





Start your musical journey today

Hertfordshire Music Service has successfully delivered musical opportunities to generations of young people throughout the county.

The service is now one of the largest in the country with many thousands of young people involved in our weekly musical activities, supported by over 400 teachers.

All Hertfordshire's children and young people. regardless of background or circumstances, have the opportunity to discover or develop their unique musical voice and express themselves through the language of music.

Instrumental and vocal lessons



Music lessons are available during the school day at hundreds of schools in Hertfordshire.



We also provide lessons in the afternoon, evening and on the weekends at our 12 music centres across the county.



We offer various lesson types and durations. Please visit our website for more information.



Financial support is available to pupils receiving certain benefits, to help with the cost of lessons.



As your child progresses on their musical journey, they will be invited to join ensembles or music groups that perform regularly.

We offer a wide range of lessons and ensembles designed to help discover or develop children and young people's unique musical voice and express themselves through the language of music, regardless of background or circumstances.

Visit hertsmusicservice.org.uk/register or scan the QR code to learn more and sign up



hertsmusicservice.org.uk







Welcome to the 2023 Stevenage Festival!

Stevenage Festival takes place every two years and is a celebration of creativity, culture and community, involving thousands of local people.

We're showcasing a diverse range of performances and activities, including music, dance, drama, visual arts and more. Our performers, young and old, have been preparing for weeks and we can't wait to share their talent with you. From stunning theatre shows to hands-on workshops – we have a programme that will entertain and inspire you. Many of our shows feature our talented youngsters, taking their first steps in performance, in their town's own theatre in front of their family and friends – please come along and support them (and remember you saw them here first!).

I need to thank lots of people involved in performing, organising and supporting the Festival events. Without your dedication, passion and hard work, this would not be possible. In particular, thanks are due to Stevenage Arts Guild, my volunteer Festival Committee, Hertfordshire Music Service, the staff at the Gordon Craig, the Junction 7 crew and the leisure and culture team at Stevenage Borough Council.



So come join us for a month of celebration and connection, as we come together to appreciate the talent and creativity we have here in Stevenage. We can't wait to see you!

Ron Walker Chairman, Stevenage Festival

Where to get tickets...

For performances at the Gordon Craig Theatre book online at www.gordon-craig.co.uk or call 01438 363200.

For fringe performances see details in each listing or our website www.stevenage-festival.co.uk

Stevenage Festival

We are a registered charity (No 1084482). We are grateful to the following patrons for their support:

The Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Martha Lytton-Cobbold, Rebecca Kelly, Richard Henry, Simon Speller, Marie Joy Taylor, Ellen Terry May Craig, Helen Craig and Vicki Michelle.

Stevenage Festival has gathered the information in this brochure in good faith. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy at the time of publishing, but there may be changes or cancellations for reasons beyond our control. Please check our website or Facehook nace for up to date news

Stevenage Festival

Stevenage Festival provides a showcase for the wealth of local artistic and performing talent to be found within the Stevenage area.

The heart of the Festival is a series of performances in June at the Gordon Craig Theatre, enabling local people, particularly our talented youngsters, to realise a dream by performing on stage in their community's own theatre.

The Gordon Craig programme of events is listed here in the MAIN EVENTS section, but there is also a vibrant Festival fringe of community arts events around Stevenage (see pages 12-18).

Secondary Schools present: Festival opening night

Mon 12 June 7:00pm Gordon Craig Theatre

Stevenage Secondary Schools come together to present an evening of music, dance and theatre, featuring performances from their amazingly talented pupils.

You'll be amazed and inspired by the talent shown by these young people.





Tickets: £12.50, No Concessions

Stevenage Dance Schools Dance Extravaganza

Tue 13 June 7:00pm Gordon Craig Theatre

Our Dance Extravaganza performance is a regular favourite for the Festival and brings together pupils of all ages from Stevenage dance schools for an exciting and colourful evening featuring all styles and forms of dance.



