

PRESS RELEASE

**CELEBRATING
GRAINGER 2011**

17-20 FEBRUARY 2011

KINGS PLACE CONCERT HALLS (17-19 Feb)
90 York Way, London N1 9AG

THE BRITISH LIBRARY (20 Feb)
96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB

The maverick Australian, **Percy Grainger (1882-1961)** was a citizen of the world. A leading piano virtuoso and highly original composer, Grainger broke the snobbish boundaries of classical music, gaining inspiration from folk music of Europe, Asia and the Americas. His music is a celebration of life – from the wildly ecstatic to the heart-breakingly sad.

The three-day event at Kings Place showcases some of his most vivid repertoire. Whether thrilling to the richness of the Royal Artillery Band, specially chosen instrumental ensembles from the London Music Colleges, or to Grainger's terrific choral works, exotic world music percussion settings & multi-pianos, this event will take you on a voyage of discovery you will not forget.

A Seminar at the British Library on Sunday 20 February will mark the exact 50th anniversary of Grainger's death. Leading scholars will explore some of the unknown aspects of his adventurous life and work, complementing the publication of Boydell & Brewer's *The New Percy Grainger Companion*.

THURSDAY 17 FEBRUARY

6.00pm **BAND BLAST-OFF** *Wind and Brass Ensembles, Guildhall saxophones & recorders*

7.30pm **THE HARMONIOUS SONGSMITH** *Addison Singers, cond. David Wordsworth, Stephen Varcoe, Penelope Thwaites, & Special Guest, Yvonne Kenny*

FRIDAY 18 FEBRUARY

6.00pm **PERCY GRAINGER AND THE PIANOLA** *Michael Broadway incl. Grainger himself playing*

7.30pm **WIND BAND SPECTACULAR** *The Royal Artillery Band, conductor, Maj. Neil Morgan*

SATURDAY 19 FEBRUARY

1.30pm **ROOM-MUSIC GEMS** *The Fitzwilliam String Quartet & friends*

2.30pm **SING GRAINGER** *Choral workshop for audience and choirs*

4.45pm **Experimenting with Grainger** *The "Electric Eye Tone Tool" & the Theremin*

7.30pm **EAST MEETS WEST** *Grainger Elastic Band, cond Roger Montgomery, Fitzwilliam Quartet, multi-pianos, Penelope Thwaites, John Lavender, Grainger Singers.*

Contacts

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