



hebden bridge
piano festival



29 January 2014

EXTREME CYCLING MEETS EXTREME PIANO PLAYING IN GRAND DEPART CHALLENGE

Imove and Hebden Bridge Piano Festival are delighted to announce that they will be working together in a first time challenge for Yorkshire Festival 2014 to celebrate the Tour de France's visit to Yorkshire.

On 5 April a team of cyclists and pianists will take part in *The Grand Departs*, an epic musical and physical feat of strength and endurance that will answer the question - How many cyclists does it take to pull a grand piano up a hill?

Starting at Mytholmroyd, a team of Calderdale's most resilient cyclists will pull a grand piano up Cragg Vale Road to the top of Blackstone Edge, the longest continuous ascent in the Grand Départ route. Local and international pianists will play a non-stop specially composed piano performance throughout the climb.

David Nelson, Artistic Director for *The Grand Departs* said: "What better way to welcome 'Le Tour' to Yorkshire than with an audacious musical pedaling crazy adventure? This has never been done before – probably for a very good reason – but we're up for the challenge."

A bespoke vehicle called a PianoPorté is being designed and built for *The Grand Departs* by local sculptor Andy Plant. It will be powered by cycles, with a grand piano on loan from the Piano Man, and will be up to 50 feet long.

Local residents will be asked to lend their moral support by cheering on the spectacle and invited to join in the send-off at 12 noon in Mytholmroyd. Additional stop-off points will be announced nearer the time.

Yorkshire Festival 2014 is the first ever arts festival to precede the Grand Départ in its 111 year history. Nearly 50 events have been selected to be officially part of Yorkshire Festival 2014, which will also include hundreds of fringe events.

Visit www.yorkshirefestival.co.uk, Yorkshire Festival on Facebook or follow Yorkshire Festival 2014 on Twitter - YFest2014

Visit www.imovearts.co.uk for *The Grand Departs* updates or follow @imovearts on Twitter.

- ENDS -

Image attached: © Yorkshire Festival 2014

Editors' Notes:

- *The Grand Departs* will take place on 5 April 2014.
- It will set off from Mytholmroyd at 12 noon at a free send-off event. Details of the starting event will be released in February.
- It is being organised by Imove and Hebden Bridge Piano Festival, working with Calderdale based sculptor Andy Plant.
- It is an official part of the Yorkshire Festival 2014 and is also supported by funding from Calderdale Council and Legacy Trust UK.
- Cragg Vale is the longest continuous ascent in England and has been included in the Tour de France route through Yorkshire as a particularly gruelling feature of the race.

Yorkshire Festival 2014

Yorkshire Festival 2014 is the first ever arts festival to precede the Tour de France, the world's biggest annual sporting event.

Yorkshire Festival 2014 will run from 27th March to the 6th July 2014.

Yorkshire Festival 2014 is backed by Welcome to Yorkshire, Yorkshire Water and Arts Council England as well as Local Authorities across the county.

Hebden Bridge Piano Festival

Hebden Bridge Piano Festival was established in 2013 and brings local and international pianists together for a three day celebration of piano music. While the main focus is on Classical music, other piano styles including blues, jazz and boogie-woogie get a look-in, and the Festival also programmes children's concerts and family events. The 2014 Festival runs from 11 to 13 April and takes place in the The Town Hall, Hebden Bridge. Tickets are available online and from the Town Hall box office.

<http://www.hebdenbridgepianofestival.com>

Imove

Imove Arts is a non-profit company that explores the connections between creativity and movement through genre-defying artistic work. Originally established to deliver the Legacy Trust UK regional programme for the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad, Imove works with artists to produce surprising events in unusual settings, often bringing sport together with the arts and placing the landscape and environment at the heart of its productions.

www.imovearts.co.uk

Andy Plant

Combining a background of sculpture, engineering and large transforming theatre sets, Andy Plant has been making interactive mechanical sculpture for 25 years. With a degree in Fine Art from Wolverhampton, Andy's sculptures have been placed in public and commercial spaces all over Britain. His past vehicle works include the Opera Car for English National Opera, the Doughnut Trike and 'Pier', a mobile elevating pier with telescopic pavilion and organ.

<http://www.andyplant.co.uk>

Legacy Trust UK

Imove is funded by Legacy Trust UK, an independent charity set up to create a lasting cultural and sporting legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in communities across the UK.

The Trust was a Principal Funder of the Cultural Olympiad and its finale, the London 2012 Festival. The Trust is now supporting key projects around the UK – including imove - to expand on the ground-breaking work they delivered from 2008-12. Many other projects funded by Legacy Trust UK are continuing through support from new partners.

www.legacytrustuk.org

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