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16 Jan – 2 Feb 2020

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YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Your support helps us to engage more children with traditional music than ever before through free concerts in Glasgow as well as free workshops in schools. These enable pupils to try out traditional Celtic instruments such as the bodhran, fiddle, clarsach and whistle, with some of the best professional Celtic musicians in the country on hand to share their experience and skills.

If you would like to help more children get involved with traditional music please visit www.celticconnections.com/celtic-rover or email us on supportus@glasgowlife.org.uk

Celtic Connections is part of Glasgow Life, a Scottish Charity, SC037844, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Celtic Connections 2020 – a programme of over 300 events that will seek to shine a bright light on the blossoming vibrant roots music scene from across Scotland and the four corners of the world.

Some of the performances in this festival are unique collaborations and world premieres that have, in some cases, taken years to come to fruition. One such performance is our Opening Night concert, featuring the incredible GRIT Orchestra performing newly commissioned works inspired by the 700th Anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath.

We asked conductor and arranger Greg Lawson to try and describe the ethos of this national folk orchestra and how it has found its way to the forefront of the current music scene. "The Grit Orchestra to me is a celebration of difference. At its heart lies its identity with Scottish traditional music through its musicians of multiple genres performing together on equal terms in an environment of respect and open-mindedness – creating an energy in performance that is hopefully infectious and almost riotous!"

'The Declaration' represents a theme of freedom and what that can mean in its broadest sense. In music, freedom can only be expressed with respect to each other and that seems like a timely narrative to explore.

As the Sufi poet Rumi says, "Celebrate the difference, and everything that lies in-between."

While bringing together artists from all walks of life, cultures and backgrounds for these 18 days and nights we have to applaud the incredible creative commitment and dedication of the musicians, supporting arts organisations, education groups and behind-the-scenes mavericks that help festivals like Celtic Connections evolve and succeed. Not forgetting the most important ingredient of all – you, our brilliant audiences! So thank you for your support and shared passion – we will hopefully see you in a crowd or on a stage very soon.

Donald Shaw & the Celtic Connections team

Donald Shaw
Creative Producer

With thanks to all our funders and partners for their continued support.

FUNDERS



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CELTIC ROVER

A special thank you to our Celtic Rovers who support the festival’s important Education Programme.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

As a charity we rely on the support of sponsors, supporters, trusts and our brilliant Celtic Rovers to bring an eclectic mix of world music with some of the best artists in the world. We welcome donations at all levels. To find out how to support, email supportus@glasgowlife.org.uk



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We would like to thank all photographers who may be uncredited, this was completely unintentional.



OPENING NIGHT: THE GRIT ORCHESTRA - 'THE DECLARATION'
GRCH: MAIN AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM
Tickets from £24.20 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Five years on from its landmark debut concert at Celtic Connections, the trailblazing **GRIT Orchestra**, an 80-piece ensemble of folk, jazz and classical musician, originally founded to perform and celebrate the late Martyn Bennett's music, breaks yet more new ground with its first performance of newly-composed works. Supported through the Scottish Government's Festivals Expo Fund, six members of the orchestra have been commissioned to create new symphonic compositions inspired by the Declaration of Arbroath, ahead of its 700th anniversary in April.

Also marking 15 years since Bennett's untimely passing, the project is described by Donald Shaw as "a declaration of intent to grasp the thistle and give a sense of confidence to orchestral works from Scottish folk composers. It's about freedom, exploration and intent."

Under the baton of founding conductor **Greg Lawson**, the orchestra will premiere pieces by multi-instrumentalist **Fraser Fifield**, saxophonist **Paul Towndrow**, fiddlers **Chris Stout** and **Patsy Reid**, harpist **Catriona McKay** and cellist **Rudi de Groot**.



BREABACH @ 15 WITH SEAMUS EGAN PROJECT
GRCH: MAIN AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM
Tickets from £22.00 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Breabach's Celtic Connections debut was their winning performance on 2005's Danny Kyle Open Stage. Fifteen years on, they're securely ranked among Scotland's most skilled and imaginative folk acts, uniting deep roots in Highland and Island tradition with the innovative musical ferment of their Glasgow base. They've released six increasingly acclaimed albums, while fuelling their creative appetites in collaborations with indigenous Australasian artists, Quebec's *Le Vent du Nord*, and most recently – as artists-in-residence at 2019's Celtic Colours festival – Cape Bretoners *Beolach*. Joining the band tonight, a celebratory array of past members and special guests will reflect this full wealth of globe-trotting achievement.