Tickets: £14, No Concessions

Parnassus Poetry present: 'Now is the Summer of dis Content...'

Fri 16 June 8:00pm Ellen Terry Suite

....as opposed to the Winter of dat Content.

Another informal evening of poetry, music and mayhem from Stevenage's longest standing poetry performance group. May cause offence, but this cannot be quaranteed. Bar available.



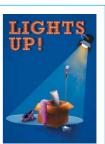
Tickets: £7.50, No Concessions

Stevenage Lytton Players present: The Best ofLights Up!

Sat 17 June 7:30pm Gordon Craig Theatre

Stevenage's leading amateur dramatical and musical society, Lytton Players young and old present the best of their popular 'Lights Up' performances. Expect sketches, music and a great night's entertainment.





Tickets: £12.50, No concessions

AdLibretto presents.....

AdLibretto presents a comedy double bill. The first half will feature games and comedic scenes. In the second half, AdLibretto will create a unique musical based on the life and childhood dreams of a member of the audience.

Sat 17 June 8:00pm Ellen Terry Suite



Tickets: £10, Concessions £8

Various local performers present: Yes We Can!

Mon 19 June 7:00pm Gordon Craig Theatre

A special event with creativity at its heart, celebrating the talent of performers of all abilities and those with special needs. This will be a relaxed, supportive performance for both those on stage and those in the audience.

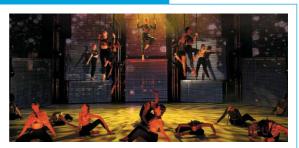


Tickets: £12.50, No concessions

Première School of Dance present: Out of the Darkness

Tue 20 June 7:00pm Gordon Craig Theatre

Première's showcase celebrates past performances and brings back some of those who have gone on to successful professional careers to dance alongside current students.



Tickets: £14, No Concessions





To book tickets for events at the Gordon Craig Theatre

Stevenage Primary Schools In Concert

Wed 21 June 7:00pm Gordon Craig Theatre

Our youngest participants from primary schools across the Stevenage area take to the stage to share their musical talent. Stevenage Festival is always pleased to give this opportunity to young people to enjoy the experience of performing on a big stage, supporting their first steps in musical performance.



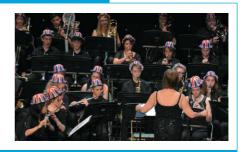


Tickets: £12.50, No Concessions

Festival Finale Last Night of the Proms

Sat 24 June 7:00pm Gordon Craig Theatre

In a year of celebration, our finale concert showcases a variety of local talent and concludes with massed singers and instrumentalists recreating for us the sparkling 'Last Night of the Proms' atmosphere. For more information about our performers, see pages 8 and 9. Bring along your Coronation flags and hats and join in!



Tickets: £12.50, No Concessions

Stagecoach Performing Arts

Sun 25 June 12.30pm & 6:00pm Gordon Craig Theatre

Our local Stagecoach Performing Arts School presents two shows featuring their students from the youngest to the oldest. At 12.30pm, Early Stage students present a fun-filled afternoon with a show dedicated to traditional tales. At 6pm it's the turn of the older students and they will present a sparkling performance celebrating the last five years of musical theatre.



Tickets: £10 for 12.30pm, £16.50 for 6pm, Concessions £2 off

Our Festival Finale Concert

Saturday 24 June, 7pm, Gordon Craig Theatre

We mark the closing weekend of the Festival with this spectacular concert, featuring a host of local singers, dancers and musicians and showcasing some special up and coming talent from the Stevenage area.

Our host for the evening, keeping everything on track, is Éamonn Walsh.

After the Saint John Henry Newman School and Nottingham University, Éamonn started a career working for a Member of Parliament. When not on stage in his hometown with St Joseph's Drama Group, he is pursuing opportunities in the world of London theatre. He is proud to mark his presenting debut here in Stevenage.



