

Arts festival celebrating its fifth year

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Norwich Cathedral's Hostry is once again set to be the stage for an autumn festival celebrating Norfolk and the arts.

Hansells Hostry Festival is celebrating its fifth year this October with an eclectic programme of entertainment that also has a special anniversary focus on five key events.

"This year is a retrospective and a celebration of the last five years," said artistic director Stash Kirkbride.

"We are homing in on the five core projects that have helped make the festival such a success over the last five years, and these projects span across the creative landscape."

The five projects are: the festival's headline play, a production of Mahler's Conversion; a new performance piece by inclusive theatre company Total Ensemble; Chamber Orchestra Anglia performing Mendelssohn, Mozart and Korngold; the Paint Out Norwich art competition and the Norfolk Arts Awards.

Other events in the programme include soprano Lisa Cassidy as Lady Macbeth in a new opera about the Shakespearean character, and a night of jazz with vocalist Laura White.

Mr Kirkbride said: "People can look forward to a showcase of Norfolk talent; every event you will



Left, the launch event of the Hostry Festival 2015 at Norwich Cathedral, pictured above.

Pictures: STEVE ADAMS/SUBMITTED

“People can look forward to a showcase of Norfolk talent, every event you see has been made in Norfolk

Stash Kirkbride, artistic director

see has been made in Norfolk. The Hostry itself demands things to be a certain standard because it is an amazing building and we need to make sure people have an extra special experience."

The Very Rev Dr Jane Hedges, Dean of Norwich, said: "Having experienced the Hostry Festival last year for the first time, it was fabulously vibrant and brought a huge variety of activity and colour into the life of the cathedral as well as taking that out into the life of the city."

The festival will run from October 19 to 31 – with the Norfolk Arts Awards acting as a curtain raiser on September 19. Visit www.hostryfestival.org

The EDP is a media partner for the Hostry Festival.



Artistic director Stash Kirkbride. Picture: SIMON FINLAY

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Hansells Hostry Festival highlights

■ Mahler's Conversion is the festival's headline production. The play about composer Gustav Mahler will be performed at the Hostry at 7.30pm each night from Tuesday, October 27 until Saturday, October 31. Tickets £15 (concessions £12).

■ Total Ensemble Theatre Company is presenting two works – Chorus Mysticus and In Love... & War – at the Hostry on Saturday, October 24 and Saturday, October 31 from 2pm both days. Tickets £10 (£8).

■ Chorus Mysticus will also be performed at the Gala Night of Mahler's Conversion on Wednesday, October 28 at 7.30pm.

■ Chamber Orchestra Anglia

HOSTRY FESTIVAL

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will perform the concert Youthful Genius: Mendelssohn, Mozart and Korngold at the Hostry on Saturday, October 24 at 8pm. Tickets £15 (£12).

■ For more details on the above events and most other Hostry Festival events, including how to book, visit www.hostryfestival.org or call the box office on 01603 598676.

■ Stars of Norfolk's cultural scene will be honoured at the

2015 Norfolk Arts Awards in association with the Eastern Daily Press.

The ceremony is at the Maddermarket Theatre on Saturday, September 19 from 7pm. Tickets £15.

To book, call 01603 620917 or visit www.maddermarket.co.uk

■ Open air art competition Paint Out Norwich will see artists out and about painting at various venues across the city from October 20 to 22, followed by an exhibition at the Hostry from October 24 to 30 and at the Maddermarket Theatre from October 31 to November 28. Visit www.paintoutnorwich.org for more information.

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