

Critic's choice

Will Hodgkinson



Reading and Leeds

It's not pretty, and if dodging flying bottles filled with beer or something even more unpleasant isn't your idea of fun it's best to stay away, but this remains Britain's big rock festival and the ideal place for 16-year-olds recovering from the shock of GCSEs to unwind. The Cure, Kasabian and Foo Fighters are the headliners, while the Black Keys, Florence + the Machine and Justice also make appearances. **Leeds:** *Bramham Park, Wetherby* (*leedsfestival.com, 01937 846000*), Fri (11am), to Aug 26; **Reading:** *Little John's Farm, Richfield Avenue, Reading* (*readingcomedyfestival.com, 01189 606060*), Fri (11am), to Aug 26

V Festival

The most commercial of all the festivals, with backstage areas more often filled with reality-TV stars than music-industry types, V does have the clout to attract the big names. This year it's the re-formed Stone Roses, riding high after the success of the recent Heaton Park concerts, alongside Nicki Minaj, the Killers and the inevitable Ed Sheeran. **Hylands Park, Chelmsford** (08712 307139), today and Sun (noon); **Weston Park, Shifnal** (01952 852100), today and Sun (noon)

Trembling Bells

This fantastically original four-piece combine everything from Sixties

psych to medieval folk to Bruce Springsteen-style heartland rock. Singer Lavinia Blackwall's thoroughly English tones bringing a sense of pastoral romance to drummer and songwriter Alex Neilson's florid tales of abandoned love. *The Musician, Clyde Street, Leicester* (*www.themusicianpub.co.uk, 01162 510080*), Thur.

Sleigh Bells

Brooklyn, New York boy-girl duo Sleigh Bells are much loved for a cooler-than-cool image and a heavy rock sound. While 2012's *Reign of Terror* ended up showing more style than substance, the blistering onslaught of *True Shred Guitar* and *Born to Lose* could still be pretty exciting live. *Liquid Room, Victoria Street, Edinburgh* (*liquidroom.com, 0131-225 2564*), Wed

Belsonic

Two Door Cinema Club top a bill also featuring Noah & the Whale and Oberhofer. Nobody expected the three-piece from Bangor to make an impact, but TDCC have become massive with a lack of hype through old-fashioned word of mouth. Then their lead singer appeared at the opening ceremony of the Olympics and their place in British music history was sealed. The group headline the indie night of this series of gigs in the heart of Belfast. *Custom House Square, Belfast* (*belsonic.com, 028-90311900*), Thur



Godfather of Goth: Robert Smith of the Cure, who will headline at the Reading and Leeds festivals

Jazz/blues

Canary Wharf Jazz Festival

Jazz sets up camp amid the glass and steel: Courtney Pine, Dennis Rollins and Alexander Stewart play today; tomorrow Beats & Pieces top the bill. Best of all, it's free. *Canada Square Park, London E14* (020-8995 3920)

Madeleine Peyroux

She's no attention-seeker and the former busker's

knack of transforming a jazz standard or an old blues number into something deeply personal can get lost on the biggest stages, but this venue should suit her fine. *O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire, London W12* (020-8354 3300), today

John Williams and John Etheridge

Two guitar maestros bridge the gap between Bach and Django Reinhardt. Part of the Edinburgh International Festival. *Queen's Hall, Edinburgh* (0131-473 2000), Wed (11am)

the albums

The Darkness

Hot Cakes

★★★★☆

As overnight sensations the Darkness slipped into the very clichés they were parodying: fall-outs and a ropery second album after a great first one. Now, they are back doing what they do best: making bad-taste pop-metal that you can't help but love. The joke works because all four members are good enough musicians to pull it off, and their passion is genuine. *She's Just a Girl, Eddie* is a great tune written to make their drummer feel better about being dumped, while a metal cover of *Street Spirit* by ultra-earnest Radiohead shows the Darkness still make sense when they're straddling the line between the accomplished and the silly. **Will Hodgkinson** (PIAS; out Mon)



Collegium Vocale Gent

Victoria Officium Defunctorum

★★★★★

The 400th anniversary of Tomás Luis de Victoria's death in 1611 brought a welcome rush of performances and recordings. Philippe Herreweghe's Collegium Vocale Gent enter the field a little late, but with a CD of such beauty that it needs to be heard by every lover of Renaissance choral music. The music itself is stunning: Victoria's 1605 Requiem, complemented by four elegiac and sometimes more harmonically daring motets. And Herreweghe's 13 singers do it justice with performances that strike a perfect balance between lushness and clarity, expression and nobility. **Richard Morrison** (Philabel; out now)

classical

Critic's choice

Richard Morrison



BBC Proms

Two very different English operas this week. Tomorrow it's Gilbert and Sullivan's Tudor melodrama *The Yeomen of the Guard*, conducted by Jane Glover. Then on Friday the English National Opera performs Britten's searing *Peter Grimes* under Edward

Gardner's baton. Also note the LSO playing Prokofiev's *Cinderella* under Valery Gergiev (Wed), and later that night Robert Hollingworth's I Fagiolini singing glorious polychoral music by Giovanni Gabrieli. *Albert Hall, London SW7* (0845 4015040), to Sept 8

Choral Symphony

Andris Nelsons conducts his fine City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in Brahms's *Nänie* and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. *Symphony Hall, Centenary Square, Birmingham* (0121 803333), Thur

Edinburgh International Festival

Highlights this week include one of America's top orchestras, the Cleveland,

playing Lutoslawski, Smetana and Shostakovich under Franz Welser-Möst (Tues, Wed), Russian pianist Daniil Trifonov storming through Scriabin, Medtner, Stravinsky and Chopin (Fri, 11am), the superb Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester playing Wagner and Mahler under Daniele Gatti (Fri), and the LSO continuing its Szymanowski and Brahms symphonies series (today, tomorrow). *Various venues, Edinburgh* (01314 732000), to Sept 2