



EXCITED: A homecoming gig is on the cards for Jocelyn Pook

# Award-winning Jocelyn coming home for festival

BY LAURA SMITH  
laura.smith@buryfreepress.co.uk  
Twitter: @BfpLaura

**Having spent some of her most influential years in Bury St Edmunds, Jocelyn Pook is excited to be returning to the town she once called home.**

The award-winning composer, often remembered for her film score to Stanley Kubrick's *Eyes Wide Shut*, will perform with her ensemble as part of the Bury Festival on May 17.

The 55-year-old - who is also an accomplished pianist and viola player - has had an astonishing career writing compositions for dance, theatre, TV, film, opera houses and concert halls, which have been recognised by, among others, an Olivier Award, two British Composer Awards and a Golden Globe nomination.

She is known for experimenting with the human voice and, as such, used the melodic qualities of messages on her answerphone in *Portraits in Absentia* and wove everyday sounds into *Speaking in Tunes*, a music-theatre piece she performed at Bury's Theatre Royal around 10 years ago.

More recently, she used the words of her great aunt and

deeply personal piece about mental illness, and street recordings from Bangladesh in *Desh*, a piece which explores issues of identity.

People attending her Bury concert can expect to hear music from her film scores and her albums as her set will include a mixture of her earlier pieces and more recent work.

She will be joined by singers Jonathan Peter Kenny, Melanie Pappenheim and Tanja Tzarovska, violinist Kelly McCusker, cellist Laura Moody and clarinettist Susy Evans.

"We haven't performed since the summer so it's going to be really nice to get back together, and what better way than to play our new set? It's going to be lovely to go back to Bury as well," said Jocelyn, who also plans to sing a little.

She moved to Bury at about 12 years old and, though she has since moved away, she still remembers the town fondly.

She keeps in touch with some of her former classmates and several of her more inspirational teachers from King Edward VI School and remembers well the time she spent in Leslie Hatfield's Saturday morning youth orchestras, in Northgate Street.

"It was lovely - I really remember all that time spent in

fondly," she said.

Her years growing up in the town, though marred by the tragedy of her sister's death, involved lots of musical opportunities, be it concert playing or singing in the Abbot Consort of Voices choir.

"I really did have a lot of support - I was very 'unconfident' and shy but I received an awful lot of support," she said.

Graduating from London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 1983, Jocelyn then began touring and recording with artists like Peter Gabriel, Massive Attack, Laurie Anderson and PJ Harvey, and as a member of the Communards.

She had previously busked in London's Covent Garden and says she was 'in the right place at the right time' when pop groups started experimenting with string players.

"I started getting some session work and some of it was orchestral but mainly I just fell into more unusual things," said Jocelyn, who admits playing in big arenas with the likes of Meatloaf 'was a lot of fun and a nice way to earn a living' but says she became a composer when writing, rather than performing, 'gradually took over (her) natural processes'.

For tickets, visit [www.buryfestival.co.uk](http://www.buryfestival.co.uk) or call

The Alzheimer's Society is seeking volunteers to help with a new service for dementia sufferers in Bury St Edmunds.

The charity's new Side-by-Side service aims to help people with dementia to keep doing the things they love and get out and about with the help of a volunteer.

This could be anything from joining a local club to going to the football or having a stroll in the park and to do this the society must recruit volunteers in the Bury area.

People can volunteer for anything from a couple of hours a week and the charity is looking for people who can help at weekends and evenings as well as during the working week.

Patrick Yardy, Alzheimer's Society Side-by-

Side Manage Suffolk, said is that people can often find it difficult of their company in hobbies they previously seem too difficult. "We need volunteers to help dementia sufferers to do things they enjoy."

The Alzheimer's Society is piloting the service in a number of areas including North Suffolk. The aim is to have it available by 2017.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the service for Alzheimer's Society Side by Side contact Patrick Yardy on 01473 404 or [patrick@alzheimers.org.uk](http://patrick@alzheimers.org.uk)