Here's a flavour of what's in store:

Billie Reason

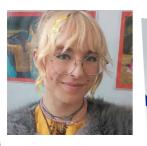
Billie Reason is an 18-year-old composer, pianist and cellist and a junior student at the Royal College of Music. Her performances cover a wide variety of groups and styles, including piano, jazz, chamber choir, and electronic media. She has a scholarship to study composition at Guildhall, starting this Autumn.

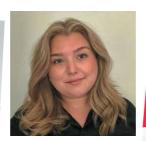
Maddy McConnell Smith

Madeleine is currently studying for a Masters in Performance at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance focusing on opera and classical song. She has participated in a variety of masterclasses and performed as both a recitalist and a concert soloist.

DKC Young Talents 'Kreeda'

Kreeda is a Sanskrit word for 'play'. DKC Young Talents will showcase 'Bharatanatyam' – the classical Indian /South Asian dance-form - and includes new choreography created especially for Stevenage Festival by internationally acclaimed local dance artist and singer Divya Kasturi.







Accordion group

Stevenage Accordion Group is an amateur ensemble lead by local Stevenage accordion teacher Shona Holmes. We are always looking to spread the word about the versatility of the instrument we love so much by performing repertoire from Classical to Folk and everything in between!



Vienna Mullins

Talented young performer Vienna Mullins will be joined by dancers from Footworks School of Dance in a routine choreographed by Nichola Seymour. Vienna currently attends Footworks dance school and West End MT and is hoping to pursue a career in the performing arts.



Ben Ward

Our piano accompanist is Ben Ward who is a regular accompanist, performer and teacher in the Stevenage area and who has supported many past Festival performances.



Last night of the Proms

In this Coronation Year we have picked a celebratory 'Last Night of the Proms' theme. Led by students from the North Herts and Stevenage Music Centres and Stevenage Choirs, the concert will conclude with the traditional pieces offering opportunity for some fun audience participation.



Tickets for this spectacular concert are available at £12.50 each (no concessions) from the Gordon Craig box office – visit www.gordon-craig.co.uk to purchase online or call 01438 363200

The Stevenage Fringe

As well as our performances at the Gordon Craig Theatre, we are including within the Festival many other arts and culture events being held around Stevenage this Summer. Stevenage has a vibrant arts community which creates and organises interesting and entertaining events all year round.

Stevenage Community Art Exhibition 'Ordinary to Extraordinary'

If you're in the Town Centre why not come and experience the beauty of art in all its forms at our community exhibition! Featuring stunning photography, breathtaking visual art, and elegant floral arrangements, this event will inspire and delight all who attend. Join us for a celebration of creativity and community!

Please note that you should be able to visit the above exhibition during the opening hours of Stevenage Arts and Leisure Centre. However for operational reasons access may sometimes be restricted and we recommend calling the centre on 01438 363200 to check if making a special journey.

Mon 5 June - Fri 30 June Pi Gallery, Gordon Craig Theatre



Image by: Laura Haley

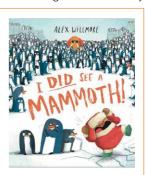
Entry: Free

Children's Story and Illustration Workshop 'I did see a Mammoth'

Join author and best selling children's book illustrator Alex Willmore for a fun event around the story and illustrations for his book 'I did see a mammoth'.



Ideal for ages 4 – 7 (Children must be accompanied by an adult) Scan the OR code to book Sat 3 June 2.00pm - 3.00pm Stevenage Central Library



Tickets £4 per child with one accompanying adult free.





We are delighted to include within this year's Stevenage Festival an exciting programme of events that is taking place to celebrate the 100th Birthday of Weston Village Hall.

The village hall was built in 1923 after a bequest by Sir Walter Gray. Sir Walter and his brothers and sisters grew up in Weston and Walter was educated at the Thomas Alleyne's Grammar School in Stevenage.

