# Norfolk and Norwich Festival 2023 ignites community spirit with diverse performances and mass electric guitar ensemble



The Norfolk and Norwich Festival 2023 opened with an exhilarating blend of artistry, showcasing both local talent and international acts that captivated audiences. During the opening night, a group of local musicians created a mesmerising soundscape—a unique composition by Australian Thomas Meadowcroft that resonates deeply with listeners. This piece, which has travelled the globe, morphs under the influence of each ensemble, and the local delivery was no exception, infusing it with a distinct character reflective of Norwich’s vibrant music community.

Soon after this calm artistic exploration, the atmosphere surged with the electrifying energy of High Voltage, a collaboration that brought together the RockavoX Community Choir, Access Creative College, The Garage Youth Theatre, No Limits Norfolk Dance, and a remarkable swarm of 150 electric guitarists. Festival Director Daniel Brine encapsulated the spirit of the event when he remarked, “It’s brilliant to bring the community to the heart of the Festival.” The powerful punch of this performance stood as a testament to the immense talent present within the region, underscoring the festival’s commitment to fostering local creativity while embracing international influences.

Complementing this dynamic opening were various acts scheduled throughout the festival, including the circus show 'Le Coup'. Described as a thrilling experience, it features acrobatics, fire-breathing, and a live bluegrass band, Father Grant and the Blunt Objects. Performances like 'Le Coup' illustrate the festival's diverse offerings, making it a hub for both entertainment and artistic exploration until May 28. The Adnams Spiegeltent, nestled in Chapelfield Gardens, acts as a central venue for many of these enchanting performances, providing an intimate setting for audiences to engage with a range of artistic expressions.

In addition to high-energy performances, other events during the festival include a concert by Rhiannon Giddens and Francesco Turrisi at St Andrew’s Hall. The duo’s two-hour set, praised for its superb sound quality, showcased a seamless blend of original compositions and traditional songs, demonstrating their remarkable versatility across various instruments.

With free shows and workshops available, the festival promises an inclusive experience for all, appealing to both seasoned art enthusiasts and curious newcomers. As the days progress, the festival continues to highlight the importance of community engagement through art, while also offering full-bodied experiences that echo the creative spirit of Norfolk and its artists. This year’s Norfolk and Norwich Festival not only serves as a celebration of the arts but also acts as a platform for cultivating a sense of togetherness, vital in times of social uncertainty.

The festival remains a beacon of cultural vibrancy, and with many events to look forward to, the excitement is palpable. The coming weekend promises to be rich with performances, workshops, and opportunities to connect, reinforcing the notion that the arts can indeed bring communities closer together.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25153199.review-opening-norfolk-norwich-festival/?ref=rss)
2. Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25153199.review-opening-norfolk-norwich-festival/?ref=rss), [[5]](https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/23515064.norfolk-norwich-festival-back-bigger-better-2023/)
3. Paragraph 3: [[2]](https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/23531438.le-coup-circus-norfolk-norwich-festival-2023-review/), [[4]](https://www.visitnorwich.co.uk/article/an-exciting-norfolk-norwich-festival-programme-returns-for-2023/)
4. Paragraph 4: [[3]](https://ukjazznews.com/rhiannon-giddens-and-francesco-turrisi-at-the-2023-norfolk-and-norwich-festival/), [[7]](https://www.broadwayworld.com/uk-regional/article/Norfolk-Norwich-Festival-Returns-in-May-20230412)
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6. Paragraph 6: [[5]](https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/23515064.norfolk-norwich-festival-back-bigger-better-2023/)
7. Paragraph 7: [[6]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/23437593.norfolk-norwich-festival-returns-brilliant-line-up/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25153199.review-opening-norfolk-norwich-festival/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/23531438.le-coup-circus-norfolk-norwich-festival-2023-review/> - This review highlights the Australian circus show 'Le Coup' at the Adnams Spiegeltent during the Norfolk and Norwich Festival 2023. The performance features a diverse cast including a fire-breathing compère, acrobats, and a live bluegrass band, Father Grant and the Blunt Objects. The show is praised for its energetic and entertaining acts, blending circus skills with a lively musical score. The reviewer expresses high enjoyment and recommends attending before the show's run ends on May 28.
3. <https://ukjazznews.com/rhiannon-giddens-and-francesco-turrisi-at-the-2023-norfolk-and-norwich-festival/> - This article reviews the opening concert of the Norfolk and Norwich Festival 2023, featuring Rhiannon Giddens and Francesco Turrisi at St Andrew’s Hall. The duo performed a two-hour set that included a mix of original compositions and traditional songs, showcasing their versatility across various instruments. The performance is noted for its superb sound quality and the duo's ability to blend different musical styles seamlessly. The reviewer commends the concert as a memorable start to the festival.
4. <https://www.visitnorwich.co.uk/article/an-exciting-norfolk-norwich-festival-programme-returns-for-2023/> - This article previews the Norfolk and Norwich Festival 2023, highlighting the return of the Adnams Spiegeltent in Chapelfield Gardens. The festival is set to feature a variety of acts, including the Australian circus troupe Le Coup, known for their acrobatics, fire breathing, and live music. The article provides details on ticket availability and encourages readers to attend the performances from May 17 to 28.
5. <https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/23515064.norfolk-norwich-festival-back-bigger-better-2023/> - This article announces the return of the Norfolk and Norwich Festival in 2023, running from May 12 to 28. It highlights the festival's expansion, featuring hundreds of events across the city and county. The article mentions free events during the Welcome Weekend, including performances by Dulce Duca and Gorilla Circus. It also details the Adnams Spiegeltent's role in hosting nightly shows, including the Australian circus troupe Le Coup, known for their acrobatics and live music.
6. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/23437593.norfolk-norwich-festival-returns-brilliant-line-up/> - This article previews the Norfolk and Norwich Festival 2023, emphasizing the Adnams Spiegeltent's role in hosting a packed program of events. It mentions the Australian circus troupe Le Coup, set to perform from May 17, known for their acrobatics, magic, dance, and live music. The article also highlights other events, including Paul O’Donnell’s Dia-Beat-Es and the Ragroof Tea Dance, and provides ticket information for various performances.
7. <https://www.broadwayworld.com/uk-regional/article/Norfolk-Norwich-Festival-Returns-in-May-20230412> - This article announces the Norfolk and Norwich Festival 2023, running from May 12 to 28, featuring artists from around the world. It highlights the opening concert by Rhiannon Giddens and Francesco Turrisi at St. Andrew's Hall, performing their Grammy Award-winning album 'They're Calling Me Home.' The article also mentions other events, including Fire Songs performed in collaboration with Thetford Singers and singers from across Norfolk and Norwich, and provides ticket information for various performances.