

HERE COME THE

# girls

The gorgeous Mediaeval Baebes are set to enchant music-lovers when they sing at Ely Cathedral this month. Louise Cummings chats to founding baebe Katharine Blake.



Katharine Blake

X

rekking across Hampstead Heath the high-spirited girls scoured the greenery for the perfect spot for an impromptu singsong. As the wind began to whip around them, and the sky turned dark and moody, they could see there was a storm brewing in the distance. Suddenly, spotting an enclosed ring of trees on top of a hill they clambered up and, once sheltered beneath the great leafy boughs, they began to sing. Amid the claps of thunder and driving rain, the girls' voices carried on the breeze and their sweet harmonies came as a surprise to even them. This was the day the Mediaeval Baebes were born...

Recalling that day back in 1996, founder member Katharine Blake says: "We'd just got together to have a bit of a laugh really. I'd got a few mates together from music college with some girls I'd met out

clubbing in London, and I started teaching them some mediaeval songs. We thought we'd go up to Hampstead Heath and sing and then there was this massive thunder storm so we broke into a fenced area around a ring of trees at the top of a hill. We started singing and there was this huge thunderstorm so it was really dramatic. We found out later that it was actually a witches' circle!"

Buoyed by their first outdoor performance together, they chose the somewhat chilling venue of a graveyard for their next performance of haunting mediaeval music. "People had to climb in through a hole in a fence to get to our gig outside a derelict church in Stoke Newington. That was our first proper gig so it was really quite romantic and insane at that same time," she laughs. "After that we realised we were quite good and thought we'd try to

get a record deal and the next thing we knew we were top of the classical charts. It's quite an amazing story and quite hard to believe really."

Over the past 12 years the Baebes have performed all over the world and sold more than 450,000 records. Their debut album *Salva Nos* stayed in the top 10 for three months, beating off all the big names in the business – and their contribution to the BBC production of *The Virgin Queen* resulted in an Ivor Novello award in 2007 for best television soundtrack.

The Baebes line-up has changed several times over the years but the one constant has been contralto Katharine, who plays violin, recorder and piano, and was classically trained at the Purcell School of Music and Richmond College, where she first discovered her love of mediaeval music. "I was in a trio of girls

singing renaissance madrigals and so my first band – Miranda Sex Garden – was mainly renaissance madrigals before we kind of mutated into a goth rock band somehow!”

Katharine toured Europe and the USA with her avant garde rock band as well as supporting the likes of Depeche Mode and Nick Cave on tour. “We had a lot of fun and produced about five studio albums before I started the Mediaeval Baebes,” she recalls.

The current incarnation of the Baebes, whose ages range from early 20s to late 30s, seems to be the sassiest yet, and the band are as glamorous as they are talented, dispelling myths about mediaeval music being staid and boring. “We like to think we are about the glamour as well as the music,” says Katharine, who is musical director and lead composer. “A lot of bands who play this type of music have the classic concert look – wearing black, with their music on stands – but we don’t want to be like that.”

The music itself is truly ethereal, the lyrics woven around mediaeval texts and set to original scores, using both classical and mediaeval instruments such as hurdy gurdy, lute and harp, and sung in an array of long forgotten languages. “Hopefully it takes the listener to another place; it should be like ‘another world’ experience. It’s escapism,” says Katharine.

Katharine, who lives in Walthamstow with her one-year-old daughter Ava and her musician partner Nick Marsh, finds inspiration for her music from

her overflowing collection of poems and old books.

“I’ll find a poem I really love and either the sounds of the words, the rhythm or the meaning will trigger an idea. I improvise something to it and take it from there,” she explains. “It often helps if I’ve had a glass of wine or two to get in the mood!”

Her arrangements are then presented to the other Baebes, often proving challenging because of the different languages and tricky pronunciation.

“Because I’m the only one whose been in the band from the beginning, all of the girls have had to take formidable paths of learning about 26 songs, some of them in just three weeks. I’ve seen them one by one go completely insane. But the brain is an amazing thing; once it’s in there it just stays!”

The Baebes have seen their music injected with a new lease of life, remixed for the track *Aria* by Delerium which is something Katharine welcomes.

“That’s done us a lot of favours because it has introduced us to a wider audience. It’s not something I do personally; most of my music is created using organic instruments, but if someone else wants to come along and take our music to another level where a different audience might appreciate it and it might get played on radio stations, then that’s great for us.”

December sees the release of the Baebes’ first single together in their current line-up – a remix of a song called *Miracle* – and it promises to have a more contemporary

feel. After that their album *Illumination*, which was created in collaboration with producer KK, who has worked with the likes of KT Tunstall and Dido, will be released in February. Katharine describes it as their most eclectic album so far, and fans will get a sneak preview of this latest work during a nine-date nationwide tour this month, which brings the girls to Ely.

The concert will have special significance as Katharine has penned a song which refers to the monks of Ely.

“The words are actually from something called the *Ely Sequence* but I’ve taken an extract out of that and called it *Myrie Songen*,” she explains. “It’s my own setting of this particular piece of 13th century middle English; it will be quite an historic occasion to use those words to different music in Ely Cathedral.”

Having performed at the Lady Chapel last year, the girls are relishing the opportunity to sing in the magnificent Norman creation that is the Cathedral. “I love playing cathedrals and this is going to be a particularly good concert as we have the Ely Imps, a 75-strong children’s choir with us,” Katharine says, “so I’ll be conducting about 85 people in one go, which is the most I’ve ever conducted. The main cathedral apparently has an eight second delay, which could be interesting! But just to be singing our music and looking at all the stained glass windows is going to be really inspiring and quite magical,” she says, with a song ever present in her voice.



‘The music itself is truly ethereal, the lyrics woven around mediaeval texts and set to original scores, using both classical and mediaeval instruments’

See the Mediaeval Baebes perform with the Ely Imps at Ely Cathedral on December 5th. For tickets call 01353 660349 or go to [www.mediaevalbaebes.com](http://www.mediaevalbaebes.com)





# Forbidden



Here come the girls: Baebes strike a pose in their costumes for the Heaven section of new show *Temptation*.

# Fruit

Fairy curses? Hieronymous Bosch? Roaming cemeteries in your nightie? Welcome to the bewitching world of classical-folk vocal mavens **Mediaeval Baebes** as they prepare for a divine and seductive new project. **Natasha Scharf** takes a bite of the apple...



**B**airies, hexes and the Virgin Mary might not sound like your average selection of song themes but they all fit beautifully together for the English vocal ensemble Mediaeval Baebes. “We do pride ourselves on uniqueness,” founding member Katharine Blake says confidently. She’s busy prepping for a series of Christmas-themed concerts around the UK (the final handful of which are scheduled over the next few days) while making sure everything is ready for a very special and rather alluring release, but far be it for anyone to assume the gorgeous collective are just another group of classical warblers. There’s more to these “baebes” than meets the eye – for starters they’re not only singers but also accomplished songwriters and multi-instrumentalists.

Formed in 1996, part-way through Katharine’s career with the influential avant-garde ethereal outfit Miranda Sex Garden, Mediaeval Baebes took their name from the ancient manuscripts that inspired their lyrics, many of which are written in languages just as old as the documents themselves. The story goes that their first unofficial chorale expedition was when they broke into a North London cemetery, clad in white dresses and ivy – and since that flamboyant outing they’ve played at prestigious locations like the Royal Albert Hall and Hyde Park while their music was featured on the Ivor Novello award-winning

television soundtrack for the BBC’s 2005 production of *The Virgin Queen*. Just as Katharine’s former band started off life as a trio of madrigal singers lending their voices to traditional English verse – partly stemming from her own classical training – so the Baebes early works focused around the beauty of female harmonies with traditional instruments like the cittern being occasionally brought in. Their debut album *Salva Nos*, released through Virgin Records in 1997, edged close to the top spot in the classical charts and subsequent releases have done the same but to pigeonhole the ensemble as straightforward classical or chorale really doesn’t do them justice. Just take a look at the repertoire of the current revolving line-up and it’s clear to see where the roots of their diversity lay. From Celtic to jazz and blues to symphonic metal, the group certainly have many strings to their collective bow. “We’re not really classical,” states Katharine,

her voice pausing as she considers the right words. “And we’re not really folk either,” she adds. So how would she define them? “Well, we have all sorts of fans – classical, metal, pagan, goth, prog, young and old – a lot of alternative people like our romanticism but to be honest, we’re really out there on our own. While it can be a

**“People don’t know how to categorise us which can be to our advantage – it keeps things interesting...”**

**Katherine Blake**



The Baebes' house elf dreaded their daily demand for breakfast in bed.



disadvantage because people don't know where to put us, it can also be an advantage as it keeps things interesting."

And keeping things interesting is precisely what has kept their flame burning so brightly for all these years. From line-up changes (currently Blake, Emily Ovenden, violinist Bev Lee Harding, percussionist Esther Dee, Sarah Kayte and Melpomeni, another Prog favourite in her solo guise) to the unexpected death of mature co-founder and US hammered dulcimer doyenne Dorothy Carter to a stroke, the Mediaeval Baebes have plenty of fuel to stoke their everlasting fire. Last year's *Illumination* album melded their old-world style with a more contemporary feel but their newest release goes one step further. Hot from the pressing plant is a 32-track, two-disc release called *Temptation*, which is intended to be the taster to an elaborate theatrical show of the same name that's being put together for next year. "*Temptation* [the album] features reworked highlights from the hundreds of songs that we've done over the years," Katharine offers, explaining how this epic

sum of parts tells a story that is quite literally of biblical proportions.

"It starts off in Heaven, and that section is more ethereal, then the Earth section is very pagan, but I've been able to get really experimental for the Hell songs. We've brought in the electric guitar for the first time and some of it's quite progressive but at the same time, it's also very organic."