After a colourful career ranging from solicitor's clerk in Baldock to railway porter, station master, steward of Keble College, Oxford and property developer he became Mayor of Oxford four times and was knighted in 1903.

He never forgot Weston and provided the sum of £400, just before the Great War to finance a village hall.

See wvh.org.uk for more details





Weston Concerts 100th Concert The Galliard Ensemble

Sat 10 June 7.30pm Holy Trinity Church, Weston

Sat 10 June

10.30am - 12.00pm

Stevenage Central Library

A very special event to celebrate the hundredth concert staged by Weston Music Society.

The Galliard Ensemble is one of Britain's leading chamber groups having performed in many of the world's leading venues and festivals, frequently broadcastingon BBC Radio 3 and around the world. Please come and join in the celebration!

Pay on the door or book on http://trybooking.co.uk/BTAH



Tickets: £20 per person, £5 for under 25's

Children's Craft Workshop Make a Dreamcatcher

Make your own dreamcatcher at this craft event.

Ideal for ages 5-11. Children must be accompanied by an adult for this family learning workshop.

www.herts.gov.uk



Tickets: £3 per child

Stevenage Music Centre presents: Family World Percussion Day

Sat 10 June 9.00am & 1.00pm Stevenage Music Centre, Nobel School

Come and have a bash!

Try out different types of percussion - djembe, samba and steel pans - and get to make some music together at this fun, family friendly workshop. You can choose a morning or an afternoon workshop. Each one lasts 3 hours. Suitable for children from 7 years upwards. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

To book please scan the QR code.



Adults £10, Concessions £8.50 Child (7+) £6.50, Family pass (2 adults, 2 children) £30 Plus booking fee

Stevenage Arts Guild presents: Quiz Night!

Sat 10 June 7.30pm Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg

Put your thinking caps on and join us for a fun-filled fundraising quiz! Test your knowledge and help raise funds for Stevenage Arts Guild at the same time.

Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

To book a table (maximum of 8 per table/team) email hilaryspiers@gmail.com.





Tickets: £5 per person

Weston 100 Festival presents: Cherry Tots 10th Birthday Party

Everyone's welcome at this family fun day to celebrate 100 years of the Weston Village Hall and 10 years of Cherry Tots, our wonderful village toddler and baby group, and to mark Cherry's retirement at end of the summer term. Among the attractions will be 2 bouncy castles, face painter, circus skills an ice-cream van and lots of cake!

Tickets from Cherry Tots at the Village Hall Fridays 9am - 11am or on the door on the day.

Sun 11 June 12 noon - 5.00pm Weston Village Hall



Cherry Tot's 10th Birthday

Birthday Party Family Fun Day for All

Sunday 11th June 2023

Weston Village Hall 12-5

Bouncy Castles, Circus Skills, Face Painting Refreshments, ice creams, and lots of cake!

Tickets: Family Day Pass £5 (up to 3 children). £1 for each extra child.

Stevenage Day 2023

Sun 11 June 12 noon - evening King George V Playing Field

This popular event will host over 200 stalls with a wide range of entertainment including Rock in the Park, world music performers, childrens' rides and entertainment, games, displays, food stalls and arena events

FREE EVENT

For more information go to: www.stevenage.gov.uk/stevenage-day or email stevenageday@stevenage.gov.uk



Tickets: Free

Be part of the biggest event in the town's calendar at



StevenageDAY

supported by









Sunday 11 June 2023 King George V Playing Fields 12pm until 5.30pm



- Speciality stalls with local produce, crafts and games
- Arena displays of live entertainment for the whole family
- Rides and attractions
- A wide variety of food and drink including a licensed bar
- Rock in the Park

Free on the day

- Junk Drumming
- Children's Beach
- Caricatures
- Your personalised photos to take away and upload to social media
- · Birds of Prev
- · Community Stage
- · Illusion Show Performance
- Fire show performance



Free bicycle parking available by Stevenage Cycle Hub stand. Free car parking will be available on the day at:
The Forum, and St Georges Way multi storey car park.









