

## NETHERLANDS

FESTIVAL OUDE MUZIEK UTRECHT

24 AUGUST TO 2 SEPTEMBER

Having past its quarter century of existence last year, the Utrecht Early Music Festival for 2007 continues to provide one of the most ambitious and concentrated schedules of any music festival. As usual, this year's festival has several themes and sub-themes, the most intriguing of which is the overall rubric "Ars Audiendi" (The Art of Listening), which will experiment with this little-explored aspect of musical experience. This will explore such topics as how the modern practice of concert-going relates to the experience of music in the past, a theme that will be articulated in a practical way by several events including some 30 "living room concerts" in houses sited all over the old town (24 August). Under the same banner comes a spatial performance by Cantar Lontano of a Vespers service by Diego Ortiz (30 August). Perhaps not surprisingly, the featured composer this year is Buxtehude, the subject of two concerts given by Ton Koopman, 2007's artist in residence, and his Amsterdam Baroque forces (29 August & 2 Sept., a concert that includes cantatas by Bach as well as Buxtehude). The Buxtehude anniversary is also celebrated in concerts given by the Netherlands Bach Society (25 August) and Capella Ducale and Musica Fiata (28 August), while no fewer than five keyboard recitals feature his works. In



Freiburger Barockorchester

addition to Buxtehude, both the locally born Jacob van Eyck (15 & 26 August) and Domenico Scarlatti (Sept. 1 & 2) are the subject of mini "festivals within the festival", the latter offering the intriguing prospect of hearing sonatas played on everything from carillon to modern grand (Alexandre Tharaud), although the harpsichord rightly dominates. Two semi-staged opera productions are scheduled: Vivaldi's serenata *La Senna festiggante* with the young Belgian orchestra B'Rock (1 Sept.), and Handel's *Acis and Galatea* (2 Sept.), with Concerto Copenhagen. Another major Handel work on the programme is his oratorio *Jephtha*, to be performed by the Holland Baroque Society and Cappella Amsterdam (26 August). In what promises to be a highlight even among so many riches, the Freiburger Barockorchester, soprano Caroline Sampson and fortepianist Kristian Bezuidenhout give a Mozart concert on 31 August. As anyone who has been to Utrecht will know, the above represents only the tip of the iceberg offered by a festival that for ten days turns the city into the venue for one huge musical banquet. Further details from: [www.oudemuziek.nl](http://www.oudemuziek.nl)

## SWITZERLAND

EARLY MUSIC WORKSHOPS IN GRUYÈRES

26 AUGUST TO 2 SEPTEMBER

This year the Gruyères early music workshops will be entirely dedicated to the theme of the Renaissance ball. A variety of activities touching on the theme will be featured, including a workshop on instrument building (2 places are still available), in which students will make their own instruments as the public looks on. Renaissance dance courses with members of the French company Outre Mesure are also on offer. A thorough overview of the recreational dances described by Thoinot Arbeau in *Orchésographie* will be presented; students will also learn the dances with members of the teaching staff and participate as musicians and dancers (or both) in the Renaissance Ball scheduled for 31 August. Other highlights include a lecture on Renaissance costumes, a Renaissance ball and cabaret, and a series of Renaissance concerts given by the Spanish ensemble El Cortesano, the Swiss singer and lutenist Christine Gabrielle, the Swiss flute ensemble La Volette, and the French ensemble Douce Mémoire. An exhibition about last year's baroque violin making workshop can be visited throughout the event at the Calvaire de Gruyères. Highlights of the 2007 programme include the costume ball "Dansez Renaissance..." with the Compagnie Outre Mesure, accompanied for the occa-



sion by violinist and hurdy-gurdy player Thierry Bertrand, percussionist Sylvain Fabre, lute, guitar and mandore player Miguel Henry, and Robin Joly, a dancer who also performs on the recorder and oboe. The public is invited to join in. A Renaissance cabaret entitled "La Dive Bouteille" will be given by Douce Mémoire. Details at [www.anselmus.ch/fr/association/atelier2007.htm](http://www.anselmus.ch/fr/association/atelier2007.htm)