"Exhilarating, energetic and accomplished... a rare, beautiful treat" (*Songlines*)

Multi-instrumental maestro and Solas co-founder **Seamus Egan's** shape-shifting solo project teams him here with the genre-melting talents of **Kyle Sanna** (guitar), **Owen Marshall** (guitar/mandolin/banjo) and Lúnasa's **Trevor Hutchinson**, simultaneously revisiting Egan's pre-Solas recording career, and expanding his vision of traditional music as a universal language.



COLONEL MUSTARD & THE DIJON 5 AND SUPPORT OLD FRUITMARKET | 9:30PM
Tickets From £19.80 incl. booking fee* (standing)

One of Scotland's favourite festival bands, playfully surrealist Glasgow collective **Colonel Mustard & The Dijon 5** name-check inspirations as diverse as *Primal Scream*, *Happy Mondays*, *Frank Zappa*, *Bob Marley*, *James Brown*, *George Clinton* and *Neil Diamond*.

The 11-strong line-up concoct an irresistibly effervescent musical melting-pot, spanning styles from punk to disco, hip-hop to flamenco, Roma to reggae – a mix that saw them inducted into the Barrowland Ballroom Hall of Fame in 2018 after playing the venue three times.

"One of the most entertaining live acts in Scotland."
(*Jim Gellatly*)



DILEAB: AIR A' CHUAN
GRCH: NEW AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM
Tickets from £15.40 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Commissioned for Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters in 2020, this special one-off performance – whose Gaelic title translates as 'Legacy: On the Ocean' showcases a new generation of young musicians from across the Western Isles, celebrating their communities' culturally rich connections, past and present, with the seas that surround them. Benbecula's **Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band**, the **Lewis & Harris Youth Concert Band** and Harris's **Sir E Scott School** senior choir and soloists, together with a troupe of Highland dancers, will perform with professional island musicians **Willie Campbell**, **Ceitlin Lilidh**, **Linda MacLeod** and **Pàdruig Morrison**, in a mix of traditional, contemporary and specially-commissioned material.



ARCHIEOLOGY: ARCHIE FISHER 80TH WITH FRIENDS BARBARA DICKSON & RAB NOAKES
MITCHELL THEATRE | 7:30PM
Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Singer, songwriter, guitarist, producer and broadcaster: **Archie Fisher's** career charts an unbroken line from the 1950s skiffle boom and ensuing UK folk revival to today's cornucopia of Scottish musical creativity. This hugely influential musician has performed with *The Fisher Family*; produced albums by *Silly Wizard*, *Tommy Makem* and *Liam Clancy*; pioneered new guitar tunings and techniques; presented *Travelling Folk* for 27 years; penned a string of contemporary folk classics – and much more. He enters his 80th birthday year in distinguished company, joined by **Rab Noakes** and **Barbara Dickson**.



LOST MAP PRESENTS PICTISH TRAIL AND ROZI PLAIN SAINT LUKE'S | 7:30PM

Tickets from £18.70 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Impelled by "a compulsion to make infectious, melody-driven music from a treasure-trove of secret sounds", Johnny Lynch/Pictish Trail modestly describes the results – most recently 2017's *Future Echoes* – as "untidily intriguing". Following tours with Belle and Sebastian, British Sea Power, Malcolm Middleton and KT Tunstall, the Eigg-based indie/folk/electro/retro popster has promised new material in 2020. "An entertainer in the best possible sense" (*Clash*)

Completed during a recent year's globe-trotting as bassist in This Is The Kit, **Rozi Plain's** third album, *What A Boost*, was released to rave reviews in 2019. "Haunts a musical landscape somewhere between jazz, folk, ambient and pop. . . subtle but stunning" (*FRUK*)



THE REZILLOS AND ABBIE OZARD ORAN MOR | 7:30PM

Tickets from £20.90 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Scottish punk/pop/glam legends **The Rezillos'** all-but poetic Facebook bio pretty much says it all: "Ages ago we started up/we made things and fooled around/we developed strange obsessions/we diverged and coalesced/we had tantrums and broke up/we got back together again and made up/we make chaos melody harmony and racket."

Uniting broad pop influences together with 1980s and 90s sounds, Manchester songstress **Abbie Ozard** crafts dreamily melodic, guitar-driven indie-pop.