Bob Wright presents: Life Drawing Workshop

Sun 11 June 3.00pm - 5.30pm Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg

A classic life drawing session creating figure studies using professional artists' models. All levels are welcome, from the seasoned scribbler to the novice. This is a fantastic opportunity to practice observational drawing skills and develop knowledge of human proportions and anatomy. Critique and advice is on hand to help you develop your approach.

Boards, paper and basic supplies provided. Please feel free to bring your own materials and supplies to make the best of the session.

To book contact Bob at bobwright@pencilwright.com

Tickets: £15 per person

Stevenage and Knebworth Arts Group presents: Edith Piaf

Tue 13 June 10.15am - 12.15pm Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg

Discover the fascinating life and music of Edith Piaf in our talk by Derek Blyth. Join us for an insightful journey through the iconic singer's career.

To book email hilaryspiers@gmail.com



Tickets: £5 per person

J7C presents: Stevenage Writers - Start Writing!

Thur 15 June 11.00am - 1.00pm Junction 7 Creatives, 17 Town Square

Have you ever thought of writing but not yet started?
Join us for this introductory workshop for adults. What are your thoughts and memories of this town? We'll look at local literature like Howards End, the stimulus for the Forster Country interest at this time. And we'll finish with some writing and reflection.

Drop us a line at stevenagewriters@gmail.com to secure a place, or just turn up on the day!



Tickets: Free

J7C presents: Stevenage Writers - Just Write!

Thur 15 June 2.00pm - 5.00pm Junction 7 Creatives, 17 Town Square

An indulgent afternoon of writing for adults. There will be quiet places if that's what you want, or group work to carry you along. This is a chance to 'get it down', to start that project, or even finish it. There will be experienced writers on hand for advice and encouragement.

Drop us a line at stevenagewriters@gmail.com to secure a place, or just turn up on the day!



Tickets: Free

J7C presents: Stevenage Writers - Showcase Event

Thur 15 June 6.30pm - 8.30pm Junction 7 Creatives, 17 Town Square

Enjoy an evening of writing by Stevenage Writers – an opportunity to engage with some of the talent in the town. There will be readings, displays, meet the authors, and a review of recently completed works. Refreshments and musical background will be provided to make this a writing social event like no other!

Drop us a line at stevenagewriters@gmail.com to secure a place, or just turn up on the day!



Tickets: Free

Stevenage Arts Society presents: Glass Fusing Demonstration

Sat 17 June 9.30am - 12.00am & 1.00 - 3.30pm Springfield House,

24 High Street Stevenage

Visitors are welcome to join members of the Arts Society in the Pottery at Springfield House to see how glass fusion is done and how we make the beautiful designs.

There will also be a small exhibition of fused glass, paintings and pottery produced by members of the Society in the Oak Room - a chance to pick up an individual piece of work for yourself or as a gift.

For more information email: info.stevenageartsociety@gmail.com



Tickets: Free

Weston 100 Festival presents: Vintage Car and Cycle Display

Sat 17 June 11.00am - 5.00pm Fairclough Hall Farm, Halls Green, Weston

The Letchworth Garden City Classic and Vintage Car Club picnic is being held in the pretty rural location of Halls Green, nr Weston. This event is the LGCCVCC's annual picnic style meeting where classic and vintage cars are displayed and visitors are welcome to bring their own historic vehicles to show in the main part of the field. Guests in modern cars have their own parking area in the field too. Live music, refreshments, activities, stalls and more!



Tickets: £5 cars, £2 motorcycles and pedestrians. Pay on entry.

Stevenage and Knebworth Arts Group presents: Judy Garland

Tue 20 June 10.15am - 12.15pm Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg

Join us for a captivating talk by Derek Blyth on the life and career of the legendary Judy Garland! Delve into the highs and lows of this iconic performer's journey.