It's not the first time that Katharine has used the p-word to describe the Mediaeval Baebes either and the presence of Cardiacs' guitarist and Knife World frontman Kavus Torabi in their revolving live line-up further enhances their eclectic sound. Even their earliest work ploughed through any preconceived ideas of what they may or may not have been able to achieve musically within the realms of the classical



Picture this: Melpomeni (top), Esther Dee (below).

genre to which they were initially marketed. "I think we'll always be a bit left-of-centre," says Katharine brightly, "that's the essence of us. I'm a big fan of Pentangle and The Incredible String Band – I think of them as psychedelic folk and there's a lot of that sound cropping up in our new material.

I like to do things that can be disorientating and not always traditional so it creates a bit of an atmosphere." Given the melting pot of influences and unusual use of time signatures that play such a large role in both bands' sound, one might be able to predict that the Baebes' next outing could follow a similarly eclectic path. Enthused by a recent series of "unplugged" shows, Katharine has already turned her attention to that next studio album. "I'm a bit of a workaholic," she confesses, "so I've already started thinking about what I want to do and I really fancy stripping things right down. We did some a *cappella* shows by candlelight in churches and chapels that worked really well – we abandoned our PA

and went back to almost how we started. It sounded really pure and it also gave us more flexibility to perform because we weren't tied to microphones. Obviously I'll be building on that rather than just recreating it but I really want to explore it; develop it further and see where it takes us."

But before anyone gets to hear the fruits of Katharine's labour, preparation is underway for the full *Temptation* theatre show to accompany the aforementioned album release and it promises to be on an epic scale. Forget about a few smoke machines onstage and velvet capes because the Baebes have something quite fantastical planned.

"We met this director called Micha Bergese [who was in charge of the Millennium show at London's Dome] and we told him that we wanted to explore a more theatrical side," Katharine explains. "He brought up the work of early Renaissance painter Hieronymus Bosch [whose masterpieces often carried religious themes] – it just fitted because we've got quite a few songs that use that kind of imagery like *Original Sin* and *The Snake*. We've also got others that deal with horrific things like fairy curses so really it was a great way of encapsulating the concepts we were already working with." A tempting teaser trailer is already up online and once financial backing has been secured, it will be taken out onto the road. "We have scenery and costumes and the soundtrack already so it's a bit like putting a jigsaw together," she explains excitedly. "It'll be much more theatrical than anything we've done before and there's a lot more potential to really explore things further that way because there's a lot we haven't covered in the Christmas shows." Profits from sales of the *Temptation* album will go towards funding these lavish performances.

As the December moon wanes once more and the final throes of the Mediaeval Baebes' festive concerts reverberate through the cold winter nights, there's brief respite for the ladies to indulge in their other projects. These presently include Emily Ovenden's progressive symphonic metal offering Pythia, who have also recently been on the road, and Katharine's own contributions to the solo album by her partner Nick Marsh (from seminal '80s gothic rock band Flesh For Lulu), *A Universe Between Us*. But any rumours of potential musical cross-referencing are laughed off by Katharine who suggests the side-projects are more of an escape from the Baebes than anything that should be married into their sound.

The winds of change have brought about quite a startling transformation over the last decade or so of the Baebes

**"I like to take our classical music education... and do something disorientating with it!"**

**Katherine Blake**

existence. All this talk of theatrical elements and a progressive slant shows just how far Katharine has steered things away from the more traditional classical path critics might have assumed she would stick to. This prompts the conversation to return to talk of future plans and Katharine is clear of what she wants to achieve through this particular outlet. "I'm not interested in doing anything that we've done before," she states firmly.

Continuing on a progressive theme, she adds: "There's a lot of scope we haven't yet explored and I'd like to think we're inventing new genres and keeping things fresh while taking our classical education and using it in different ways."

Now on their own label Queens Of Sheba, Mediaeval Baebes are freer than ever to explore the musical realms they wish to, and to push back any boundaries that happen to get in their way.

And when temptation looks and sounds as good as this, why not give in to it? 🌸

*The Medieval Baebes tour continues through December. Temptation is available via Queens Of Sheba and can be ordered now at [www.mediaevalbaebes.com](http://www.mediaevalbaebes.com).*



**Girls on film:** From top, Katherine, Emily, Bev Lee, Sarah Kayte.

## Baebography! The sisterhood, committed to wax.

### SALVA NOS (VIRGIN, 1997)



Literally translated as "Save Us", this was the girls' debut offering, which brought

them to the attention of the classical music world. A *cappella* in tone and packed with poetry, this was just a taste of things to come even if it didn't quite capture their potential as musicians nor really harness their uniqueness.

### WORLDES BLYSSE (VIRGIN, 1998)



Recorded in just six days, album number two went on to become one of the group's

best-loved and most well-known releases. With the addition of Trevor Sharpe and Hans Persson in the rhythm section and some tantalising pre-Raphaelite imagery, *Worldes Blysse* is not only a more relaxed but also more dynamic offering than its predecessor.

### UNDRENTIDE (BMG CLASSICS, 2000)



Co-producer John Cale (Velvet Underground) played the wild card on album

number three by mixing traditional instruments with contemporary electronic sounds and steering the collective in a more avant-garde direction. This album still divides fans who felt it just wasn't what the band were about.

### THE ROSE (NETTWERK, 2002)



With the Cale experience – or perhaps experiment – behind them, the 'Baebes

returned to their traditional sound with the addition of some Medieval Welsh and Russian lyrics. Harmonious yet dark with just a tinge of folk, *The Rose* allowed the girls to further bloom and demonstrate their potential not only as vocalists but as a deliciously refreshing alternative.

### MIRABILIS (NETTWERK, 2005)



After a brief diversion via a Christmas-themed compilation, The 'Baebes

returned to the studio for what's often referred to as their most sophisticated release to date. Traditional songs like *Scarborough Fair* set the tone for a luscious collection of folk ballads and pagan dance music, all with strong ties to folklore.

### ILLUMINATION (QUEENS OF SHEBA, 2009)



A hearty mixture of modern verse and medieval music gave *Illumination* a much more

contemporary feel than its predecessors and seemed to open a new chapter. Sultry with hints of jazz, it still remains true to its historical roots while skipping gleefully past its boundaries and demonstrating a natural development of maturity and a willingness to experiment. **NS**



## December 20: The Mediaeval Baebes Christmas concert, Gloucester Cathedral

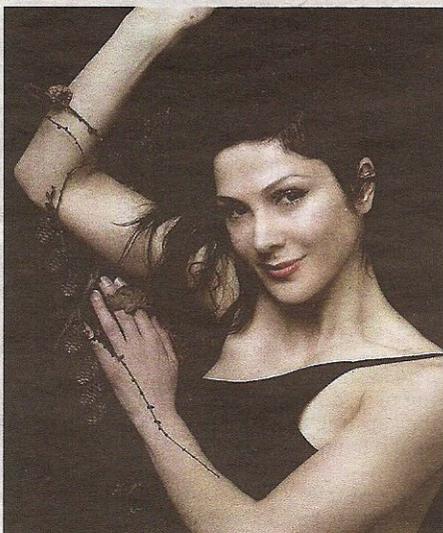
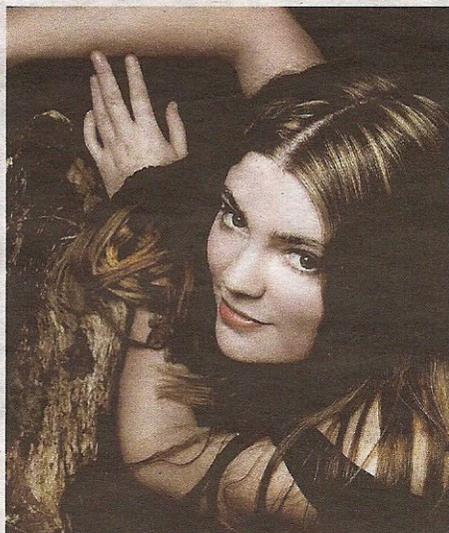
The Mediaeval Baebes perform a one off concert in Gloucestershire as part of a nine date nationwide UK tour to promote the release of their first single 'Miracle'. They have recently completed their 6th studio album 'Illumination'. The all female

group create their unique sound by drawing inspiration from medieval texts and setting this to original scores with the use of both classical and medieval musical instruments, whilst singing in an array of long forgotten languages. In their twelve-

year career The Mediaeval Baebes have performed all over the world, sold over 450,000 records and won an Ivor Novello award.

**For information and tickets, visit**  
[www.mediaevalbaebes.com](http://www.mediaevalbaebes.com)

# A bunch of busy Baebees



Their songs top the classical music charts. Now the glamorous Mediaeval Baebees are returning to Norwich Cathedral for a special festive performance. **ABIGAIL SALTMARSH** spoke to founder babe-turned-mother Katharine Blake.

Performing a series of concerts at the busiest time of year is no easy task when you have a one year-old daughter in tow, but Katharine Blake wouldn't change it for the world.

The founder of glamorous classical chart-topping group The Mediaeval Baebees is still as enthusiastic about her music as she was when she first brought the group together 12 years ago.

And she said she can't wait to perform in Norwich Cathedral tomorrow – and for little Ava to be there to enjoy it too.

"We have performed in Norwich Cathedral before and it was just wonderful," she said. "The acoustics are amazing and it just looks fabulous. It really is awe-inspiring."

Formed in 1996, The Mediaeval Baebees are an all female group made up of Claire Rabbitt, Emily Ovenden, Bev Lee Harling, Esther Dee and Melpomeni Kermanidou, as well as Katharine.

They create their unique sound by

drawing inspiration from medieval texts and setting this to original scores with the use of both classical and medieval musical instruments.

They also sing in an array of long forgotten languages.

"I have always been into mediaeval and renaissance music," said Blake. "But when I first started The Mediaeval Baebees there was never any plan to go professional with it.

"It was purely recreational. I just got a few friends together and asked them if they wanted to come round to mine and sing a few songs for fun.

"Everyone really enjoyed it and I realised these raw, untrained voices made a simplistic sound that was just wonderful.

"The next thing we knew, we had recorded an album and it went to number one in the UK classical charts!"