MILLER | MACDONALD | CORMIER and samaluc GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SUITE | 8:00PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Uniting the diasporan traditions of Scotland, Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island, the trio of US-born piper **Ben Miller** (an alumnus of Edinburgh's School of Scottish Studies), fiddler, Gaelic singer and stepdancer **Anita MacDonald** and PEI guitarist/foot percussionist **Zakk Cormier** have been hailed as one of Canada's brightest up-and-coming folk acts, further enriching the mix with influences from Shetland and Ireland.

Described as a "firebrand triumvirate", 2019's Danny Kyle Winners **Malin Lewis** (Two Octaves), **Sam Mabbet** (The Canny Band) and **Luc McNally** (Dosca) showcase new work to complement their fresh sound.



NEW TRADITION: GILLIAN FLEETWOOD, REBECCA HILL & SARAH MACNEIL TRON THEATRE | 8:00PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Fittingly for Scotland's oldest instrument, new harp music has been a cutting-edge force in our contemporary folk renaissance, with three leading musicians presenting their original compositions tonight. **Gillian Fleetwood's** piece, inspired by the interplay of human ingenuity with nature, features a rare 205-year-old Erard pedal harp, belonging to Hospitalfield House, together with clàrsach, string duo and electronic manipulation. **Sarah MacNeil's** *NorthBay* was composed on Barra, where she began playing the harp at the Fèis, while RCS graduate **Rebecca Hill** showcases material from her forthcoming debut EP.



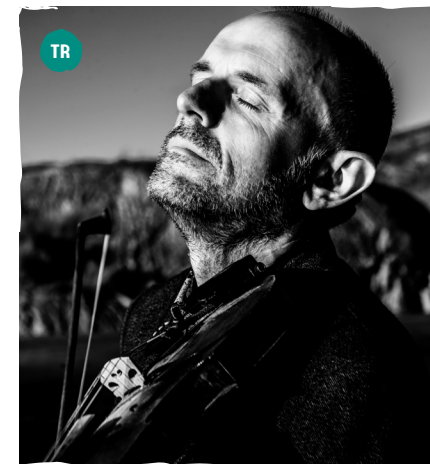
FAT-SUIT: 'WAIFS & STRAYS' & SPECIAL GUESTS DRYGATE | 7:30PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated & standing)

Doubling down on organising a shindig in a brewery, hotshot indie-jazz collective **Fat-Suit** – winners of both Best Band and Album of the Year at 2017's Scottish Jazz Awards – reconvene at the venue where their new fourth album, *Waifs & Strays*, was recorded. Originally formed as a student Snarky Puppy tribute act, their line-up of horns, keyboards, strings, percussion and guitars includes jazz, rock, folk and electronic musicians, on a kaleidoscopic journey through myriad bravura sound-worlds.

"One of the best bands in British music, full stop" (*BBC*)

Several album guests will rejoin the band, while support comes from a specially-curated selection of emerging Scottish singer/songwriters.



DUNCAN CHISHOLM CITY HALLS: RECITAL ROOM | 5:00PM

Tickets from £14.30 incl. booking fee* (seated)

A rare opportunity to get up close and personal with one of Scotland's finest fiddlers **Duncan Chisholm**, whose stunning sequence of solo albums, most recently 2018's *Sandwood*, reflect his profound engagement with the history, landscapes and lore of his native Highlands. Celebrated especially for his exquisite rendering of slow airs (bring tissues!), he's accompanied here by **Innes Watson** on guitar.



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COASTAL CONNECTIONS GLASGOW ROYAL CONCERT HALL | 12:00PM

Tickets from £25.85 (adult), £13.20 (child)
incl. booking fee* (seated & standing)

Coastal Connections is a festival within a festival celebrating **Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters 2020**; offering single-ticket access to a packed programme of music, film, storytelling, exhibitions and workshops, all linked to the unique heritage and culture of the country's sea and shorelines. Throughout the afternoon, spaces across the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall will host some of Scotland's greatest bands and emerging artists, along with international surprises.

Join musicians from more than 20 islands, coasts and peninsulas, including Tiree-based **Skerryvore**, Oban-founded **Capercaillie**, Hebridean group **Daimh**, North Uist's **Julie Fowles**, Orkney roots groups **Gnoss** and **Fara**, fiddler **Gillian Frame** from Arran, and **Ceol Nan Eilean** from Benbecula. Cape Breton neighbours **Miller | MacDonald | Cormier** appear, along with **John Somerville's The Voyage of the Hector** with **Féis Rois**, Lochaber-based **Ingrid Henderson**, **Esther Swift's The Flood** and duo **Mairearad & Anna** from The Black Isle/Wester Ross.