To book email hilaryspiers@gmail.com



Tickets: £5 per person

South Stevenage Flower Club presents: Terri Potter - Diary of a Floraholic!

Tue 20 June 7pm for 7.30pm Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg

If you would like to find out more about how to produce a stunning floral arrangement, why not join us this evening. A demonstrator for more than 20 years, Terri's designs are always refreshing, inspirational and she is very generous with detailed explanations.

You can see more of our activities on our website at southstevenageflowerclub.org

To book email southstevenageflowerclub@yahoo.com



Tickets: £7.50 per person

Stevenage Arts Society presents: Pottery Demonstration

Sat 24 June 9.30am - 12.00pm & 1.00 - 3.30pm Springfield House, 24 High Street Stevenage

Visitors are welcome to join members of the Arts Society in the Pottery at Springfield House to see how we work with clay to produce beautiful bowls and dishes.

There will also be a small exhibition of fused glass, paintings and pottery produced by members of the Society in the Oak Room - a chance to pick up an individual piece of work for yourself or as a gift.

For more information (or to book a place) email: info.stevenageartsociety@gmail.com.

FREE EVENT

Tickets: Free

Weston 100 Festival presents: Celebrating Local Musicians

Sat 24 June 3.00pm Weston Village Hall

As part of Weston Village's celebration of 100 years of our village hall, Weston Music Society is putting on a concert to showcase the hugely talented performers we have in our local area. Whether the performers have grown up locally or decided to make Hertfordshire their home, all are connected to the local community. Come, listen and be inspired by performers of all ages and stages in their professional careers. With a range of instruments, music from classical to jazz and folk, and a Q&A with the performers, there's something for everyone, families and children welcome. See http://wwh.org.uk/weston-100-festival-events/ for more details.



Tue 27 June

Tickets: Check Weston 100 website for latest details

Stevenage and Knebworth Arts Group presents: Ella Fitzgerald

Join us for a captivating talk by Derek Blyth on the life and career of the legendary Ella Fitzgerald! Delve into the highs and lows of this iconic performer's journey.

To book email hilaryspiers@gmail.com

10.15am - 12.15pm Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg



Tickets: £5 per person

J7C presents: Jam @ J7C!

Thur 29 June 6.30pm - 9.00pm Junction 7 Creatives, 17 Town Square

Come along to this very friendly open mic night at Junction 7 Creatives. Singing, poetry, storytelling, music, more...all welcome.

Whatever your level of experience or confidence, you're invited to share your creative soul.

To take part, just turn up on the night, or email junction7creatives@gmail.com for more information.



Tickets: Free

Stevenage Arts Society presents: Painting Demonstration

Sat 1 July 9:30am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 3:30pm Springfield House, 24 High Street Stevenage

Visitors are welcome to join members of the Arts Society in the upstairs Art Studio at Springfield House to see some of our artists painting Seascapes and Lakes.

There will also be a small exhibition of fused glass, paintings and pottery produced by members of the Society in the Oak Room - a chance to pick up an individual piece of work for yourself or as a gift.

For more information (or to book a place) email: info.stevenageartsociety@gmail.com.



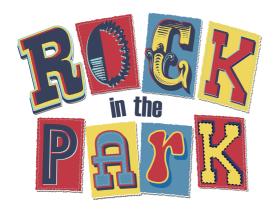
Tickets: Free



Stevenage Arts Guild

Many of our local arts groups are supported by Stevenage Arts Guild which also manages our Community Arts Centre at Roaring Meg - a purpose-built facility to provide rehearsal, performance and event space for local amateur groups (see www.stevenageartsguild.org.uk).





supported by



ROCK IN THE PARK RIDES AGAIN SHOWCASING THE BEST OF OUR LOCAL MUSICAL TALENT

Come and spend a lazy June Sunday afternoon sitting on the grass with your friends and family, with a cold drink in your hand, listening to Stevenage bands old and new.