Over the course of the past 12 years, the line-up of The Mediaeval Baebees has changed from time to time.

The group has performed all over the world and has sold more than 450,000 records.

The women also contributed to the music for the BBC production of *The Virgin Queen* (composed by Martin Phipps), which resulted in an Ivor Novello Award in 2007 for best television soundtrack.

The performance at Norwich Cathedral tomorrow night coincides with their very first single release *Miracle*. This has been remixed by Dave Francolinini, who has recently worked with Glasvegas and MGMT.

The Baebees have also recently completed their sixth studio album, *Illumination*, with producer KK who has previously worked with Bjork, Kylie, Britney Spears, KT Tunstall and Dido. This is due to be released early next year.

"This performance will be much more than us just singing – more than simply a classical music concert," said Blake. "There are lots of costume changes and the whole show will be very glamorous."

The one off concert at the cathedral is part of a nine date, nationwide tour.

The tour follows two months of performing throughout Europe and the US for the Baebees, including appearances at *The Mystic Fair* in The Netherlands and *The Maryland Renaissance Festival* in the US.

"It has been incredibly busy for us and will continue to be like this right up until Christmas," said Blake. "It is a juggle but my partner will be bringing my daughter to Norwich to watch me perform and, to be honest, it is the same for many of the other members of the group.

"But we all love singing and we have a real commitment to perform. It can be testing at times but we wouldn't do it if we didn't really enjoy it."

■ **The Mediaeval Baebees will perform in Norwich Cathedral at 8pm tomorrow. Tickets £17.50 (under-14s, £10) on the door. More details: 01603 218320**

■ **Further listening:**  
[www.myspace.com/mediaevalbaebes](http://www.myspace.com/mediaevalbaebes)

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# Cathedral concert for armed forces

## Concert

Remembrance Concert  
Peterborough Cathedral

**TICKETS will be available on the door for tonight's very special charity remembrance concert, which is being held inside Peterborough Cathedral.**

The concert is the perfect opportunity for people across the city to join the Dean in showing support for serving soldiers, as well as sailors and airmen.

It is in aid of Combat Stress and the Salvation Army ministry to the forces – with proceeds benefiting soldiers and force members returning from war.

The event features performances from the Peterborough Cathedral choir and the Salvation Army Band.

The Dean of Peterborough, the Very Rev Charles Taylor, has organised the event as a way of helping to address the issue of treatment of servicemen and women, which he passed comment on from the pulpit of Peterborough Cathedral in one of his sermons last year.

The Dean said: "I felt this remembrance concert was something positive we could do for our troops at this special

time of year, because if our Government is going to send these men and women to these places of conflict, then we have to remember and support them in any way we can."

He added: "The concert is being held just before Remembrance Sunday, so we can not only remember the fallen, but also show support for people who have fought for this country and are continuing to do so now."

**info** Tickets cost from £10 to £12.50, depending on seat position. The concert starts at 8pm. To find out more call 01733 452336.

## Baebes performing further afield

THE Mediaeval Baebes will perform a dazzling concert at Ely Cathedral as part of a nine-date nationwide UK tour.

The tour follows two months in Europe and the US for the Baebes, which included appearances at The Mystic Fair in The Netherlands and The Maryland Renaissance Festival in the US.

The concert at Ely Cathedral will be of particular significance to The Mediaeval Baebes, as their song, Myrie Songen, references the monks of Ely.

It takes place on December 5, at 7.30pm.

Katharine Blake, from the Mediaeval Baebes, said: "We are all delighted to return to Ely Cathedral. Having performed previously in the Lady Chapel, we are thrilled to be performing in the actual Cathedral next month. It is a beautiful and inspiring venue for all of us and we

look forward to showcasing some of our new material."

Director of music at Ely Cathedral, Paul Trepte, said: "This may not be as traditional for the Cathedral as usual but we are aiming to offer a more diverse and entertaining musical program at Ely."

Formed in 1996, The Mediaeval Baebes create their unique sound by drawing inspiration from medieval texts and setting this to original scores with the use of both classical and medieval musical instruments, while singing in an array of long forgotten languages.

Tickets cost £17.50 from 01353 66034.



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# all the right notes

**Andrew Marshall** talks to the UK's top selling vocal ensemble, the Mediaeval Baebes...

When, at work I mentioned that I was off to see the Mediaeval Baebes the reaction I had was a typical male dominated response. To a certain extent I could understand this, as the image that I first had when I went to see the Baebes back in 1997 was similar. But that was shortly after that eventful night in 1996 when a certain cemetery became the focus of beautiful bodies frolicking among the gravestones and angelic voices sounded through the midnight air. The Mediaeval Baebe phenomena had begun.

The Baebes, as such still exist, though only Kat, the musical director, remains from that eventful night. Whilst there were the usual unaccompanied chants associated with Baebe concerts, the ensemble now comprises of Baebes who are also accomplished singers and musicians in their own right. As a result the concerts have developed into vivacissimo performances that transport us around the world, in particular to Africa. At one stage, mistakenly, I thought I was in Japan—I really must learn my Bach!

Being a Baebe is an enjoyable challenge. They are self funding with their own record label. All of the girls have their own ongoing projects outside of the Baebes. For example: Bev and Kat run workshops. Emily has her own classically and heavy metal inspired rock band-Pythia. Esther is an accomplished songwriter and able to combine her theatrical and commercial work with her own solo projects. Melpomeni has released an album with another on the way. The list of Baebe projects and accomplishments is not endless, but far too much to name here.

The dressing room was full of

jabbering excited voices so much so that at times I didn't know which way to turn, so full of enthusiasm and light were these Baebes. As they prepared for the show I had the distinct impression that I was sitting amongst the members of one big happy family. Reluctantly, I left the Baebes to finalise their preparations for the concert. They were all warm, friendly, talkative, and so full of life that you would be extremely proud to take any of them home to meet your mother. So what of the future?

2011 is going to be an exciting year for the Baebes with the delivery of their show *Temptation*, many of the songs for which were performed that night. The staging is set, the music is ready, and all that needs to happen is to have the funding in place to get the show fully on the road. Baebes and *Temptation* conjures up a mind full of images, but what is *Temptation* all about?

Imagine Dante's inferno and the fall of grace from heaven to hell, and you have the premise of this exciting story told in song and dance. In amongst the historical songs is new work written by the Baebes, emphasising their individual and collective talents as all round composers and musicians.

So just how good was the concert, I hear you ask? I have attended many concerts at the town hall, but this was a first. An indication of how well the performance was being received came at the interval when, being the first to the rest room, the second person came in whistling a tune from the first half. He was swiftly followed by another whistler, then by a hummer.

Make the effort to go and see these Sirens: they are superb. '*Temptation*' at its very best. 



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# **Interview: Tanya Jackson of Mediaeval Baebes**

## **By Christine Stoddard**

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Mediaeval Baebes--the UK storybook group whose talented tributes to the Middle Ages has earned it the attention of the BBC and Billboard alike--welcomes a new lady to their coven. Her name is Tanya Jackson.

Tanya has adored music ever since she was a child, and even busked around Australia as a teenager before returning to London. Past musical projects include The Woodlarks, a folk guitar/vocal duo, and T Mandrake, a nine-piece soul/pop fusion by Cream lyricist Pete Brown. In addition to performing for Mediaeval Baebes, Tanya sings for the London Bulgarian Choir.

Here are four quick questions that *Quail Bell* couldn't help but ask this fair maiden:

**Lovers of your music and great books alike everywhere have to know: What is your #1 fairytale, fable, or epic tale, and why?**

My favourite fairytale is Death's Godson, the Spanish version where Death is a woman and becomes godmother to a peasant's son. She gives him the gift of medicine: he becomes a world-famous physician. When he goes in to heal a sick person and she is standing on the left, the person will be healed. When she is standing on the right, there is nothing he can do. On two occasions he betrays the rule, promising life to the invalid because he can't face the alternative. Each time she becomes more and more angry as she has to save these lives. On the third time, when he tries to save his beloved, she is no longer angry and takes him to a cave thousands of miles away, where millions and millions of candles stand burning, all with different lengths. Here she shows him his true love's candle, which is short with a weak flame. And in a final act of 'kindness', she blows out the candle, along with his, so that they can die together.

Some might think this morbid, but it makes me feel as though there is some beauty in death – and I like fairytales that reflect and prepare kids for the harshness of life.

**What's your favorite film or TV show that depicts a place and period prior to the settling of Anglo-America? (How's that for specific!) Any runners-up?**

My favourite period/fantasy show was "Hercules," which was just absolutely brilliant. I loved the research that went into these Greek myths, and the unapologetic naughtiness of it. It had the Sam Raimi trademark of being able to laugh at itself.

**What's your top archaic language? If you could force it to be used anywhere and by anyone, what context would you choose? School? Church? Pubs? Everywhere, all the time?**

My favourite archaic language is Sumerian. I love Prokofiev's setting of a Mesopotamian cuneiform from 3,000BC, found scrawled inside a temple in Sumer. It is called "Seven, They Are Seven", and the words are bloody terrifying, particularly in Russian. They mean:

They hear no prayers

They are deaf to all pleading

They grind down nations as nations grind down seed

They are seven! They are twice seven!

Spirit of heaven, conjure them!

Who are these seven? What vengeful priest wanted to summon them? Who knows. Sam Raimi liked the language enough to

inscribe the pages of the Necronomicon in Sumerian in the Evil Dead trilogy.

It's pictorial, and I think it would make a great language for appliance manuals to be written in. I mean, you never read them anyway, so why not make them more interesting?

Oh, yeah, and Sumerian is the most ancient language, and surviving traces of it include a recipe for brewing beer. They devoted 1/4 of their crops to it. (that might be more apt than how it sounds translated into Russian.)

**At *Quail Bell*, our slogan is that we explore "the imaginary, the nostalgic, and the otherworldly." Out of the three categories, which word appeals to you most and why?**

Definitely most fond of the otherworldly, although I'm sure our worlds are closer than we think.

