



## PRESS RELEASE

March 2009

# Henley Festival Box Office Fully Open

The Henley Festival's box office is open for business to personal callers from 30<sup>th</sup> March, with personal callers welcome to drop into the Festival offices at Friday Street, Henley-on-Thames, to order their tickets and pick up more information. The box office's phone booking service is also available on 01491 843404 both between 10am – 4pm Monday to Friday. You can also find more information and book tickets via our website [www.henley-festival.co.uk](http://www.henley-festival.co.uk)

Early booking is recommended, as, with on line bookings open from the beginning of March, the most popular tickets for Henley's world-beating Festival are already going fast! "We can already tell at this stage that the opening night is going to be a sell out and with such a strong programme the other nights are following suit," says, Box office Manager, Marnie McKendrick.

Festival-goers can choose from an opening night with a singer who's just about the hottest classical music property of the moment - and a knock-out Henley favourite - Katherine Jenkins (8 July), a closing party night to beat all party nights, with the best of the tribute bands, the Bootleg Beatles (12 July), and nights in between filled with gorgeous Puccini hosted by the BBC's James Naughtie (9 July), a fabulous movie music night with TV's John Barrowman and hosted by Sir Michael Parkinson (10 July) – and, finally, in a UK exclusive, high-octane Broadway at its very best from the sensational Three Mo' Tenors (11 July).

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Add to this the performances in the more intimate venues – including such wonderful stars as Fascinating Aïda, John Suchet, Fairport Convention's Ashley Hutchins and Rainbow Chasers, brilliant comedy from Jan Ravens, Arthur Smith, Tim Fitzhigham and Rich Hall as Otis Lee Crenshaw, and the Festival's inspired signature mix of cabaret burlesque, folk, jazz, classical, fireworks, art galleries, sculpture lawns and fabulous bars and restaurants, and it's clear why, even in these times, the Festival's reputation continues to grow. As one critic wrote recently, "The picturesque riverside location exudes luxury and glamour and it's almost as though the organisers bottle these feelings through the year and open it like fizzing champagne across the five day festival in an explosion of art, music and comedy." We'll drink to that!

As anyone who's visited Henley Festival knows, a nightly ticket buys access to much, much more than a single brilliant performance. With prices starting at just £41, tickets allow Festival-goers entry to all performances on offer. Up to 7 performances are scheduled throughout the evening on the Festival's various stages, allowing Festival-goers to decide on the night how many – and which combination of - performances they'd like to see.

Henley Festival 2009 runs from 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> July. For more programme information and to book online visit [www.henley-festival.co.uk](http://www.henley-festival.co.uk), or telephone 01491 843404 at the Henley Festival Box Office, 14 Friday Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 1AH. Many tickets have been held at 2008 prices.

Generous sponsors of this year's Festival include: Invesco Perpetual, Westcoast, Laurent-Perrier champagne, Lavazza, Hotel du Vin, Southern Electric.

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***For more press information, please contact Miranda Johnson on 01962 890208 or Rachel Shimell on 02380 732981 or email [mirandajohnson@btinternet.com](mailto:mirandajohnson@btinternet.com) / [rachel.shimell@ntlworld.com](mailto:rachel.shimell@ntlworld.com)***

**Note to Editors: Henley Festival Trust**

As in previous years, all net proceeds from The Henley Festival 2009 will go direct to parent charity The Henley Festival Trust, to finance Henley Festival's charitable and community activities. Examples of this valuable, and much appreciated work include providing: visual arts workshops at the Chiltern Centre for Disabled Children, music therapy for brain-injured attendees at Headway day centre in Henley-on-Thames, music and arts workshops in local schools, and instruments for promising young musicians.

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