friends' booking, please contact Alice Wilkinson, the Festival Administrator. Telephone: 07301 236 811 or email: alice.wilkinson@dealmusicandarts.com

Booking online

Links for booking tickets can be found on each festival event listing at www.dealmusicandarts.com/festival

Booking by phone or in person

Wednesday-Saturday 10am-1pm.

The Astor Theatre, Stanhope Road, Deal, CT14 6AB

Telephone: 01304 370220

On the door

Tickets are available 30 minutes before the start of each event on the door (payment by cash or card). Please check the listings on the website to ensure the event is not sold out. Online booking closes at least one hour before each event. For events at the Astor Theatre, tickets can be bought during the box office hours listed above and from one hour before the event start time. For some events early booking is strongly recommended.

Refunds

The Astor Theatre and Deal Music & Arts is unable to refund or exchange tickets unless the event is cancelled. Deal Music & Arts reserves the right to change or cancel the advertised programme or artists should unavoidable and unforeseen circumstances occur. Ticket holders will be notified of any changes in advance if possible.

Venue and access information

All events held in indoor venues have disabled access, although some outdoor venues have very uneven surfaces.

If you are a wheelchair user and would like to come to *Much Ado about Nothing* at Dover Castle (9 July), if you have any other query about access or you would like to reserve a wheelchair space once you have booked your ticket for an event, please contact Alice Wilkinson, the Festival Administrator. Telephone: 07301 236 811 or email: alice.wilkinson@dealmusicandarts.com

Seating

All events have unreserved seating. Seats are allocated on a first come first served basis, with doors opening between 15 and 30 minutes before the start of the event (see website). NB Sheku & Isata Kanneh-Mason's concert (8 July) and *The Marriage of Figaro* (11 July) have seating in different areas of the venue, depending on the ticket purchased.

Bar

All evening events will have a bar prior to the performance and during the interval.

Transport, parking and accommodation

Please see our website for further details



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Venues

DEAL

- 1. The Astor Theatre**
Stanhope Road, CT14 6AB
- 2. St George's Church**
St George's Road, CT14 6BA
- 3. Trinity Church**
Union Road, CT14 6EA
- 4. St Andrew's Church**
West Street, CT14 6DY
- 5. The Captain's Garden**
Victoria Road, CT14 7BA
- 6. Deal Library**
5 Broad Street, CT14 6ER
- 7. Deal Pier**
Beach Street, CT14 6HY
- 8. The Lighthouse**
50 The Strand, Walmer, CT14 7DX
- 9. Deal Parochial Church of England School**
Gladstone Road, CT14 7ER
- 10. Linden Hall Studio**
32 St George's Road, CT14 6BA
- 11. Gallery on the Beach**
Walmer, CT14 7DY
- 12. Deal Castle**
Marine Road, Walmer, CT14 7BA
- 13. The Royal Hotel**
Beach Street, CT14 6JD

DOVER

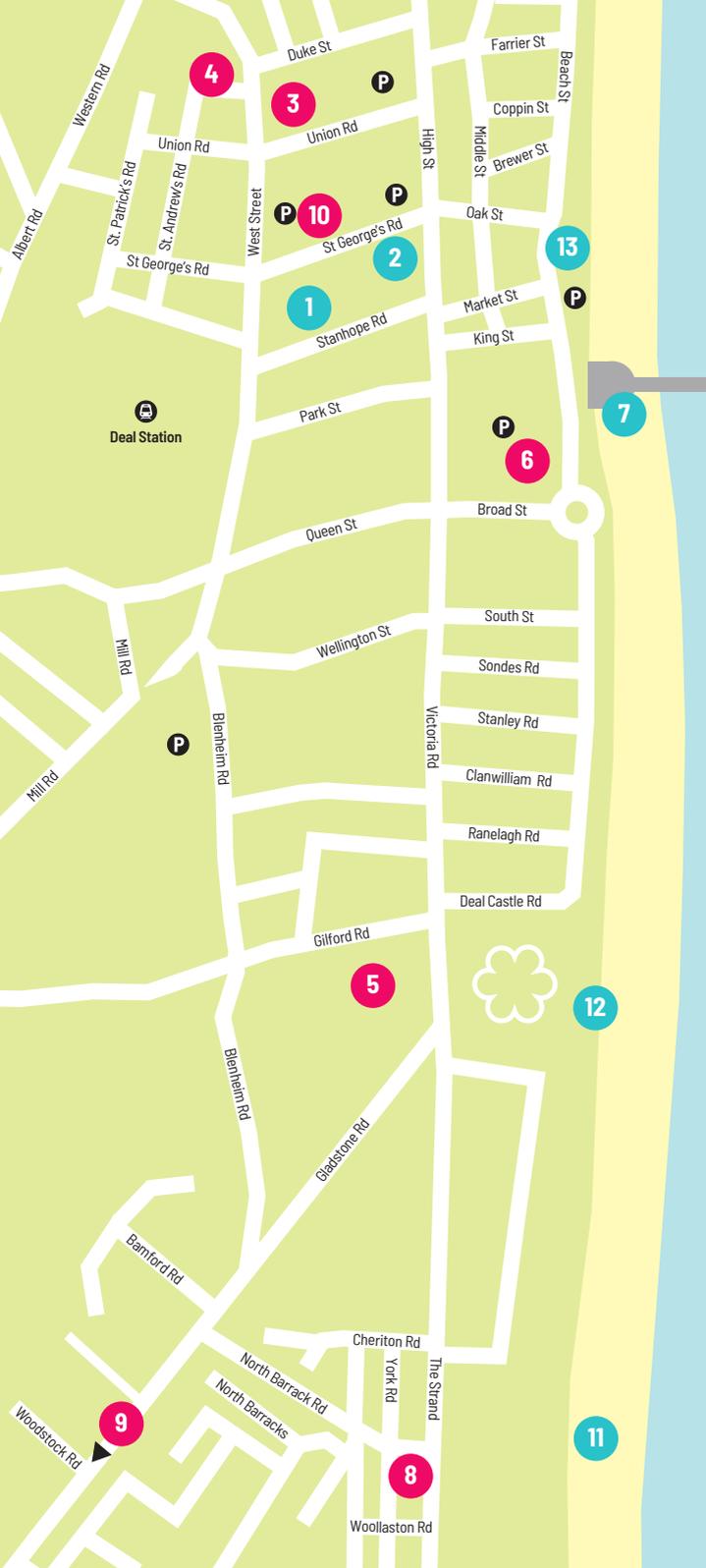
- Dover Castle**
Castle Hill, CT16 1HU
- Charlton Church**
St Alphege Road, CT16 4PU