The shore-to-shore journeys made by Scotland's residents and visitors will be celebrated with a musical contribution from **Ferry Tales**, a forthcoming production from the National Theatre of Scotland. Experience **Launch!**, an immersive performance combining footage from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's film archive with live music. **Shona Thomson** and beatboxer **Jason Singh** will perform with guest singer-songwriter **Jenny Sturgeon**. Coastal Connections will also present the first ever appearance of **Vision Mechanics'** latest huge outdoor spectacular.

Coastal Connections is funded through EventScotland's International Programme supporting Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters 2020, a year-long programme of events and activities which will shine a spotlight on these vital elements of our landscape.

Image courtesy of Sean Purser



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THE GRIT ORCHESTRA - MARTYN BENNETT'S GRIT & BOTHY CULTURE BARROWLAND BALLROOM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £24.20 incl. booking fee* (standing)

To complement their opening-night première of bespoke new cross-genre compositions, the 80-piece **GRIT Orchestra**, a hand-picked array of Scottish folk, jazz and classical artists, revisit the music that first made them, that of the late and much-lamented Martyn Bennett. Founding conductor **Greg Lawson's** extraordinary live realisation of Bennett's eponymous final masterpiece was their inaugural towering achievement, at Celtic Connections 2015, followed three years later by his orchestration of 1998's **Bothy Culture**, which filled the Hydro to the brim with euphoria. Amid the über-conductive ambience of Scotland's best-loved rock'n'roll ballroom, we mark 15 years since Bennett's passing, while celebrating his continued legacy, with the first back-to-back performance of both works.



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BLAZIN' FIDDLES & SPECIAL GUEST EMILY SMITH AND SUPPORT GRCH: MAIN AUDITORIUM | 8:00PM

Tickets from £22.00 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Building on the success of their previous collaboration with Karen Matheson, the instrumental powerhouse that is **Blazin' Fiddles** once again joins forces with one of Scotland's most exquisitely gifted singers, this time looking to the Lowlands in their choice of multi-award-winner **Emily Smith**. Latterly adding a fertile Americana vein to her repertoire of traditional, contemporary and original folk songs, Smith provides the perfect complement to the band's celebrated solo and ensemble prowess – featuring the fiddles of **Bruce McGregor**, **Kristan Harvey**, **Rua MacMillan** and **Jenna Reid**, plus crack piano/guitar backing from **Angus Lyon** and **Anna Massie** – as both acts match A-list musicianship with rich stylistic and interpretative diversity.

**CEÒLAS - 25TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT****OLD FRUITMARKET | 8:00PM****Tickets from £18.70 incl. booking fee* (seated & standing)**

Founded in 1996 by piper Hamish Moore with support from Gaelic arts agency Pròiseact nan Ealan, **Ceòlas** in South Uist has grown from a week-long music & dance school into a world-leading cultural heritage organisation. The now-fabled summer school annually attracts over 100 international students, taught by today's finest traditional musicians.

Join them tonight for the ultimate Hebridean cèilidh in the city, with **Dàimh, Kathleen MacInnes, Allan Henderson, Ailean Dòmhnallach, Anna Wendy Stevenson & Simon Bradley, Gillebride MacMillan** and Cape Breton's **Miller | MacDonald | Cormier** alongside singers, pipers, fiddlers and dancers.

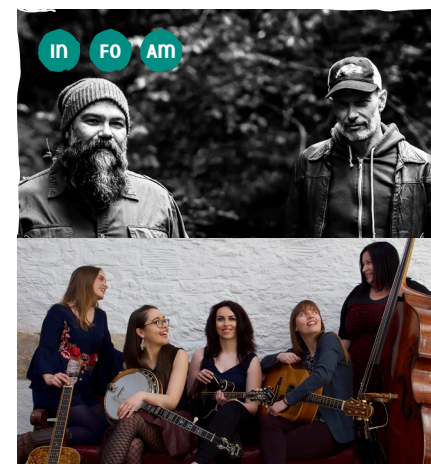
**BÉLA FLECK & ABIGAIL WASHBURN WITH JULIE FOWLIS, ÉAMON DOORLEY, ZOË CONWAY & JOHN MCINTYRE****CITY HALLS | 7:30PM****Tickets from £24.20 incl. booking fee* (seated)**

