



hebden bridge  
piano festival



11 March, 2014

## INTERNATIONAL MUSICIAN BRINGS HIS GIFT TO PIANO CYCLE

How many cyclists does it take to pull a grand piano up a hill? How many pianists would it take to accompany them throughout the journey?

Hebden Bridge Piano Festival and Imove are a step closer to answering both those questions ahead of *The Grand Departs* on 5 April, the epic musical and cycling challenge to pull a grand piano by bicycle up Cragg Vale - using new invention 'The PianoPorté' - as part of the 100 day Yorkshire Festival 2014 leading up to this year's Tour de France.

The latest musician to join the piano team is Jez Colborne, an international musician and composer who collaborates with Bradford based theatre company Mind the Gap. Jez is one of fifteen musicians who will take on the challenge to play the specially composed 'Piano Cycle' music for *The Grand Departs*. Leading the team is Kathryn Stott, one of Britain's most versatile and imaginative musicians and one of today's most engaging pianists.

David Nelson, Artistic Director of *The Grand Departs* and composer of 'Piano Cycle' said: "I am delighted that Jez has joined our team of musicians. He doesn't read music and is a great improviser. We expect that his interpretation of Piano Cycle will add an exciting new dimension to the piano music."

Speaking about the project, Jez said: "I love the idea of objects being made to produce a piece of music. The PianoPorté sounds amazing and really fits my passion for all things industrial. I can't wait to see what it's like to play music whilst being pulled up a hill! Who knows what we will encounter along the way?"

This fantastic event is a great opportunity to see Jez in action ahead of his world premier of *Gift* on 14 June during the Bradford Festival. *Gift* is a 15-minute new music piece commissioned by PRS for Music Foundation's New Music Biennial, part of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games Cultural Programme.

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 takes place from 27 March to 6<sup>th</sup> July, and will also include hundreds of fringe events.

Visit [www.yorkshirefestival.co.uk](http://www.yorkshirefestival.co.uk), Yorkshire Festival on Facebook or follow Yorkshire Festival 2014 on Twitter - @YFest2014

For more information on The Grand Departs and events throughout the day, visit [www.imovearts.co.uk](http://www.imovearts.co.uk) or [www.hebdenbridgepianofestival.com](http://www.hebdenbridgepianofestival.com)

For information about Jez Colborne's new music piece Gift visit [www.mind-the-gap.org.uk/productions/gift](http://www.mind-the-gap.org.uk/productions/gift)

- ENDS -

**Images: Jez Colborne, Credit Tim Smith**

**Editors' Notes:**

- *The Grand Departs* will take place on 5 April 2014.
- It will set off from St Michael's Church in Mytholmroyd at a free send-off event including a Handmade Arts Market of local artists and makers from 10am until 3pm.
- Musical performances will start at 11am. The climb up Cragg Vale will start at 12 noon.
- Residents in Cragg Vale are also organising events along the route.
- The PianoPorté is expected to reach the top of Cragg Vale by early evening.
- *The Grand Departs* is being organised by Imove and Hebden Bridge Piano Festival, working with Calderdale based sculptor Andy Plant, who is building the bespoke PianoPorté.
- 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.

The Yorkshire Festival 2014 is a 100 day cultural festival, starting on 27 March and running until 6 July.

There are nearly 50 events selected to be officially part of Yorkshire Festival 2014, and will also include hundreds of fringe events.

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

**Jez Colborne**

Jez Colborne is an actor, international musician and all-round performer. He has a learning disability called [Williams syndrome](#) a genetic condition that brings some striking verbal

abilities, perfect pitch and particularly – an affinity for music. He has been working with Mind the Gap since 1997. His first major project with Mind the Gap was On the Verge – travelling along Route 66. In 2010 he was commissioned to produce his first international musical-performance piece [Irresistible](#), which has toured the world ever since. In 2003 he won Eurovision Song Contest for Disabled People. His song Dump Truck was featured on Brian Rix's Desert Island disc. He has performed with Kenny Ball and the late Sir Johnny Dankworth

<http://www.mind-the-gap.org.uk/stories/jez-colborne-acting-company>

#### 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](http://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, 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](http://www.legacytrustuk.org)

#### PRS for Music Foundation's New Music Biennial

PRS for Music Foundation's New Music Biennial, part of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth

Games Cultural Programme presents a series of 20 brand new music commissions to audiences across the UK. All of these commissions will also be presented at two weekend showcases in London (4-6 July) and Glasgow (1-2 August 2014) New Music Biennial is a PRS for New Music Foundation initiative, presented in partnership with Creative Scotland, Arts Council England and the British Council, and in collaboration with BBC Radio 3, NMC Recordings, Southbank Centre and Glasgow UNESCO City of Music. Additional support has been given by John S. Cohen Foundation, Arts Council of Wales, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Incorporated Society of Musicians, The Bliss Trust, The Finzi Trust and Hope Scott Trust.

[www.newmusicbiennial.com](http://www.newmusicbiennial.com) [www.prsformusicfoundation.com](http://www.prsformusicfoundation.com)

#### Mind the Gap

Mind the Gap is the UK's leading and largest theatre company, which works with learning disabled artists. Found in 1988 it has been rated as 'Outstanding' by Arts Council England. The company tours nationally each year as well as running an outreach programme which aims to introduce new people to the work of the company. The forward-thinking theatre company is based in a fully accessible, fit-for-purpose performing artists' workspace in Bradford's iconic Lister Mills. The building won an Inclusive Design Award from CABE, the government's advisor on architecture and public spaces.

[www.mind-the-gap.org.uk](http://www.mind-the-gap.org.uk)

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