

## **‘Apollo: One Giant Leap’ Dorchester Arts.**

Dorchester Arts are excited to announce the production of **‘Apollo: One Giant Leap,’** a ground breaking and dynamic initiative that aims to draw together a broad spectrum of the public to celebrate an iconic moment in global history.

In essence, we are developing a vehicle for schools to explore live performance, based upon thought provoking and meaningful topics. The route that we are creating will provide high quality cross curricular activities and resources relating to a specific project theme that will engage a maximum number of school communities across the region.

Our project represents a dynamic cross-curricular, multi-generational production of the cantata **‘Apollo: One Giant Leap,’** written by British Composer Geof Edge, (premiered: Barbican, London, 2002) The cantata is the focal point of a progressive six month preparation to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the first Apollo lunar landing, culminating in a powerful and immersive performance of the work on the night of 19th July 2019 in Maumbury Rings, Dorchester. The project will be delivered to over 4370 school pupils, three community choirs will enrich an onstage chorus of 500 voices, our online presence will further engage an extended audience which we anticipate will be significant.

The major complimentary focuses for our inaugural initiative, **‘Apollo:One Giant Leap,’** are **Science and Art.** Schools will also be encouraged to engage in creative writing and historical research, with comprehensive online resources available throughout the project.

We identify that the combination of science and music is a powerful and exciting basis for a schools project. We have received an exceptionally positive response from the schools that we have recruited. The significant regional interest that is indicated for **Apollo: One Giant Leap,** has secured Dorchester Town Council facilitating the development of an entire weekend dedicated to Apollo and Science:

Opening the ‘Moonbury Weekend’ on 19th July with the cantata, **Apollo: One Giant Leap,** Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st July will be devoted to providing film footage (on a big screen installation) and a ‘Science Sunday,’ when members of the public will be welcome, at no cost, to explore resources and appreciate the wonders of Science. We anticipate that the resultant legacy of this weekend will be the further development of a regular Science festival in future years.

Our resident Artist, Sarah Butterworth, Creative Director of the trailblazing **Emerald Ant** company, will be working with schools to create a series of extraordinary lanterns and installations for this unique event, many of the creations will be processed through the town before the performance on 19th July, including a giant rocket built by ‘Men in sheds,’ following which, their installation at Maumbury Rings will create a magical festival of light as night time falls.

We are proud to announce that our first Patron for this project is Doctor Suzanne Imber, Planetary Scientist at Leicester University and winner of the acclaimed BBC2 series, ‘Astronaut: do you have what it takes?’ we expect to engage other high profile patrons as the project progresses.

To ensure that **‘Apollo: One Giant Leap’** is a meaningful success, it is imperative that we are able to provide resources of the highest quality. We believe that the project has a vast potential outreach and we are excited to awaken the interest and creative energy of an extended audience.

## **Project key facts:**

**Venue: 'Moonbury Rings,' Dorchester.**

The **Apollo: One Giant Leap** performance is calendared for the evening of 19th July 2019 at Maumbury Rings, a unique gathering space for residents and visitors to Dorchester. An ancient Neolithic amphitheatre, Maumbury Rings is perfectly situated for the schools and members of the public to reach on foot from the town centre.

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

The event will be complemented with artwork created by hundreds of children and adults with project artist in residence, Sarah Butterworth, Creative Director of Emerald Ant.

The venue will also host the stunning installation of artist, Luke Jerram, 'The Museum of the Moon.'

[https://my-moon.org/past\\_presentations/](https://my-moon.org/past_presentations/)

Conductor Alasdair Malloy will present the event and conduct a twelve piece ensemble, children's choir of 500 voices, community choirs and audience members.

Following the performance, nightfall will highlight the illumination of The Museum of the Moon. Project artwork will also become illuminated and the Moonbury Rings will transform into a magical festival of light.