Frequent Celtic Connections visitors, the made-in-heaven banjo union of **Béla Fleck & Abigail Washburn** surely count now as honorary Scots. Following their self-titled, Grammy-winning 2014 debut, 2017's *Echo in the Valley* continues their celebratory exploration of the instrument's unique hybridity. **"As musicians and songwriters, Fleck and Washburn embrace the world"** (NPR)

A labour-of-love collaboration between **Julie Fowles, Éamon Doorley, Zoë Conway** and **John McIntyre**, their album project *Allt* is inspired by old and new Gaelic poetry from Scotland and Ireland, interweaving four in-the-round voices with whistle, fiddles, bouzouki, guitar and piano.

**PEGGY SEEGER WITH CALUM & NEILL MACCOLL****MITCHELL THEATRE | 7:30PM****Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (seated)**

In 2017's candidly forthright autobiography, *First Time Ever*, living legend Peggy Seeger likens folk songs to **"human nutrition"**. As a singer, she says, **"I become as the narrow neck of an hourglass, bringing stories and singers from the past to the present."** Now in her 80s, she rests on no grande dame laurels, winning Best Original Song at the 2016 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards for a track on *Everything Changes*, her first album wholly comprised of self- or collaboratively-penned material. On this rare appearance with both musical sons, **Calum and Neill MacColl**, expect an unforgettable hootenanny of Peggy and Ewan MacColl's best-loved songs, solo numbers and memoir excerpts.

**CAM PENNER & JON WOOD WITH MIDNIGHT SKYRACER****GRCH: NEW AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM****Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (seated)**

Aptly for Celtic Connections, Canadian singer-songwriter **Cam Penner** describes his 2018 album, *At War With Reason*, as **"songs born from the winter; from the darkness."** Addressing contemporary socio-political themes, and featuring longtime sideman/producer **Jon Wood**, the album's multilayered textures, spoken-word vocals, percussive grooves and heartfelt lyrics make for compelling, immersive listening.

Formed in 2017, and self-styled as **"Anglo-Irish Girl Power Bluegrass"**, **Midnight Skyracer** have already won two IBMA Award nominations, and album-sleeve endorsement on 2018's debut *Fire* from Americana icon Ron Block.

"This hard-driving five-piece has captured lightning in a bottle." (*Bluegrass Unlimited*)

**STOCKTON'S WING and MNA****SAINT LUKE'S | 7:30PM****Tickets from £22.00 incl. booking fee* (standing)**

Embracing their seminal veteran status, dating back to Irish music's 1970s/80s golden era, **Stockton's Wing** launched 2019's *Retrospective* tour – featuring longtime members **Paul Roche, Mike Hanrahan** and **Paul McSherry**, plus youngsters **Tara Breen, Steve Byrnes, Anthony Davis** and **Karol Lynch** - with their first new music in over 20 years, the charity single 'We Had It All', while ensuing set-lists' depth and diversity reaffirmed the Wing's classic calibre.

Mná - **Róisín Chambers, Mairéad McManus, Katie Boyle** and **Julia Reid** showcase traditional sean nos songs and tunes drawn from their heritage in Dublin, Connemara, Donegal and Fermanagh.

**THE OUTSIDE TRACK and EABHAL****GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SITE | 8:00PM****Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)**

Entering their 15th anniversary year, multi-award-winning Scottish/Irish/Canadian quintet **The Outside Track**, featuring fiddle, accordion, harp, guitar, flute, step-dance and vocals, dedicated their superb fifth album, 2018's *Rise Up*, to band-members' female inspirations and role-models, amid a typically discerning, sophisticated vocal/instrumental mix of old and new material. **"Their unique multicultural perspective. . . entertains, fascinates and rewards"** (FRUK)

Battle of the Folk Bands victors in 2018, young Uist-rooted outfit **Eabhal** - on pipes, flute, whistle, fiddle, accordion, guitar and Gaelic song – won further accolades for 2019's debut album, *This is How the Ladies Dance*.



