

# Media Release



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For immediate release

## Pop-up festival The Big Sing celebrates Midsummer on the beach

Eight choirs from all over Cornwall will lead a celebration of the beach, of song and of midsummer at Watergate Bay on Tuesday 21st June.

Born out of the Darke Visions Festival, which in 2010 celebrated the life and work of Cornish playwright Nick Darke, The Big Sing draws together choirs, brass bands, dancers and an enormous outdoor cinema screen in a packed day and evening of activity.

Starting at 6pm, the free event will be led by eight community choirs from across Cornwall. Visual spectacle will be provided by the artists from Truro's City of Lights; music will come from the St Newlyn East Brass Band; and The Beach Hut will be serving up fantastic food and drink from their barbeque and bar right on the sand.

Will Ashworth of The Hotel & Extreme Academy, Watergate Bay, said: "Where better to celebrate the longest day of the year than on the beach at Watergate Bay? The Big sing will be a bit like a pop-up festival - there is a huge amount planned for the evening, and there will be plenty of opportunities to come along and enjoy whatever nature offers us in terms of wind, waves and sunset.

"In another first for Watergate Bay, this year we are thrilled to have the Skylight Cinema - a giant outdoor cinema screen - to show *The Wrecking Season*, the hour long film by Jane and Nick Darke which will light up the beach as the sun sets."

Daphne Skinnard from BBC Radio Cornwall will compère the event, which will blend music, song and dance. Food and drink will be available on the beach from a Skinner's bar and barbeque cooked by The Beach Hut's chefs.

Choirs taking part include Newquay Male Voice Choir, 50 Degrees from Penzance, and Treviglas College Choir. Each choir will sing some of its own repertoire and then they will all join together for a massed sing of Nick Darke and Jim Carey's *Lobster Song* and *The Mighty Ocean*.

Everybody attending will be able to help create a communal artwork. Last year at Porthcothan beach the City of Lights artists built an enormous lobster, which loomed on the beach and faced the ocean as if poised to return there. It was sent up in flames as the sun went down. This year the artists are looking to reflect on the sun and the wind, but are keeping their ideas well under wraps.

Jane Darke has fond memories of what was an inspirational experience. She said: "The Big Sing last year was a wonderful day of singing on Porthcothan - children in the morning, and adult choirs in the evening with the sea behind us. It was a very special event."

Her thoughts are echoed by artist Tony Crosby, who said: "We were gathered on a summer evening, a Cornish beach, a choir of soaring voices and a fiery lobster; a memorable time in memory of a remarkable man. I was very proud to be there and help make it happen."

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During the day primary school children from six Cornish schools will gather on the beach for workshops on beach safety, the strandline and the things washed up on the beach, and artist-led workshops, followed by massed dancing and singing.

The Big Sing is put together by a partnership of individuals and organisations, including:

- Cornwall Learning
- Kernow Education Arts Partnership (KEAP)
- Regional Educational Legacy for Arts and Youth Sport (RELAYS)
- Sing Up
- The Works Dance and Theatre Development Agency
- The Hotel & Extreme Academy, Watergate Bay

The Big Sing is a free event but there will be a collection to support running costs during the evening.

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## Images

High resolution print-ready images can be downloaded from our online [Media Centre](#) (click for direct link).

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## Notes to Editors

**Cornwall Learning** brings together the expertise and experience of a range of teams to focus on improving standards, aspirations and skills of children, young people and those working with them. Cornwall Learning is operated by Cornwall Council.

**Kernow Education Arts Partnership (KEAP)** is an arts education partnership with a mission to engage the whole community in creative learning through the Arts. KEAP work with teachers and youth workers, Early Years settings and Cornwall Council to make sure that the arts and creativity are at the heart of work with children and young people.

**RELAYS (Regional Educational Legacy in Art and Youth Sport)** is an exciting programme of festivals and events in the South West. Led by Universities South West, through a network of regional universities and cultural organizations, RELAYS aims to blend youth sport and culture in a vibrant mixture of activities across the region in the build up to the 2012 Games.

**The Works Dance and Theatre Development Agency** is the development agency for dance and theatre in Cornwall, committed to working in partnership with artists, companies, venues, cultural development organisations, educational establishments and community groups to develop a vibrant performing arts ecology in Cornwall.

Set on its own spectacular surfing beach on the north Cornwall coast, **The Hotel & Extreme Academy, Watergate Bay** has earned a reputation as one of the 'must visit' coastal destinations in the UK.

**The Extreme Academy, Watergate Bay** is one of Britain's leading venues for beach sports and events. Founded in 1999, the Extreme Academy comprises specialist schools for surfing, kitesurfing, waveski and stand-up paddlesurf; technical equipment hire; and the Shop on the Beach, stocking a wide range of clothing and technical equipment.