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[MediaevalBaebes.com](http://MediaevalBaebes.com)

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# the pulse

## Mixing the old with young to make music

VOCAL group Mediaeval Baebes will be performing a series of concert in theatres and cathedrals during the festive period – including their regular December date at Birmingham Cathedral.

The performance at Colmore Row on Saturday, December 18, has special significance for two of the Baebes, Esther Dee and Sarah Kayte Foster, as they are both from the city.

The Baebes, pictures right, will also be performing in Shropshire at Ludlow Assembly Rooms on December 19 and in Staffordshire at Lichfield Garrick Theatre on December 20.

Formed in 1996, The Mediaeval Baebes are a unique group of songwriters, multi-instrumentalists and vocalists. The group creates their inimitable sound by setting Mediaeval texts to original scores with the use of both classical and mediaeval musical instruments, while singing in an array of languages.

Katharine Blake, Emily Ovenden, Esther Dee, Bev Lee Harling, Melpomeni and Sarah Kayte Foster are accompanied live by four musicians. In their 12-year

career, The Mediaeval Baebes have performed all over the world and have sold almost half a million records.

Their albums have consistently reached the top of the UK classical music charts whilst their haunting music has captured the imagination of music lovers.

The Baebes' contribution to the BBC production of The Virgin Queen in 2007 resulted in an Ivor Novello award for best television soundtrack. Their latest album Illumination crosses genres from contemporary to mediaeval inspired compositions.

The band are currently working with renowned creative director Micha Bergese, who worked on the Millennium show at The Dome, on creating a new theatrical spectacular for 2011.

For more information on The Mediaeval Baebes see [www.mediaevalbaebes.com](http://www.mediaevalbaebes.com)



Justice is done to Jeff Wayne's War of the Worlds – page 35

**YOUR EIGHT-PAGE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE AND WEEK'S TV VIEWING**



Rumer's 10-year struggle to be overnight success – page 40

### Back on tour with a statement of belief



The Human League back touring

THREE years since their last UK tour, The Human League are back and visiting Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday, December 4, as part of their 15-date Night People tour.

With their first studio album since 2001's Secrets, the band, featuring Phil Oakey, Susan Ann Sulley and Joanne Catherall, have signed to cutting-edge record label Wall Of Sound, and, sticking to their roots, they opted for their 10th album to be produced by fellow Sheffield residents, production duo i-Monster.

The album is named Credo after the Latin word meaning statement of belief and is due for release in

2011. The tour is named after their first single from this album, Night People, which is set for release this month and marks the beginning of a new era for the Human League.

Beginning as new wave electronic pioneers, their four-decade career began in 1977. They had massive hits in the 1980s including Don't You Want Me, Mirror Man, Fascination, Love Action and Human. They have gained the reputation as one of pop's most influential bands, admired by a new generation including La Roux and Little Boots.

The £25 tickets are available from Midland Box Office on 0870 320 7000 or at [www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk)

### Shock rocker Blackie set to sting



**NOTORIOUS** Los Angeles shock rockers W.A.S.P., who outraged America's 'Moral Majority' back in the 1980s, will be led by original front-man Blackie Lawless when they play Wolverhampton's Wulfrun Hall tomorrow night (Friday). Tickets are priced at £18.



Festive season at Symphony Hall round-up – page 40

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## ENTERTAINMENT

# Transported by troubadours with a contemporary edge



**Alasdair Crosby** enjoys the unique musical fusion of the Mediaeval Baebes

The Baebes entertain at the Opera House with their own take on mediaeval song  
Picture: DAVID FERGUSON (01010238)

**T**HERE was hardly a seat free in the whole of row G of the Opera House when I went there for the Mediaeval Baebes performance on Saturday evening.

Unfortunately for the Opera House, none of the other rows were even half as full. The delights of a warm summer evening were evidently more attractive to the Jersey public.

That was a shame, because the Mediaeval Baebes are good artists and put on an entertaining show.

What they do is to take the words and texts of mediaeval songs or poems, and sing them to music composed by themselves in a mediaeval style - or at least the sound is probably what we think of as being 'mediaeval'. It is the same idea as Carmina Burana, really.

They have come to Jersey before - around eight years ago - and I remember seeing them perform then. On that first occasion, I met a younger colleague in the interval, who told me in all seriousness that she wished she could run away from the (media) circus and join them.

And that gives the sort of indication about who the Baebes are: young, good musicians and singers, singing a sort of fusion of styles that could well be called 'troubadour rock'.

From their website (they did not have a printed programme) I quote: 'Pulling lyrics from mediaeval texts and setting them to original scores using mediaeval and classical instruments, whilst singing in an impressive array of long forgotten languages, the Baebes offer a unique musical beauty and outstanding talent. Their choice of mediaeval texts are dramatic, ob-

## REVIEW: Mediaeval Baebes, Jersey Opera House

scure and dark in topic and remarked upon the inevitability of death, the pointlessness of material possessions, the horror of unrequited love or the dangers of imbibing too much alcohol. Some themes are timeless!'

That's about right as a thumbnail description. What they do is very good: they are accomplished singers and musicians, and their songs are immaculately choreographed, their song and dance routines are entertaining, and they are good linguists: we had songs in Latin, Breton, Welsh, Middle English and Spanish.

Certainly the other theatrogoers to whom I happened to speak were all very enthusiastic.

I would like to have had more explanation about the provenance of their material, but I suppose that is not the sort of thing they do: the emphasis was more on the 'rock' than the 'troubadour'.

The performers seemed to enjoy themselves, and I thought, in an avuncular way, that it is always nice to see young people have a good time.

But as for authenticity? Well, electric fiddles and a backing group might give one a

good idea about the answer to that. I tried to imagine, what, shall we say, a 13th century Constable of Mont Orgueil would have said to his daughter if he had found her singing these sorts of songs:

'However did you learn such stuff? I suppose you have been listening to those slippery-slimy chamber-lizard French minstrels again? Anyway, whatever they might do in Wales, we do NOT sing about female genitalia in Gwery. If I hear any repetition of this sort of thing, you'll find yourself in a chastity belt before you can say Sir Orfeo. Now, off to your tower, and no roast peacock for a week.'

## COMPETITION

### Win tickets to Holidays for Heroes summer concert

THE Jersey Symphony Orchestra's summer concert next month will be held at Fort Regent in aid of Holiday for Heroes.

Conducted by Philip Ellis, the concert featuring piano soloist Chris George (right), will be a spectacular evening of film and concert music celebrating the dedication, commitment and achievement of our armed

Elgar and Richard Addinsell, while much of the music originally composed for the cinema, will conjure up images of battleships and fighter aircraft.

There are two pairs of tickets to be won in our competition. To enter answer the following question:

**Who wrote the main score for The Dambusters March?**



**crème**  
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Rue de l'Église, St John Tel: 862603



CITY DATE: Mediaeval Baebes will be playing a concert in Norwich Cathedral next month. Picture: submitted.

# Baebes return for cathedral concert

**T**HE Mediaeval Baebes will perform a concert at Norwich Cathedral on December 13 as part of a nine-date nationwide tour.

The tour follows two months' performing throughout Europe and the USA for the Baebes, including appearances at the Mystic Fair in The Netherlands and the Maryland Renaissance Festival, in America.

The Mediaeval Baebes' performance at Norwich Cathedral coincides with their first single release – *Miracle*.

The band's Katharine Blake said: "We are all delighted to return to Norwich for what will be the third time we have performed inside the cathedral.

"It is a beautiful and inspiring venue and we look forward to showcasing some of our new material."

Formed in 1996, the group create their unique sound by drawing inspiration from mediaeval texts and setting this to

original scores with the use of classical and mediaeval musical instruments.

In their 12-year career, they have performed all over the world and have sold more than 450,000 records.

Their contribution to the BBC production of *The Virgin Queen* resulted in an Ivor Novello award for the best television soundtrack.

Tickets for the concert are £17.50 (£10 for under 14s) and doors will open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

**WEBWATCH:**  
[www.mediaevalbaebes.com](http://www.mediaevalbaebes.com)



The Mediaeval Baebes featuring new girl Esther Dee (fourth from left) from Boldmere

## Baebe returns home to Brum

**W**HEN glamorous singing group The Mediaeval Baebes take to the stage for a Christmas concert at Birmingham Cathedral it will be an extra special moment for one of the Baebes.

For the international group's latest recruit, Esther Dee, will be back home after months touring Europe, the Far East and Australasia with the choral ensemble whose fans range from classical music enthusiasts to Goth rockers.

"It will be special, my family will be in the audience and I will be staying on in the city for a few days," said Esther.

A former pupil of Plantsbrook Secondary School in Sutton Coldfield, Boldmere girl Esther's first love was dance, her passion for the art form sparked by a festive visit to see Birmingham Royal Ballet's *The Nutcracker* at Birmingham Hippodrome.

"I had done a little singing with a hairbrush in the mirror but it was a teacher at Plantsbrook, head of music Richard Elliot, who really encouraged my love of music, who knew I had a voice," said the 29-year-old.

After school Dee studied performing arts at Middlesex University and was then on a training course – a boot camp for divas – with the English National Opera.

One of her former pals at uni, Bev Lee Harling, went on to join the Mediaeval Baebes, a group that was first established in the 1990s and has been evolving with a changing membership. Then, a little over a year ago, Bev Lee invited Dee to join the Baebes too.

"I like being part of a group, we all contribute and we are very excited about the new album (*Illumination*, being released in the spring) which has an epic feel."

### Titchmarsh

Dee was recently seen on TV vying to be the soprano touring with popera hotshot Jonathan Ansell in a competition in Alan Titchmarsh's afternoon TV show, and viewers voted her into the final four before elimination.

"I had entered for the TV experience," said Esther. "But in a way I was relieved because I would have had to leave the Mediaeval Baebes to honour the commitment to tour with Jonathan Ansell."

Formed in 1996, The Mediaeval Baebes are an all female group made up of Katharine Blake, Claire

Rabbit, Emily Ovenden, Bev Lee Harling, Esther Dee and Melpomeni Kermaidou.

