

PRESS RELEASE

March 2009

HORNIMAN MUSEUM

100 London Road
Forest Hill
London SE23 3PQ

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www.horniman.ac.uk



DARWIN200

CELEBRATE DARWIN 200 AT THE HORNIMAN

Two principles that guided Charles Darwin throughout his life inform the Horniman's season that celebrates him:
Investigation and Exploration

A full schedule of Darwin events at the Horniman is attached; highlights of the season include:

An exhibition of photographs ***Darwin at Down*** shows the domestic context that was the crucible of Darwin's theories thanks to the photographic efforts of his son William Erasmus. Visitors will be encouraged to emulate Darwin and observe, explore and document aspects of their environment through a photography competition ***Exploring and Investigating Nature***. An introductory course in wildlife photography will help visitors to hone their photographic talents. The winning competition entries will be displayed in a further exhibition which will be mounted in November.

A new area of planting in the gardens will show how the medical profession has exploited the adaptations that have allowed plant species to prosper, families will be encouraged to engage with the area through ***Gardens Explorer*** backpacks from late May. The Museum's Learning department will offer a range of Darwin-themed activities to local schools throughout the year.

The Horniman's curators and invited experts will host a series of ***Thursday Lates*** and afternoon talks designed to illuminate the far-reaching impact of Darwin's work. A series of ***Concerts*** will showcase not only the repertoire of Darwin's wife, Emma, who studied with Chopin, but the many ways in which Darwin's work has underscored the evolution of music and how the natural world has inspired musicians.

Public information:

Horniman Museum
100 London Road
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London
SE23 3PQ
Telephone 020 8699 1872 or visit www.horniman.ac.uk
Opening hours: 10.30am – 5.30pm daily

For more information and images please contact:

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The Horniman Museum's Darwin 200 programme is supported by the Wellcome Trust

wellcome trust

Darwin 200 at the Horniman – LISTINGS

EXHIBITIONS

Darwin at Down – Gallery Square
until Sunday 7 June 2009

Photographs of Darwin and his family at their home, Down House in Bromley, where he was inspired to write *The Origin of Species*. This exhibition forms part of the Horniman's celebrations of the Darwin Bicentenary.

Exploring and Investigating Nature Competition Winners

A further exhibition of winning entries in the photography competition will be mounted in November.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Darwin - Exploring and Investigating Nature

A photographic competition hosted in collaboration with the Grant Museum of Zoology and the Institute of Biology.

Deadline for entries: 11 October 2009. Prizes for category and overall winners and an exhibition of the winning photographs at the Horniman. For more details see www.horniman.ac.uk/darwin

Entries can be uploaded at www.darwinphotocomp.org.uk from 30 March 2009

CURATOR TALKS AND OBJECT HANDLING

Hands On Base, Music Gallery, free admission

Talks by Horniman curators focusing on Darwin; each hour-long talk is followed by an opportunity to explore the Hands On Base, which houses the Horniman's handling collection of over 3000 objects.

places must be booked in advance via communityed@horniman.ac.uk

Darwin's (R)evolutionary Theory

Wednesday 22 April 2.30 – 4pm

Paolo Viscardi, Deputy Keeper of Natural History

Darwin and the Caribbean

Wednesday 13 May 2.30 – 4pm

Wayne Modest, Keeper of Anthropology

Musical Instruments During the Age of Darwin

Wednesday 10 June 2.30 – 4pm

Bradley Strauchen, Deputy Keeper of Musical Instruments

THURSDAY LATE

Darwin and the Galapagos

Thurs 30 April 7pm

Join David Robinson and learn about Darwin and his visits to the Galapagos Islands as well the Galapagos today and the threats to its wildlife. The talk will be illustrated with BBC video clips and still photographs of the islands.

Music Gallery Performance Space

Free admission

MUSIC

Conservatory, free admission. *Limited places. Please arrive early to ensure a seat.*

A series of Sunday afternoon concerts explores the music in Charles Darwin's life as well as musical dimensions of his legacy.

Oliver Davies

Sun 3 May 3 – 4.30pm

Oliver Davies and friend bring together a selection of Charles Darwin's favourite music, shedding a fascinating new light on the great scientist's taste and personality.

John Kenny

Sun 10 May 3 – 4.30pm

Like animals and plants, musical instruments develop and evolve from age to age. John Kenny explores the evolution of the trombone, introducing sackbuts and other ancestor as well as a menagerie of related beasts, including the Celtic carnyx.

Rafael

Sun 17 May 3 – 4.30pm

Many musical traditions, new and old, are stimulated by ideas from the natural world. Guitarist Rafael explores the deep connections between the nuevo flamenco style and the biology of music making.

Stephen Preston

Sun 24th May 3 – 4.30pm

The diversity of bird species was a major inspiration for Darwin's theories of evolution. Stephen Preston gives this diversity voice with a performance of music for the baroque flute based on the sounds of birdsong.

ADULT EDUCATION

Photography: Capturing Nature Every Sat from 16 May 10.30am – 12pm

An introduction to wildlife photography with bird surveyor and wildlife expert David Darrell-Lambert. David is currently Chair of the Ornithological Section of the London Natural History Society. Expect to spend most of your time in our Gardens and Nature Trail, camera in hand!

Gardens, Nature Trail, Dutch Barn £65 TBC 10 sessions

Notes to Editors:

- The Horniman Museum opened in 1901 and holds in total some 350,000 objects. The Horniman has three main collections: Natural History with 250,000 specimens; World Cultures (Anthropology) comprising 80,000 objects and Musical Instruments with over 8,500 instruments. In recognition of their national importance, the Anthropology and Musical Instrument collections have been awarded Designated status.
- The Horniman Museum is core-funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust.
- The Horniman is situated on the South Circular Road (A205) in Forest Hill, with free parking in surrounding streets. It can be easily reached by train to Forest Hill from London Bridge (13 minutes), London Victoria and East Croydon, and by local buses. (176, 185, 312, 356, P4 stop outside the Horniman Museum)
- Access: The Museum and the Gardens are both wheelchair and pushchair friendly with accessible toilets. Limited on-site parking is available for disabled visitors – call 020 8699 1872.
- Admission to the permanent collections, gardens and most temporary exhibitions is free. Some temporary exhibitions are paid entry.