SANDWICH

- St Mary's Arts Centre**
Strand Street, CT13 9HN



04/07 Art Trail Locations



At a glance listings

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
FRIDAY 03/07	10.30-11.30am	Deal's Historic Walking Tour	Various, meet Deal Pier
	1-2.10pm	Ewan Millar <i>oboe</i> & Tomos Boyle <i>piano</i>	St George's Church, Deal
	7.30-9.15pm	Betteshanger Colliery Welfare Band	St George's Church, Deal
SATURDAY 04/07	10.30am-2.30pm	Town Takeover - Music	In front of St George's and the High Street
	10.30am-2.30pm	Town Takeover - Paint Out	Various venues, see listing
	3-3.20pm & 4-4.20pm	Joshua Le Gallienne - a sound performance	Deal Beach, near the Pier
	10am-5pm	Singing Workshop with Joanna Tomlinson	St George's Church, Deal
	7.30-9.15pm	Recordare - Beyond the Stars	St George's Church, Deal
SUNDAY 05/07	10am-2pm	Day at the Captain's Garden	The Captain's Garden, Deal
	3-4pm	Charles Dickens' Women	The Astor Theatre, Deal
	7-8.45pm	Hoda Jahanpour's Nomad with Dudu Kouate	The Astor Theatre, Deal
MONDAY 06/07	11am-12 noon	Tamar File <i>soprano</i> & Anthony Halstead <i>piano</i>	St Andrew's Church, Deal
	1-2pm	One World Orchestra	Charlton Church, Dover
	5-6pm	Gawain Douglas	The Astor Theatre, Deal
	7.30-9.20pm	Sacconi Quartet and Timothy Orpen <i>clarinet</i>	St George's Church, Deal
TUESDAY 07/07	1-2pm	Xiaowen Shang <i>piano</i>	Trinity Church, Deal
	6.45-7.10pm	DMA Creative Jazz Orchestra	The Astor Theatre, Deal
	7.30-9.15pm	Gary Crosby Miles in the Sky Quintet	The Astor Theatre, Deal
WEDNESDAY 08/07	10.30-11.30am	Deal's Historic Walking Tour	Various, meet Deal Pier
	1-2.10pm	Versa Winds	Trinity Church, Deal
	7-8.40pm	Sheku & Isata Kanneh-Mason <i>cello & piano</i>	St George's Church, Deal
THURSDAY 09/07	10.30am-4pm	Architecture Walk from Dover to Deal	See details on listing
	1-2pm	Jack Hancher <i>guitar</i>	Trinity Church, Deal
	3-4pm	Gavin Esler in conversation with Penny Mordaunt	The Astor Theatre, Deal
	7-9.30pm	Much Ado about Nothing - Changeling Theatre	Dover Castle
	8-9.45pm	Donovan Haffner Quintet	The Lighthouse, Deal
FRIDAY 10/07	1-2.10pm	Andrea Molteni <i>piano</i>	St George's Church, Deal
	3-4pm	Gavin Esler in conversation with Jeremy Hunt	The Astor Theatre, Deal
	7.30-9.30pm	Gigspanner Big Band	St George's Church, Deal
SATURDAY 11/07	10.30am-4.30pm	Writing workshop with Jacob Sam-La Rose	Ian McKellen Studio, the Astor Theatre, Deal
	10.30-10.50am & 11.20am-12 noon	Sokol - Acrobatic performance	Deal Parochial (C of E) Primary School
	1-2pm	Will Clark <i>violin</i> & Mark Rogers <i>piano</i>	The Astor Theatre, Deal
	3-4pm	Gavin Esler in conversation with Neil Kinnock	The Astor Theatre, Deal
	7-9.40pm	The Marriage of Figaro - Wild Arts	St Mary's Arts Centre, Sandwich
SUNDAY 12/07	10.45am-12 noon	The Conversation Continues	Deal Library
	11am-4pm	Festival Day@The Astor	The Astor Theatre, Deal
	2-3pm, 3-4pm & 4-5pm	Listen al fresco	The Captain's Garden, Deal

DEAL MUSIC & ARTS

SUMMER SCHOOL

03 - 07 AUGUST



© Peter Cook



Deal Music & Arts Summer School is a week of music-making in the beautiful setting of Northbourne Park School.

Open to young people and adults with a minimum playing standard of grade 4 or equivalent who play wind, string and percussion instruments, it's a great way to make music and new friends.

Under the guidance of expert tutors and led by Phil White from the Philharmonia Orchestra, you will play in large and small groups throughout the week, culminating in an informal concert.

For more info: www.dealmusicandarts.com/landp/

The summer school is part of Deal Music & Arts' year-round Learning & Participation programme, bringing together children, young people and adults to play in groups including our community band, youth band and Creative Jazz Orchestra. We also present lunchtime concerts for children and young people. **For more info, email: charlie@dealmusicandarts.com**