Bring a picnic or buy a burger, enjoy the stalls, kids rides and entertainment that Stevenage Day has to offer and have a great day out.

SUNDAY 11 JUNE 2023 KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELDS 12PM TO EVENING



FREE ADMISSION #StevenageDay #RITP2023











tel: 01438 242206

www.stevenage.gov.uk/stevenage-day

THE OSCAR NOMINATED 12PM

EMERGENCY BREAK 1PM

WARD IS HYDRA 2PM

CIAN DOWNING 3PM

OPTIMIST 5PM
HOT MESS BAND 6PM



MEL QUINN 12.40PM

ROB TUTTY 1.40PM

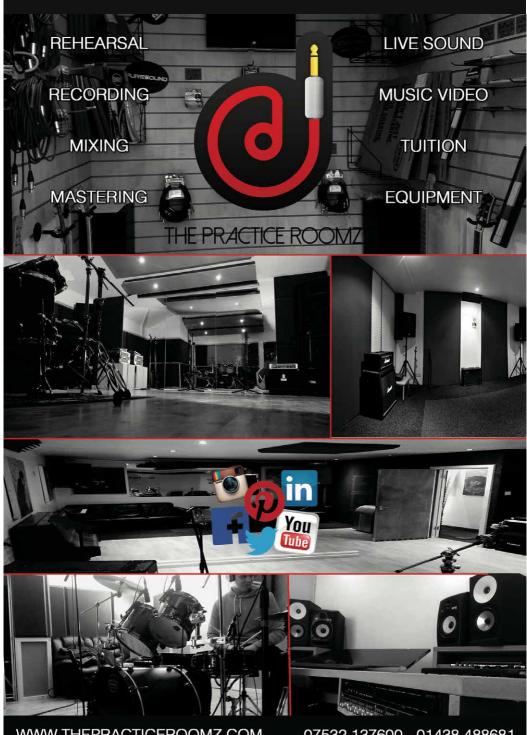
WHY NOT 2.40PM

AER 3.40PM

YOLANDA GABRIELLE MUSIC 4.40PM



ACOUSTIC STAGE



WWW.THEPRACTICEROOMZ.COM

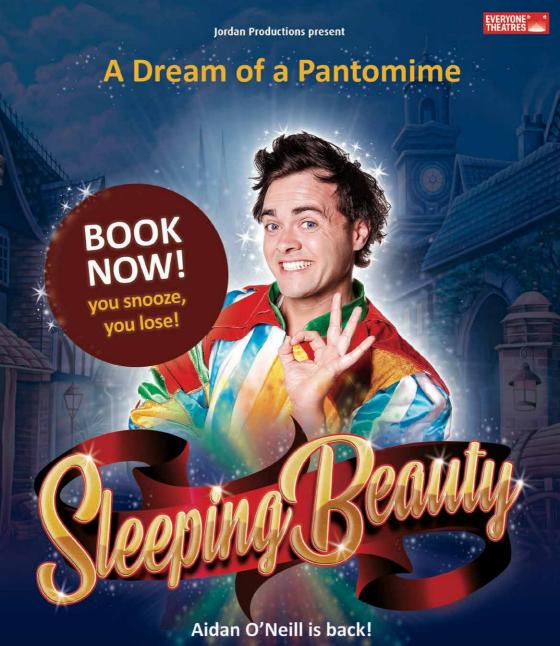
07532 137600 - 01438 488681

Stevenage Festival and Lister Hospital Arts Society present:

A Poppy Memorial Artwork for Stevenage



For the latest information on the project and its installation date, please check our website and Facebook page.



29 November 2023 - 21 January 2024



www.gordon-craig.co.uk

Lytton Way, Stevenage SG1 1LZ Box Office: 01438 363200