BAND "A." PERFORM THE AFFECTIONATE PUNCH AND SUPPORT ORAN MOR | 7:30PM

Tickets from £15.40 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Heralded by their wonderfully wayward cover of Bowie's 'Boys Keep Swinging', legendary Scottish pop mavericks The Associates' debut album, *The Affectionate Punch*, a playfully audacious aural cocktail laced with punk, cabaret, opera, krautrock and glam, was released in 1980, announcing the unique sound and vision of founding Dundee duo Billy Mackenzie and Alan Rankine. Marking 40 years since this classic and still-influential record, Glasgow chanteuse **Audrey Redpath** leads her **Band "A."** line-up in likewise affectionate homage.



NOAH GUNDERSEN and BESS ATWELL TRON THEATRE | 3:00PM & 8:00PM

Tickets from £18.70 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Washington State native **Noah Gundersen's** brand of indie-folk has progressed from acoustic beginnings to a genre-busting blend of confessional lyrics, pop melodicism and adventurous arrangements. Previously featured on hit TV shows *Sons of Anarchy*, *The Vampire Diaries* and *Nashville*, his sound came to full fruition on 2019's album *Lover*.

English "ethereal folk-pop princess" **Bess Atwell** stunned with her 2019 EP *Big Blue*, following up with appearances at Green Man, Deershed and Larmer Tree.



JOHN CRAIGIE and SUPPORT CCA | 7:30PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Uniting the classic folk-rock heritage of his southern California birthplace with the indie/Americana influences of his adopted Portland home, singer-songwriter **John Craigie** is a potentially gifted storyteller in both comic and serious vein. Coinciding with 2017's fifth album *No Rain, No Rose*, a string of dates opening for Jack Johnson brought him deserved wider acclaim, followed by 2018's outtakes collection *Scarecrow*.

"The lovechild of John Prine and Mitch Hedberg with a vagabond troubadour edge" (*The Stranger*)



VALÉRIE EKOUMÉ and SUPPORT DRYGATE | 7:30PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated & standing)

Among a diverse early musical diet of African songs and grooves alongside classic American pop, French-Cameroonian singer **Valérie Ekoumé's** early role models included both Miriam Makeba and Whitney Houston - her "virtual vocal coaches". After eight years' touring as a member of Manu Dibango's Soul Makossa Gang, she's released two arresting solo albums of richly soulful ballads and dancefloor-friendly Afropop, most recently 2017's *Kwin Na Kingué*.



DERVISH & SPECIAL GUESTS: THE GREAT IRISH SONGBOOK

GRCH: MAIN AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £24.20 incl. booking fee* (seated)

The great Sligo-rooted band **Dervish** celebrated 30 years together in 2019, with shows including Glastonbury and the London Palladium, a Lifetime Achievement Award at The BBC Folk Awards in Manchester in October 2018 and their 14th full-length release *The Great Irish Songbook*. The first fruit of their signing to top US roots label Rounder Records, the album revisits and reinvents traditional and contemporary classics from the Irish song canon, with an array of special guests including Brendan Gleeson, David Gray, Steve Earle and Andrea Corr. Continuing the festivities in Glasgow, the six-piece will be joined by several other artists featured on the record, among them **Kate Rusby** and US banjo ace/vocalist **Abigail Washburn**, whose husband **Béla Fleck** also joins the party, while **Brian Kennedy** and the iconic grande dame of transatlantic folk-song, the one and only **Peggy Seeger**, sprinkle the show with further legendary stardust.

"The most compelling, most soulful Irish traditional folk band playing today" (*News Journal*).



LUCY ROSE and RORY BUTLER

GRCH: NEW AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £22.00 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Having forged her niche via self-released singles and home-made videos, Midlands-born singer-songwriter **Lucy Rose** made the album Top 10 with 2015's pop-inclined second LP *Work It Out*. Subsequently dispensing with major-label machinations, she's artfully reworked that early acoustic sound into the elegantly textured palette and potently emotive lyrics of her latest, *No Words Left*.

"Candid, searching songwriting. . . fluid, intuitive arrangements let her melodies shine" (*The Guardian*)

Featured with Rose (plus Paul Weller and Danny Thompson) in Celtic Connections' 2019 John Martyn tribute, Grace & Danger, Scottish acoustic troubadour **Rory Butler** - who's won comparisons with Martyn, Nick Drake and Jeff Buckley - previews his long-awaited second album.