They create their unique sound by drawing inspiration from medieval texts and setting this to original scores with the use of both classical and medieval musical instruments, whilst singing in an array of languages, including Latin and Welsh.

In their twelve-year career The Mediaeval Baebes have performed all over the world and have sold over 450,000 records. The Baebes' contribution to the BBC production of *The Virgin Queen* (composed by Martin Phipps) resulted in an Ivor Novello award 2007 for best television soundtrack.

The Mediaeval Baebes are in concert at St Phillip's Cathedral on Saturday, December 6, their second appearance at the prestigious venue as part of cathedral tours.

Tickets for the show are priced at £17.50 (under 14, £10). See [www.mediaevalbaebes.com](http://www.mediaevalbaebes.com) for details.

Their very first single *Miracle* was released last week, remixed by Dave Francolini who has recently worked with rock band Glasvegas.

Leon Burakowski

MUSIC

Little Richie strikes it big



Little Richie

LITTLE RICHIE

Village Inn, Exwick, Exeter

LITTLE Richie, from 1970s band Racey, will perform at The Village Inn in Exwick, Exeter, tonight.

Racey formed in Weston-super-Mare in 1976 and had two hits with Lay Your Love On Me in 1978 and Some Girls in 1979, which reached number one in 12 countries and sold five million copies all over the world.

The band's debut album *Smash and Grab*, released in 1980, sold more than a million copies and reached number one in Australia, New Zealand and a number of European countries.

The band split in the 1980s and reformed in 1992.

Little Richie is the pseudonym of the band's lead singer, guitarist and keyboard player Richard Gower.

Richard has also had a successful career as a songwriter, penning songs for the likes of Suzy Quatro, Hot Chocolate, Smoke and Kandidate. He still tours with Racey all over the world.

The gig starts at 9.30pm. Admission is free. Details: 01392 217032.

Joyous choral programme

EXETER PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

Exeter Cathedral

EXETER Philharmonic Choir will perform a concert of joyous music at Exeter Cathedral on Thursday, May 21.

The concert will bring the choir's 152nd season to a close.

Conducted by Andrew Millington, it will perform Haydn's *Te Deum*, JS Bach's *Canтата No 43* and *Magnificat* by CPE Bach. The choir will be backed by the trumpets of the *Sinfonietta* led by Richard Studer.

It will also be joined by four rising young soloists who, between them, have performed all over Europe — Thomas Hobbs, tenor, Alison Kettlewell, mezzo-soprano, David Kimberg, bass, and Caroline MacPhee, soprano.

The concert starts at 7.30pm. Ticket prices vary. Details: 01392 211080.

The alluring Mediaeval Baebes are showcasing a new album they hope will capture the imagination of modern listeners, writes **Caroline Abbott**

MEDIAEVAL BAEBES

Exeter Phoenix

THE Mediaeval Baebes will be performing at Exeter Phoenix on Tuesday, May 19, and the concert coincides with the launch of the group's latest album.

The gig, part of a five-date tour, will showcase the band's sixth studio album, entitled *Illumination*. The six-piece will also perform favourite hits from the extensive Baebes' back catalogue.

*Illumination* is the culmination of 12 months in the studio. The album was produced by Kevin Kerrigan, who has worked with Björk, Dido and others.

The album retains the ethereal beauty of the Baebes' historical and musical influences, but takes a fresh, contemporary direction. This is the first time all the Baebes have written songs for an album, resulting in a more eclectic sound.

The tour, which also includes shows in Salisbury, London, Essex and Milton Keynes, follows recent sell-out performances on both sides of the Atlantic.

The line-up has frequently changed over the years but currently comprises Katharine Blake, Claire Rabbitt, Emily Ovenden, Bev Lee Harling, Esther Dee and Melpomeni Kermanidou.

Katharine, who founded the Mediaeval Baebes in 1996 and is the lead composer for the ensemble, said: "We are delighted to be going to Exeter and looking forward to performing the songs from *Illumination*."

"We are incredibly proud of this album and feel it has taken us in a new direction without losing our unique sound."

The women create their unique sound by drawing inspiration from the texts of medieval poetry and songs and setting these to original scores. They use classical and medieval musical instruments and sing in an array of long-forgotten languages.

Although their music evokes an earlier time, it is accessible to a modern audience. The medieval themes of nature, the life cycle, love and longing are as relevant today as they were 600 years ago.

The Baebes have performed all over the world and have sold over 450,000 records. Their contribution to the BBC production of *The Virgin Queen* resulted in an Ivor Novello award for best television soundtrack in 2007.

They have placed three albums — including their debut *Salva Nos* and many people's favourite *Worldes Blysse* — into the top of the UK classical charts and are hoping for similar success with *Illumination*, which is released this Monday.

Tickets for the Exeter concert cost £12. Doors will open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Details: 01392 667080.

Baebes' gig to showcase new album



The Mediaeval Baebes will be performing tracks from their new album, *Illumination*, at Exeter Phoenix

**Hot Topics »** [Pope visit \(http://www.birminghammail.net/news/birmingham-mail-indepth/pope-visit/\)](http://www.birminghammail.net/news/birmingham-mail-indepth/pope-visit/)

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## Birmingham singer Esther Dee performs at Artsfest.

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by **Diane Parkes**

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[/authors/diane-parkes/](http://www.birminghammail.net/authors/diane-parkes/), Birmingham

Mail

BIRMINGHAM'S Mediaeval Baebe Esther Dee is refusing to be daunted by weather forecasts for the Artsfest weekend – as she likes the rain.

The 31-year-old musician, from Sutton Coldfield, has two slots performing as Esther Dee and the Carousel.

One is at Symphony Hall and the other is at the city's Arcadian Centre. But Esther promises to be happy whatever the weather.

"I really like the rain, I love walking around when it is raining," she says. "I have a song about the rain which I will be performing."

For Esther, who sang with Riverdance before joining the Mediaeval Baebes three years ago, Birmingham dates are special. "I have done a couple of concerts in Birmingham and the other girls from the Mediaeval Baebes and the manager Julia Hannan came along and have been really supportive.



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The Mediaeval Baebes — Emily, Melpomeni, Claire, Esther, Katharine and Bev Lee.

by John Barrett

**T**HE band was born in a thunderstorm in a witches' circle on Hampstead Heath, and made its first public appearance in a derelict graveyard in front of an abandoned church!

The Mediaeval Baebes are six stunning girls who dress up like fairies and princesses, and sing in every mediaeval language from Latin and Gaelic to Manx and Cornish.

With three bestselling albums behind them, these days, the girls sing in cathedrals, at fantasy festivals — and have even entertained at the bottom of a slate mine!

The founder, musical director and "head fairy" is Katharine Blake from London, a classically-trained musician and mum of two-year-old Ava, with a second baby due in June.

## Enthusiastic

She reckons she put the group together 12 years ago because of the memory of not being an angel in her school nativity play when she was five! "They made me be a donkey and I wasn't happy," said Katharine.

"Ever since then, I've been a bit obsessed with angels and fairies, but I never thought I'd make a career out of being one!

"The idea for the Baebes came when I got a gang of friends together for a sing-song. Apart from me, it was just a bunch of enthusiastic amateurs. I chose the mediaeval music because it was easy for everyone to learn.

"The first time we tried it was on Hampstead Heath near a ring of trees.

"We got ourselves into a circle and, while we were singing, an enormous storm broke, and there was thunder and lightning all around us.

"It was almost like we'd brought the storm on with our voices. We found out later that we'd been standing in a witches' circle.

"The first concert we invited anyone to was in a graveyard. It was completely illegal because we broke in.

"We gave the audience maps to show where to find the hole in the fence, then lined the path with candles.

"That was the first time we dressed up in our white flowing robes.

"Since then, we've performed at all sorts of events. Singing underground in the Cornish slate mine was amazing, and our new DVD is of a concert in Gloucester Cathedral.

"This month, we have something called a Renaissance Festival in Arizona.

"We sing in every language

imaginable — my mediaeval Swedish, Spanish, French and Russian aren't too hot, but I know what we're singing about because I read the translation first."

Joining Katharine in the line-up are Claire Rabbitt, Melpomeni Kermaidou, Bev Lee Harling, Esther Dee and Emily Alice Ovenden.

Emily reckons she was destined to be a Mediaeval Baebe.

She was brought up in a mock Gothic castle and writes ghost stories in her spare time!

## Amazing castle

"I call myself 'The Fallen Princess', because my family home is a castle in Cornwall, but I live in a council flat in Hackney!" she said.

"I had a magical childhood. My father is the well-known artist, Grahame Ovenden.

"He has works in galleries all over Britain, including the Tate, and is an expert on Victorian

photography and Lewis Carroll. That's how I got my middle name, Alice.

"He designed and built an amazing castle on the edge of Bodmin Moor.

"It's deep in a valley, so we could never get a TV signal.

"Whenever we tried, we had to run a cable about a mile long along the ground, but the squirrels kept eating it.

"My dad had amazing friends, though.

"Davie Bowie used to come round to dinner and discuss art.

The author Laurie Lee was a regular guest. So was Led Zeppelin singer Robert Plant and photographer David Bailey. Rock star Ian Dury was one of my dad's best mates.

"Last year, I had my first novel published, a ghostly Gothic thriller called *The Ice Room*, which I wrote on the tour bus while travelling between gigs.

"I have a second book, *The Glass Fence*, coming out later this year."

# drawnonwords.co.uk

*This blog is about words drawn on pages. Words about archery, Doctor Who, my writing and what ever comes to mind*



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## 20 Poetic Voices

NOV  
2010

by *markodonnell* in Courtney Pine, Jean Michel Jarre, Mediaeval Baebes, Uncategorized

1 Comment [Hello Dear Reader](#)

Various artist have played a role in these blogs I have written, from jazz essence of Courtney Pine to the electronic wonder of Jean Michel Jarre. Now I have the opportunity to voice my views on another group who's style and grace have placed them in a top spot.

Who am I referring to? Mediaeval Baebes.

