



INSCAPE RETREAT
ASKHAM HALL THIRD ANNUAL WINTER MUSIC FESTIVAL
BEETHOVEN & WORDSWORTH IN CUMBRIA

Friday 23 - Monday 26 February 2018

Intimate concerts interwoven with enlightening lectures, convivial talks and gentle walks, and other good things await us again in Askham, Cumbria. Nestled between the Lakes and the northern part of the Pennine Range, Askham village is regarded by Pevsner as the prettiest in Westmorland. Askham Hall, our headquarters for this annual and special weekend, is a fine Grade I-listed house with a pele tower dating back to the 13c, now run as a comfortable and informal country house hotel. Inscape's unique 'Retreat' pace and structure permits escape from the challenges of everyday existence into seamless days of talks, readings, occasional and optional excursions, rest, delicious chef-cooked meals, and, in the case of Askham, sublime music in ancient surroundings. This truly unique winter music festival takes place round the fire at Askham Hall and in the adjacent Askham Church.

Askham Hall on the Cumbrian estate of the Lowther family, Earls of Lonsdale is run by Charles Lowther, son of the 7th Earl Lonsdale; his winter birthday provides the occasion for the annual music festival. By an extraordinary set of 'coincidences', it was a Lowther for whom the Cumbrian poet William Wordsworth's grandfather, Richard Wordsworth, worked from 1728; it was for a Lowther that the poet's father, John Wordsworth, became steward in 1764; and a Lowther for whom the poet himself provided 'political support' in return for a life-saving 'administrative' position, a much-needed sinecure. We make an innovative study of Wordsworth's work in the context of these pertinent Lowther connections.

For this third festival season Askham Festival's talented Director of Music Noam Greenberg will focus on the brilliant music by Beethoven, born in 1770, the same year as Wordsworth. Nicholas Friend's lectures on and readings of Wordsworth's poetry will be complemented by a stunning programme of mainly Beethoven chamber music, beautifully punctuated with Schubert, Janacek and Winkelman. The programme will be played by Noam Greenberg, pianist; Adrian Brendel, cellist (and son of the superlative pianist); and Helen Winkelman, violinist and composer.

FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY

Concert

- 09.30 Train departs London Euston for Penrith
- 12.29 Train arrives Penrith for minibus to Askham Hall
- 1.00 Group Opening lunch at Askham Hall
- 2:30 End of lunch
- Check in and rest
- 4.00 Tea available in the drawing room
- 6.00 Welcoming Reception with canapés and drinks before concert
- 6.45 Short Walk to Askham Church
- 7:00 Concert programme
 - Beethoven Cello Sonata no. 1 in F Major
 - Schubert Fantasy for Violin and Piano D934
 - Beethoven Piano Trio op. 1/3 in C minor
- 9.00 Walk back to Askham Hall for group buffet dinner

SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY

Jeff Cowton

Concert

Noam Greenberg

- 10.15 Leave for Rydal
- 11.00 Private visit Wordsworth's favourite house and garden, Rydal Mount
- 12.15 Lunch in the Wordsworth Hotel, Grasmere
- 1.45 Curator's tour of Wordsworth Museum with Curator Jeff Cowton
- 3.00 Leave Grasmere to return to Askham Hall
- 4.00 Arrive Askham for tea
- 4.30 Short walk to Askham Church
- 5.00 Concert in Askham Church
 - Beethoven Cello Sonata no. 3 in A Major
 - Winkelman Gravitation I for violin and piano
 - Beethoven Piano Trio op. 70/1 in D Major ("Ghost")
- 7.30 Group Dinner in Askham Barn
- 9.00 Optional evening recital by Noam Greenberg round fire in the Drawing Room

SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY

Concert

- 11.00 NF Lecture: 'Wordsworth and Beethoven, Unlikely Contemporaries?'
- 1.00 Group lunch in Askham Hall
- 2.30 Short walk to Askham Church
- 3.00 Finale concert in Askham Church
 - Beethoven Cello Sonata no.5 in D Major
 - Janacek Violin Sonata
 - Beethoven Piano Trio op. 97 in B flat Major ("Archduke")
- 4.30 Walk back to Askham Hall, free time and rest
- 7.30 Group Dinner in Askham Hall

MONDAY 26 FEBRUARY

Checkout

- 10.00 NF lecture: 'Wordsworth and the Lowthers'
- 11.00 Leave for Lowther Castle Exhibition on Lowther Family
- 12.30 Closing Group Lunch at The Bridge, Penrith
- 2.22 Train departs Penrith to London (change at Crewe)
- 5.59 Arrive London Euston Station



COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL

ASKHAM HALL

NR PENRITH

CA10 2PF

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Dating from the 12th Century, Askham Hall was a fortified pele tower protecting England from invasion by the Scots. In the 16th Century it was converted into a grand Elizabethan mansion by Thomas Sandford before being bought by the Lowther family 200 years ago. It then became home to Anthony Lowther, a descendant of the 5th Earl of Lonsdale, Hugh Lowther the “Yellow Earl” and was passed down the family. The present owner’s grandfather moved there after moving out of Lowther Castle next door. It is now owned by Charles Lowther and his mother, Caroline, Countess of Lonsdale, who until recently had Askham Hall as the family home. A fairly recent venture to open the hall as a commercial venture continues to be a family affair, involving both the Countess of Lonsdale and Charles Lowther along with his sister, Marie-Louisa Raeburn, and his wife, Juno. Now a luxurious, intimate, unpretentious country house hotel with fifteen bedrooms, Askham Hall is set in acres of grounds. It is just a short walk from St. Peter’s Church, Askham, and close to the 13th Century St. Michael’s Church, which has strong Lowther family connections and overlooks the hall, River Lowther and Lowther Castle.

£1245 Members, £1295 non-Members, £135 single room supplement, deposit £250, includes three nights accommodation with breakfast, two coffees, all lunches and dinners with wine, lectures and tuition by Nicholas Friend, three concerts, all visits and travel during the tour. Please note that this cost excludes train tickets to and from Penrith.