HAMISH NAPIER: THE WOODS
WITH SARAH-JANE SUMMERS: OWERSET
MITCHELL THEATRE | 7:30PM

Tickets from £19.80 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Following rave reviews for *The River* and *The Railway*, pianist, flautist and composer **Hamish Napier** completes his trilogy exploring the landscapes, people and folklore of his native Strathspey with *The Woods*, a richly-layered evocation of woodlands' ancient and modern presence, and their significance to the communities of the area.

Combining expertise in both Scottish and Nordic traditions with contemporary musical exploration, fiddler **Sarah-Jane Summers** reprises *Owerset*, her acclaimed 2018 New Voices commission. Themed around Scots and Gaelic words originating in Old Norse, it features an ensemble on fiddles, trumpet, accordion, guitars and double bass.



TYLER CHILDERS AND THE LOCAL HONEYS
SAINT LUKE'S | 7:30PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Modern-day country outlaw **Tyler Childers'** third LP, 2019's *Country Squire* – produced, like its predecessor *Purgatory*, by Sturgill Simpson – topped the Billboard Country Chart, scoring features in both *Rolling Stone* and *GQ*. (This after *Purgatory* saw him championed by John Prine and Willie Nelson, and named Best Emerging Artist at 2018's Americana Awards.) Still just 28, the Kentucky strip-miner's son unites raw passion and hardscrabble authenticity with deep Appalachian roots.

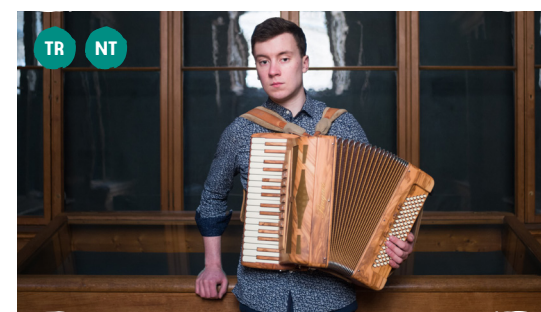
Self-styled as “an antidote to the surplus of young beardy middle-class men singing winsomely about love”, kick-ass trio - and fellow Kentuckians - **The Local Honeys** feature stunning twin lead vocals with banjo, guitars and fiddle, plus equal parts sass and sweetness.



A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN IN PIPING
GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SUITE | 8:00PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Building on Limerick-born uilleann piper **Louise Mulcahy's** extensive research, this special collaborative show demolishes stereotypes, with an all-women line-up representing diverse piping traditions. Mulcahy is joined by Cork native **Máire Ní Ghráda**, with Glasgow's **Sheila Friel** (of Friel Sisters fame) and Londoner **Marion McCarthy** representing the wider diaspora. From South Uist, **Alana MacInnes** plays Highland pipes and smallpipes, while fellow Scot **Robyn Ada McKay** draws on Cape Breton and Irish influences. Completing the line-up, Breton-born **Enora Morice** is an award-winning member of Shotts & Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Band.



NEW VOICES: PÁDRAIG MORRISON
GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SUITE | 1:00PM

Tickets from £13.75 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Young North Uist accordionist **Pádraig Morrison** was born into a rich, musical culture. Having built on this inheritance through a classical performance degree at Edinburgh University, he's now pursuing a PhD in composition at Ireland's Maynooth University. Here he premieres new music fusing Gaelic tradition with contemporary classical soundscapes, incorporating archive recordings of Hebridean life. The piece features Morrison with **Graham Rorie**, **Ciorstaidh Beaton**, **Ailis Sutherland**, **Ryan Molloy** and **Mischa MacPherson**.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
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 SCOTLAND



BRUCE MACGREGOR: THE HIGHLANDER'S REVENGE & OTHER TALL TALES
CITY HALLS: RECITAL ROOM | 5:00PM

Tickets from £14.30 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Hearing the stories behind the music is an essential element in any folk gig, and **Bruce MacGregor**, as the founding member of Blazin' Fiddles, has more to tell than most. So much so, in fact, that he's collected them into a book, *The Highlander's Revenge* – named for one of his best-loved compositions – launched here with a selection of favourite tales, together with the tunes they inspired, accompanied by **Anna Massie**.



ROBERT VINCENT AND AMY PAPIRANSKY
GRAN MOR | 7:30PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Winning 2016's Bob Harris Emerging Artist Award, Liverpoolian country/blues singer-songwriter **Robert Vincent** has since gigged with Beth Nielsen Chapman, Duane Eddy, James Blunt and The Pretenders. With his anticipated third album, produced by Ethan Johns, Vincent's star looks sure to keep rising.