I have listened to this group over the past 4 or 5 years now. They take lyrics from medieval texts and set them to original scores using mediaeval and classical instruments. Their voices are a delight to hear and they can also sing in long forgotten languages.

The concert was held in Stafford, a town often visited these days as part of their

### June 2011

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Christmas warmup tour. The Baebes (all female vocals) took to the stage dressed in white. Was that colour for Christmas, purity or something else. I will let you decide. The first notes echoed into the theatre their voices filling the void.

As the blog says – Poetic Voices. The music, sounds, songs and verses were poetic. They shone like white lights. Like the others I have heard this year, the Baebes gave yet another compelling performance to mesmerise. Another change to another colour, this time to green, the symbol for growth and spring. More songs, more power, more poetic sound.

They captured the audience, they captured me. I knew how well they sounded, but it is only when you really see and hear a such a group that you find that different edge, that dynamic which for me can never be found on a CD.

Pure voices cast in green, then gave way to the deep colour of purple and a so called hell. If that was hell then it was a blissful chorus of hellish delight. Again the girls captured the stage, the audience certainly held once more. The skill and delicate touch of being able to sing without instrumental backing must surely be one of the most difficult parts of music. Yet it seemed so easy, so musical. That can only be from confidence not only in the one voice but those around. No beat to find, yet a beat inside the sweet voices to follow.

As you can tell I really did enjoy the Mediaeval Baebes, and after the concert they did one more thing. Unlike some groups or performers, they came out to meet their fans and signed posters and CDs. And yes I did get a poster and CD signed.

The girls at one point seemed overwhelmed by their fans. People do like this music.

As I said to one of the girls – it was very poetic. This is not just chant music, its not just latin verse or ancient languages. It is a mixture of delight, magic and poetic voices.

- Archery – A beginners Tale
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- Archery Competitions
- Archery update – April 2010
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#### Drawings

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- April 09
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### The Event

## Mediaeval Baebes

@ Cheltenham Town Hall

Tue 14th Dec 2010

**Tickets from £16.34**

*Should you require concession tickets please call 0844 576 2210*

### Available Dates

No available dates at present, please check back soon.

Mediaeval Baebes exquisite storybook opened its pages in 1996, when a group of friends broke into a North London cemetery and sang together, clad in flowing white gowns and crowns of ivy.

Pulling lyrics from medieval texts and setting them to original scores using mediaeval and classical instruments, whilst singing in an impressive array of long forgotten languages, the Baebes offered a unique musical beauty and outstanding talent. Their choice of mediaeval texts were dramatic, obscure and



dark in topic and remarked upon the inevitability of death, the pointlessness of material possessions, the horror of unrequited love or the dangers of imbibing too much alcohol. Some themes are timeless!

Twelve years later, these fair maidens have placed three albums into the top of the classical charts and their contribution to the BBC production of *The Virgin Queen* (composed by Martin Phipps) resulted in a deserved Ivor Novello award 2007 for best television soundtrack.

Mediaeval Baebes have performed before enthusiastic audiences in the UK, United States, Canada and Europe in venues ranging from castles and caves to nightclubs and Renaissance Fayres. They have toured with Jools Holland and played at The Royal Albert Hall, Camglaze Caverns in Cornwall, Jersey Opera House, Tewkesbury Abbey, supported Michael Flatley in Hyde Park, and performed at the legendary Lilith Fair.

Their most recent album *Illumination* takes a fresher contemporary direction whilst retaining the ethereal beauty of the Baebes historical and musical influences. The Baebes are currently working on a theatrical spectacular for 2011 with renowned creative director Micha Bergese (*Jeff Waynes War Of The Worlds*, *Shaolin Monks Wheel Of Life*).

For more information visit

[Click Here for Mediaeval Baebes Home](#)

### More information

**Category:** Classical Music

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### The Venue

## LETTERS

Your views and thoughts...



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Here come the girls... just don't tell the opera purists that the Mediaeval Baebes are in town.



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THEY'VE performed sell-out concerts all over the world and sold more than 450,000 records, the perfect answer to anybody who claims classical group, the Mediaeval Baebes, are only really known for their sexy image.

The Baebes - who take inspiration from Medieval texts and set them to original scores using classical and Medieval instruments - have had to battle with accusations of playing on their alluring image to sell records. Dubbed "opera babes" owing to their lipstick pouts and cleavage, the group found themselves at the centre of establishment row when they were accused by leading baritone Sir Thomas Allen of "dumbing down" classical music.

But tomorrow night (Thursday), the sultry singers will forget all about the cynics and perform at St Pancras Church in Euston Road as part of a nine-date UK tour of churches and cathedrals.

Helen Marcus, opera buff and former organiser of the Hampstead and Highgate music festival, said: "These groups have arisen in response to the commonly held myth about classical music. People are denied it, they are told they wouldn't like it. It's a shame they have to market themselves as 'opera babes,' but I would not criticise them for it. I'm in favour of anything which brings classical music to a wider audience. If they get people to hear the music and realise they would like to hear more of it, they are doing a great thing whether babes or not."

Doors open at 7.15pm. Tickets cost £17.50.

JOSIE HINTON

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Tags: News

## Comments

Submitted by [TataniaRosa](#) on Thu, 2009-12-17 18:43.

### Wrong band!

I believe you have the wrong band! You seem to be describing the Opera Babes rather than the Mediaeval Baebes. Please research your article more thoroughly! There is a vast difference between these two groups.

- Feature: The Big Picture - Exhibition - The Camden Town Group Centenary at The Fine Art Society, until July 14
- Feature: Jeremy Robson
- Feature: Interview - Sir Viv Richards talks to Dan Carrier
- Feature: The Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition 2011 at Burlington House until August 15
- Feature: An Actress Prepares at New End Theatre until July 10

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Syndic



## Excuse me.....??????

I think you're talking about the wrong band Josie...Whilst Helen Marcus' observation about the Opera Babes may well be true, it is the Mediaeval Baebes who are playing St Pancras Church on Thursday night.

The Mediaeval Baebes are indeed worth watching.

Regards  
Shelley

[reply](#)

Submitted by Anonymous on Thu, 2009-12-17 02:13.

## Medaieval Baebes

Opera Babes are a different band to Mediaeval Baebes. Get your facts right.

[reply](#)

Submitted by Anonymous on Thu, 2009-12-17 02:08.

## Mediaeval Baebes

Josie Hinton should do her research properly. The Mediaeval Baebes are a classical chart topping ensemble who have carved a career making unique and credible music for over a decade. The Opera Babes who were slagged off Thomas Allen are a completely different band. Also the picture you have used is completely out of date.

[reply](#)

Farm, on July 22

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- Books: Review - Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention. By Manning Marable
- Books: Review - A Life Rewound: Memoirs of a Freelance Producer and Director, by Peter Morley
- Books: Interview with Self-styled 'Voice

A wonderful way to light up the town in Christmas celebration while creating a party atmosphere in the town. This is always a popular event, and especially so in these times of economic austerity.

### LUDLOW MEDIEVAL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday & Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>  
Ludlow Market and Castle

Enjoy a fun-packed weekend bustling with Medieval entertainers, minstrels and traders – truly a feast for all the senses!  
[www.ludlowmedievalchristmas.co.uk](http://www.ludlowmedievalchristmas.co.uk) (<http://www.ludlowmedievalchristmas.co.uk>)

### LUDLOW LOCAL PRODUCE CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Ludlow Market Square, 9.30 – 2pm

Come along to this busy bustling market of local food and drink – Plenty of stalls with inspiring gift ideas along with the best in local produce.  
[www.localtoludlow.org.uk](http://www.localtoludlow.org.uk) (<http://www.localtoludlow.org.uk>)

### CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHT

Friday, 10th December  
Ludlow Assembly Rooms, 7.30pm

These Christmas Party Nights are guaranteed to give everyone a great night out! Eat as much as you like from 7.30 til 9.30pm, then dance the night away to our DJ until 1am for only £19.95 per person. Individuals, couples and groups welcome. Book in advance with Julie on (01584) 874041. [www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk](http://www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk) (<http://www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk>)

### LATE NIGHT SHOPPING

Thursday, 16th December  
Ludlow town, 4.30 – 8.30pm

A highlight of the Ludlow Christmas shopping experience is Late Night Shopping on December 16, when shops will stay open until 8pm.

### THE MEDIAEVAL BAEBES

Sunday, 19th December  
Ludlow Assembly Rooms, 8pm

Taking lyrics from mediaeval texts and setting them to original scores, The Mediaeval Baebes offer a unique musical beauty and outstanding talent. Experience their fairytale whimsy, other-worldly enchantment, and supernatural allure this Christmas.  
[www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk](http://www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk) (<http://www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk>)

### ICE RINK

Tuesday-Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> December  
Ludlow Assembly Rooms

A holiday special – for three days the Auditorium is turning into an Ice Rink (eco-friendly synthetic ice). The whole family can join in, and can hire boots to hire from child size 8 to adult size 12. There'll be music and video projections and loads of fun. These sessions are very popular, so please book in advance.

[www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk](http://www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk) (<http://www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk>)

(ENDS)

Posted in [Food & Travel](http://www.tasteliving.co.uk/?cat=3) (<http://www.tasteliving.co.uk/?cat=3>), [Uncategorized](http://www.tasteliving.co.uk/?cat=1) (<http://www.tasteliving.co.uk/?cat=1>)

« [Tickets going fast for Ludlow star's seasonal cooking demo](http://www.tasteliving.co.uk/?p=1112) (<http://www.tasteliving.co.uk/?p=1112>)

[Festive Fair at the The New Inn, Baschurch](http://www.tasteliving.co.uk/?p=1134) (<http://www.tasteliving.co.uk/?p=1134>) »

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SEP

08

# The Mediaeval Baebes

Thu, Sep 8 2011, 6:00p.m. - 10:00p.m.

East Hartford Cultural Center, East Hartford, CT, United States

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## Description:

It's been two years since they last visited our hall. The Mediaeval Baebes' exquisite storybook opened its pages in 1996, when a group of friends broke into a North London cemetery ...

