

Press Release

For immediate use

Classical Guitarist Catherine Thom Gives Concert in Aid of the Leach Mashiko Appeal

The 2011 Japanese earthquake severely damaged St Ives' unofficial 'twin town' of Mashiko. The town is strongly linked to St Ives through the friendship and working relationship of two of the most influential figures in studio pottery, Bernard Leach and Shoji Hamada, who together established the now world-famous Leach Pottery. Mashiko now has over 400 studios and kilns providing the main livelihood of the village, and the recent quake has caused considerable damage to kilns, homes, buildings and historic pots. In 2008 when the Leach pottery was restored as a museum and working pottery, the potters of Mashiko, in conjunction with other Japanese supporters, donated £40,000. The Leach Mashiko Appeal has responded in turn by offering support to help repair the devastation caused to this Japanese community.

Catherine Thom is Ireland's foremost classical guitarist. She has performed nationally and internationally, including twice at London's Wigmore Hall, and has given over fifty television and radio broadcasts. Catherine has strong links with the pottery world. Herself the daughter of a Northern Ireland potter whose work was strongly influenced by Bernard Leach and Japanese pottery, Catherine has long held Mashiko in great respect. In common with us all, she was deeply moved by the disaster in Japan.

On Friday to Sunday 5th to 7th August, Catherine will be playing at the Art in Clay 2011 Pottery and Ceramics Festival at Hatfield House Hertfordshire in support of the Leach Pottery Mashiko Appeal. Also to support the Appeal, on Saturday 3rd September Catherine will be giving a concert at St John's in the Fields church, St Ives. At both venues she will be dedicating the proceeds of a specially released CD. The dedicated Appeal CD includes favourite classical guitar music with works from Spain, South America, France and England. Entitled '*Cherry Blossom*' the album will feature a Japanese piece by this name, as well as the first release of two of her own compositions, the poignant 'Lament' and the beautiful and well loved 'Pempwell'.



'The Irish guitarist Catherine Thom has a captivating platform personality, which is entirely complementary to her refined musicality.' **The Times**

'The guitar...is a "fretted instrument", a phrase totally inadequate to describe what it becomes in the hands of someone like Catherine Thom..... the poise and confidence of the true professional.' **Radio Times**

The Art in Clay 2011 will be held at Hatfield House, Hatfield, Hertfordshire on the 5 to 7th August. Recitals will be at noon, 1.30pm and 3pm. Admission to Art in Clay is £8 for adults. Details travel, admission concessions etc., and of the donation recitals can be found at: <http://www.hatfield.artinclay.co.uk/about.asp>

The St Ives concert will be held at 8pm on Saturday 3rd September at St John's in the Fields church, opposite the Leach pottery. Tickets £7.00 in advance or £8.00 on the door. Advance tickets include an optional pre-concert tour of the old Leach workshops conducted by apprentices who worked there with Bernard Leach, and a tour of the new part of the pottery conducted by present staff. Tours will start at 6.30pm.

Tickets for St Ives concert can be purchased online at:

<http://www.cbs-online.co.uk/concert%20for%20mashiko.html>, at the Leach Pottery / 01736 799703 and St Ives Ceramics / 01736 794930. The CD costs £10 and is available from the Leach Pottery, St Ives Ceramics, and online at <http://www.cbs-online.co.uk/concert%20for%20mashiko.html>. This concert is supported by The Leach Pottery and St Ives Ceramics.

High resolution image links:

[Catherine Thom](#)

Further information:

Visit www.CatherineThom.com or contact Paul at paul@CatherineThom.com / 07817 412028. **This includes requesting a CD for review purposes.**

The Leach Mashiko Appeal: <http://www.leachpottery.com/What-s-On/News-Feed.aspx> .
Leach Pottery, Higher Stennack, St Ives, Cornwall, TR26 2HE / www.leachpottery.com

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