[\(more\)](#)

## Restrictions:

Doors open at 6 pm. Show to start at 7 pm.

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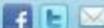


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## Faerie Music: Mediaeval Baebes



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### It All Started in a Cemetery



The Mediaeval Baebes story started in 1996 when, according to their website, a group of friends clad in flowing white robes and crowns of ivy broke into a North London cemetery and sang together. The Baebes take medieval texts and set them to original music, singing in a variety of languages, some of them quite old. Their singing is accompanied by musicians on instruments from medieval to modern. Three of their albums have made it into the top spots of the classical charts and their contribution to the

soundtrack of the BBC production *The Virgin Queen* resulted in it winning an award for best

by [MobyD](#)

I'm very interested in Celtic music and have created a series of lenses about performers. See [Celtic Music: Lenses](#) (named Lens of the Day on March 16,...  
[more »](#))



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<http://www.folkworld.eu/44/d/cds5.html#medi>

Mediaeval Baebes "Illumination"

[www.mediaevalbaebes.com](http://www.mediaevalbaebes.com)



Katherine Blake, Esther Dee, Bev Lee Harling, Melpomeni Kermanidou, Emily Ovenden und Claire Rabbitt sind die Mediaeval Baebes, die sich auf dem Cover ihrer letzten CD in glänzend roten sexy Gewändern vor einem Scheinwerfermeer präsentieren. Ehrlich gesagt waren da meine Erwartungen ziemlich tief geschraubt.

Doch schon bei den ersten rhythmischen Takten von Emilys "Desert Rose" sperrte ich meine Ohren groß auf. Da waren ein paar erstklassige Musiker am Werk und dann kommt die wunderschöne Sopranstimme von Emily und der sirenenhafte Chorgesang dazu. Mit zum Großteil authentisch mittelalterlichen Instrumenten wird hier ein toller Groove erzeugt. Es folgen "Suscipe Flos Florem", Katherines (Contralto) melancholisch-orchestralsche Vertonung eines sakralen Textes aus den Benediktbeuern, "The Blacksmith", eine frech im Flamenco Rhythmus daher kommende Interpretation eines mittelalterlichen anonymen Textes von Bev Lee (Alto) oder ihr von einem Sanskrit inspirierten bluesig-klassischen Song "The Undivided". Ein weiterer Höhepunkt ist das Zusammenspiel der verschiedenen Stimmlagen und Instrumente bei Katherines mitreißendem Mittelalter Rock "I sing of a Maiden". Esther Dee, die zweite Sopranstimme, singt Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "My Lady sleeps" im Stil britisch traditioneller Lieder und Claire (Alto) übernimmt die Hauptstimme bei der als Shanty arrangierten Vertonung von Robert Burns' Text "Yonder lea". Melpomeni übernimmt die Stimmlage zwischen Alto und Mezzosopran in den atemberaubenden Chorgesängen. Der Auftritt der Mediaeval Baebes und auch ihre Songs sind kommerziell ausgerichtet, aber gesanglich und musikalisch hervorragend vorgetragen. Das Konzept sollte eigentlich aufgehen und ich hoffe es für die talentierten Damen.

© [Adolf „gorhand“ Goriup](#)



## Mediaeval Bæbes Christmas Tour 2010 @ Lichfield Garrick, 20 December 2010

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Mediaeval Baebes  
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December (SOLD OUT)

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[details](#)



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Swarbrick Wed 15th  
Dec

£12.00

[details](#)



Cancelled: Eyes Front!  
with Isla St Clair  
Thursday 2nd  
December

£12.00

[details](#)

## Mediaeval Baebes Desert Rose Video



Esther Dee, with flowers in her hair, is one of the beautiful singers who took to the stage of the White Hart Tavern at the Maryland Renaissance Festival in 2009. Song begins: When the desert sand blows softly to the end and the winter nights bring maidens to despair.



 **Which spot is better for people watching?**

- Rittenhouse Square
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## MUSIC

### Mediaeval Baebes

Presented by Sellersville Theater 1894 at Sellersville Theater 1894  
September 7, 2011



Be the first to submit a review/comment!  
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Offering exquisite musical beauty, Mediaeval Baebes perform to enthusiastic audiences in their native UK, US, Canada and Europe in venues ranging from castles & caves to Renaissance Fayres to the legendary Lilith Fair. These fair maidens pull lyrics from medieval texts and set them to original scores using mediaeval & classical instruments, whilst singing in an impressive array of long forgotten languages; three of their dozen albums hit the top of the charts. (Cabaret seats reserved for Theater Members until 7/7)

### At-a-Glance

#### Venue Info

Sellersville Theater 1894

24 W. Temple Avenue Main & Temple Streets Sellersville, PA 18960

[Full map and directions](#)

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#### Admission Info

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## Mediaeval Baebes

Fri 17 Dec 2010 8pm

Butterworth Hall £18.50 (£16.50), Under 16s £12.50

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The Mediaeval Baebes' storybook opened its pages in 1996, when a group of friends broke into a North London cemetery and sang together, clad in flowing white gowns and crowns of ivy. Fourteen years later, these fair maidens have placed three albums in the top of the classical charts.

Pulling lyrics from mediaeval texts and setting them to original scores using mediaeval and classical instruments, whilst singing in an impressive array of long forgotten languages, the Baebes offer a distinctive musical beauty and outstanding talent.

Experience the Mediaeval Baebes' fairytale whimsy, otherworldly enchantment and supernatural allure this Christmas as the group perform some traditional festive songs amongst a plethora of material from their extensive back catalogue.

[Official website](#)





1.



2.

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1. **Friday 10 to Monday 13 June 2011**

2.

[Wave-Gotik-Treffen 2011 A Flock of Seagulls, The Damned, Cold, Front 242, Nitzer Ebb, Anathema, Eluveitie, Assemblage 23, Fields of the Nephilim, Storm, Camouflage, Owls\\*, Tiamat, Rome, The Legendary Pink Dots, and 111 more...](#)

I was there

Leipzig, Germany

3. **Tuesday 21 December 2010**

4.

[Mediaeval Baebes at Leicester Cathedral](#)

I was there

[Leicester Cathedral](#) Leicester, UK

5. **Monday 20 December 2010**

6.

[Mediaeval Baebes at Lichfield Garrick Main Theatre](#)

I was there

[Lichfield Garrick Main Theatre](#) Lichfield, UK

[See full gigography \(42 past concerts\)](#)

## Reviews



1. [charlie-farrell](#) (10 months ago)

### LIVE DATES

Friday 17th September 2010

St John At Hackney Church, London

(NB: Unaccompanied Acapella performance)

This show is to raise funds for new seating at St John At Hackney Church and all profits will go to charity  
**BUY E-TICKETS HERE**

Saturday 18th September 2010

Ely Lady Chapel, Cambs

(NB: Unaccompanied Acapella performance)

This show is to raise funds for new seating at St John At Hackney Church and all profits will go to charity  
**BUY E-TICKETS HERE**

\*NB Change Of Date\* Original tickets will still be available

Thursday 23rd September 2010

St Petroc's Parish Church, Bodmin

(NB: Unaccompanied Acapella performance)

E-Tickets £15 + Booking fee (non reserved) **BUY E-TICKETS HERE**

Friday 24th September 2010

St Ive's Festival, Cornwall

(NB: Unaccompanied Acapella performance)

St Ives Society of Artists Norway Square, St Ives, Cornwall, TR26 1HX

E-Tickets £15 + Booking fee (non reserved) in person : St Ives Tourist Information Bureau or **BUY E-TICKETS HERE**

Thursday 18th November 2010

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

Tickets £18.50 Box Office 01785 254653

Saturday 4th December

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral Crypt Concert Room

Tickets £18.50 **BUY E-TICKETS HERE**

Sunday 5th December

Rotherham Minster

Tickets £18.50 and £13.50. **BUY E-TICKETS HERE**

Monday 6th December

Carlisle Cathedral

Tickets £12 & £18.50

**BUY E-TICKETS HERE**

Wednesday 8th December  
High Barn, Great Bardfield, Essex  
<http://www.high-barn.com> Tel: 01371 811291

Thursday 9th December  
Arundel Cathedral  
Tickets £15 and £18.50 [BUY E-TICKETS HERE](#)

Friday 10th December  
Norwich Cathedral  
Tickets £18.50, £13.50, £7.50  
[BUY E-TICKETS HERE](#)

Saturday 11th December  
London St Pancras Church  
Tickets £17.00 [Buy E-Tickets Here](#)  
[BUY E-TICKETS HERE](#)

Tuesday 14th December 2010  
Cheltenham Town Hall  
Tickets £18/ £16 Bookings 0844 576 2210  
E: [boxoffice@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:boxoffice@cheltenham.gov.uk)  
[BUY TICKETS HERE](#)

Friday 17th December 2010  
Warwick Arts Centre  
Tickets £18.50 (£16.50 concessions) £12.50 (under 14s) Box Office : 024 7652 4524 [www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/](http://www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/)

Saturday 18th December 2010  
Birmingham Cathedral  
[www.birminghamcathedral.com](http://www.birminghamcathedral.com)  
Tickets £18.50, £15 and £10  
[BUY E-TICKETS HERE](#)

Sunday 19th December 2010  
Ludlow Assembly Rooms  
Box Office: 01584 878141  
<http://www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk/>

Monday 20th December 2010  
Lichfield Garrick  
Tickets £20 Box Office: 01543 412121  
<http://www.lichfieldgarrick.com/>

Tuesday 21st December  
Leicester Cathedral  
Tickets £18.50 & £12,  
**BUY E-TICKETS HERE**

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## Playlist for Kavus Torabi special – 25 October 2010

Posted on [Tuesday 26 October 2010](#) by [Steve Davis](#)

If you missed the show you can listen again by downloading it from [here](#)

Optiganally Yours: - Oar (Exclusively Talentmaker CD)

Andy Partridge: – Aqua Deum (Fuzzy Warbles CD)

Sea Nymphs: Lucky Lucy (The Sea Nyphs CD)

Krakatoa – Telegraph (We are the Rowboats CD)

Oceansize – A Penny's weight (Self preserved while bodies float up CD)

Cosa Brava – Pour Albert (Ragged Atlas CD)

Albert Marcoer – 40 15 (Ma vie avec Elles CD)

Julianne Regan – Shaping the River (Leader of the Starry Skies) Forthcoming tribute CD to Tim Smith (preorder from [www.thegenepool.co.uk](http://www.thegenepool.co.uk))

Max Tundra – Will bleed amen (Leader of the Starry Skies) Forthcoming tribute CD to Tim Smith (preorder from [www.thegenepool.co.uk](http://www.thegenepool.co.uk))

Van Dyke Parks – An invitation to Sin (Jump! CD)

Simon Steensland's Kamikaze United – Kaspar's Theme (Live Gang Gang CD)

Robyn Hitchcock – The Woldf House (Luxor CD)

Henry Cow – The Big Tune Ends / March (Bremen CD from the Henry Cow Box Set)

Bob Drake – Pechan and Willy (13 songs and a thing CD)

Rashomon – A quiet week in the house (The ruined map (film Music volume 1 CD)  
Karda Estra – Island Universes – (Weird Tales CD)  
Mediaeval Baebes – The seven chambers of Compromise (forthcoming CD Temptasyion)  
Mahavishnu Orchestra – Hope (Birds of Fire LP/CD)  
Tyondai Braxton- Uffe's Woodshop (Central market CD)  
Sun Ra – The Satellites are spinning (the solar myth approach vol 1 & 2 )  
The Muffins – The two Georges (Double Negative CD)  
Brian Eno – Through Hollow lands (Before and After Science CD)  
Cardiacs – Dirty Boy (Sing to God Part 2)

This entry was posted in [The Interesting Alternative Show](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#).

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## St Ives September Festival 2011 - Blog

Latest news about gigs and events. Pictures and video. Previews and reviews.

WEDNESDAY, 21 JULY 2010

### New Gig Announcement - Mediaeval Baebes



**Mediaeval Baebes - Friday 24th September**

The Mediaeval Baebes are stripping their set down to basics with a four date acapella tour - including a gig at St Ives September Festival on Friday 24th September.

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## OVERGROUND SOUND - ST PAULS LIFESTYLE BLOG

OVERGROUND SOUND - THE MEDIAEVAL BAEBES

18.9.10 (HJALBEAU)

Friday, September 24, 2010

OVERGROUND SOUND (Impressions of the Uninitiated) - THE MEDIAEVAL BAEBES, Ely Cathedral, Saturday 18th September 2010 - by Hjalbeau (ed. Angus)

Mediaeval Baebes are an interesting act, they take medieval texts and write their own music to it. It makes for a very interesting performance that should open your eyes to a new experience. They have had three albums in the top of the classical charts and received the Ivor Novello Award 2007 for best television soundtrack for their work on the BBC production of The Virgin Queen (composed by Martin Phipps).

Here's the impression Hjalbeau had of them when he saw them at Ely Cathedral:

"I remembered the Mediaeval Baebes due to the power of subliminal advertising on television. So for a different evening I booked to see them in the Lady Chapel at the magnificent Ely Cathedral. Doors were advertised for 7.30 but thank god I arrived at 7.25 as the performance kicked off right on 7.30. The setting was appropriate in a candle illuminated chapel which is normally an austere space due to the damage of the reformation. The famous sculpture of the Madonna hangs over, looking like Jimmy Saville in drag. My apologies to David

### ARTISTS

And... RECORDED REVIEWS!

Aynsley Lister Band

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# The Mediaeval Babes to play Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral

**Nov 29 2010**

<http://www.liverpooldailypost.co.uk>

[/liverpool-life-features/liverpool-](#)

[arts/2010/11/29/](#)

by Laura Davis, [Liverpool Daily](#)

**Post**

<http://beta.liverpooldailypost.co.uk>

VOCAL group Mediaeval Baebes will visit Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral on Saturday to perform one of 14 live shows in theatres and religious buildings across the UK during the run up to Christmas.

Formed in 1996, the songwriters, multi-instrumentalists and vocalists sets Mediaeval texts to original scores.

They play a range of classical and mediaeval musical instruments, whilst singing in an array of long forgotten languages.

Katharine Blake, Emily Ovenden, Esther Dee, Bev Lee Harling, Melpomeni and Sarah Kayte Foster are accompanied live by an additional four musicians.

In their 12-year career, the Mediaeval Baebes have performed all over the world and have sold almost half a million records.

Their albums have consistently reached the top of the UK classical music charts, while their contribution to the BBC production of The Virgin Queen in 2007 resulted in an Ivor Novello award for best television soundtrack.

The band is currently working with creative director Micha Bergese (Jeff Wayne's War Of The Worlds, Shaolin Wheel Of Life, Millennium show at The Dome) to create a new theatrical spectacular for 2011.

THE Mediaeval Baebes play the Metropolitan Cathedral's Crypt Concert Room on Saturday.

<http://ad.uk.doubleclick.net/click;h=v8/3b29/0/0/%2a/z;44306;0-0;0;33238851;31-1/1;0/0/0;;~aopt=2/0/ff/0;~sscs=%3f>

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# The Mediaeval Baebes

## The Mediaeval Baebes

- Sunday 18th December 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

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|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Location</b> | E. M. Forster Theatre |
|-----------------|-----------------------|

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|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| <b>Ticket price</b> | £18 |
|---------------------|-----|

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**[Book online](#)** or **[Contact the box office](#)**

Formed in 1996, The Mediaeval Baebes are a unique group of accomplished songwriters, multi-instrumentalists and vocalists. The group creates their inimitable sound by setting Mediaeval texts to original scores with the use of both classical and mediaeval musical instruments, singing in an array of long forgotten languages. The Mediaeval Baebes have performed all over the world and sold almost half a million records. Their albums have consistently reached the top of the UK classical music charts whilst their hauntingly beautiful music has captured the imagination and devotion of music lovers throughout the world. The Baebes' contribution to the BBC production of *The Virgin Queen* in 2007 resulted in an Ivor Novello award for best television soundtrack.

The band are currently working with renowned Creative Director Micha Bergese (Jeff Wayne's *War Of The Worlds*, *Shaolin Wheel Of Life*, Millennium show at The Dome) and are creating a brand new theatrical spectacular: 'Temptation'.

To find out more about The Mediaeval Baebes and to purchase tickets for all their forthcoming shows log on to: [www.mediaevalbaebes.com](http://www.mediaevalbaebes.com)

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## Heavenly music from the Mediaeval Baebes at Stafford Gatehouse

Friday, November 05, 2010



Stoke Kung Fu and Kickboxing

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A CEMETERY in North East London isn't the most glamorous location to perform, but for the Mediaeval Baebes it was the perfect place to kick start their career.

"This was our first public performance back in 1996," says founder member Katharine Blake, aged 40.



1.

2.



"There was a beautiful old and overgrown cemetery in Stoke Newington. Inside was a derelict church so we decided that we would perform there and give the audience a map to find it."

Singing lyrics taken from mediaeval texts set to original music, the Baebes is one of the most unique groups around. And while Katharine is the only original member in the current line-up, she thinks it's gone from strength to strength.

"The line-up has changed quite a bit over the years, but I think this keeps it fresh and helps it evolve. I think this is why we have been able to keep going for 15 years."

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## all events in december

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## December

|        |   |         |
|--------|---|---------|
| Wed 01 | Lindsay Beers - <i>It has to be this way</i> 2                                | 12:00pm |
|        | Piranesi's Prisons  | 12:00pm |
|        | Hansel & Gretel   | 1:00pm  |
|        | The Girl Who Played With Fire (15)<br>Pick of 2010                            | 3:45pm  |
|        | A Town Called Panic (PG)  | 6:30pm  |
|        | The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui  | 7:45pm  |
|        | The Hunter (15)   | 8:30pm  |
| Thu 02 | Lindsay Beers - <i>It has to be this way</i> 2                                | 12:00pm |
|        | Piranesi's Prisons  | 12:00pm |
|        | Hansel & Gretel   | 1:00pm  |
|        | FREE Lunchtime Concerts: Tim<br>Sentance, saxophone and Tom<br>Lindsay, piano | 1:00pm  |
|        | A Town Called Panic (PG)  | 6:30pm  |
|        | Hansel & Gretel   | 7:00pm  |
|        | The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui  | 7:45pm  |
| Fri 03 | Lindsay Beers - <i>It has to be this way</i> 2                                | 12:00pm |
|        | Piranesi's Prisons  | 12:00pm |
|        | Chico and Rita (15)   | 6:30pm  |
|        | Hansel & Gretel   | 7:30pm  |
|        | The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui  | 7:45pm  |
|        | Maddy Prior & The Carnival Band   | 8:00pm  |
|        | Inception (12A)   | 8:45pm  |
| Sat 04 | Lindsay Beers - <i>It has to be this way</i> 2                                | 12:00pm |



## A Town Called Panic (PG)

Tue 30 Nov - Thu 2 Dec

Film

Hilarious and frequently surreal, the stop-motion extravaganza *A Town Called Panic* has endless charms and raucous laughs for children from e...



## Handel - Messiah

Thu 9 Dec 2010 8pm

Classical Music

Ring in the Christmas season with Handel's beloved oratorio, *Messiah*.



## Mediaeval Baebes

Fri 17 Dec 2010 8pm

Music

Experience the Mediaeval Baebes' 'fairytale whimsy, otherworldly enchantment and supernatural allure this Christmas.



## Hansel &amp; Gretel

Fri 26 Nov - Fri 10 Dec 2010

Theatre

A delightful Christmas show for children and brave adults everywhere.

You are here [Lifestyle](#)

## What's on December 2-8, 2010

Friday 17 June 2011



The Mediaeval baebes will be in full voice at Rotherham Minster