Performing songs from her recently released debut album, the classically trained vocalist and multi-instrumentalist **Amy Papiransky** showcases a heartfelt repertoire that tells of love, loss, heartbreak and strength.



ROYAL CONSERVATOIRE OF SCOTLAND
CITY HALLS | 2:00PM

Tickets from £13.75 incl. booking fee* (seated)

In recent years the **Traditional Music Department** of the **RCS** has squeezed into every corner of the Strathclyde Suite stage to perform exhilarating new music. The 40-strong cast, working under the guidance of Musical Director **Jenn Butterworth**, work intensively for ten days to devise a show from scratch. This year they're taking a step forward; moving to the beautiful City Halls, where they will draw on influences from special guest collaborators.



AM

IRIS DEMENT and PIETA BROWN
GRCH: MAIN AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM
Tickets from £24.20 incl. booking fee* (seated)

"Singin' is prayin'," says Iris DeMent, quoting her late mother, "who sang all the time". Although the country-folk songstress long ago ceased practising the Pentecostal faith that dominated her Arkansas childhood, its influence has been central to DeMent's artistry ever since her 1992 debut album, *Infamous Angel*, saw her championed by the likes of John Prine and Merle Haggard.

Pieta Brown, daughter of celebrated Midwestern folk-singer Greg Brown (and DeMent's stepdaughter) released her seventh album, *Freeway*, in 2019. Blending otherworldly atmospheres with slow-burn intensity and lyrical candour, it cemented her reputation as a distinctive singer-songwriter.



AM

THE LOCAL HONEYS and MIKE FARRIS
GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SITE | 8:00PM
Tickets from £15.40 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Kick-ass Kentucky combo *The Local Honeys'* songwriting "often reflects subject matter that little girls ought not talk about" – offering "an antidote to the surplus of young bearded middle-class men singing winsomely about love." Comprising **Montana Hobbs** (vocals/banjo), **Linda Jean Stokley** (vocals/guitar) and multi-instrumentalist **Megan Gregory**, they've just released a captivating second album, *The Gospel*.

Tennessee's **Mike Farris** is a "one of a kind" talent, mixing gospel, rock, soul and blues - a talent that was rewarded with a Grammy for 2014's *Shine For All The People*, followed by 2018's *Silver and Stone*.



TR GA

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONCERT:
CALUM MORRISON & CATHERINE TINNEY
GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SITE | 1:30PM
Free (ticketed)* (seated)

Skye-born **Catherine Tinney** was a BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year 2019 finalist, and Glasgow-based **Calum Morrison** plays guitar, banjo, mandolin and bodhran. Together, they perform a variety of Scottish ballads and Gaelic songs, and also present their own interpretations of songs from diverse musical genres. The concert is one of a series designed to be accessible and enjoyable for people with dementia, and their friends and families.



TR

THE BIG FLING - SCOTTISH DANCE BAND
EXTRAVAGANZA
GRCH: MAIN AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM
Tickets from £22.00 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Take your seats, please, for the latest in Celtic Connections' celebrated series of traditional terpsichorean extravaganzas, hosted by a lavish line-up of top talents in the field. Renowned for his tradition-steeped yet youthful approach, accordionist **Tom Orr** helms the aptly-named **Mega Ceilidh Dance Band**, a specially-expanded version of his regular six-piece line-up. Orr appears again in **Manus McGuire's Copperplate Sessions**, named for the Sligo-born, Clare-based fiddler's highly-praised 2018 album (described by the Irish Echo as "simply outstanding"), which features music from Orkney, Shetland and Canada alongside Irish tunes. Also among its mainly Scottish guest-list, and on the bill tonight, is renowned dance-band fiddler **Marie Fielding**. Yet more A-list attractions include the **Robert Black Scottish Dance Band**, special guest **John Carmichael** and **Gary Innes Highland Dance Band**, together with a bespoke brass section and rising-star fiddle/accordion duo **Ellie McLaren** and **Callum Cruickshank**.



WO

TOMMY EMMANUEL and RODNEY BRANIGAN
CITY HALLS | 8:00PM
Tickets From £28.60 incl. booking fee* (seated)

An officially certified guitar master, courtesy of the late great Chet Atkins, Australia's **Tommy Emmanuel** – now in his career's sixth decade – ascends inexorably towards iconic elder statesmanship, even while still gigging 300+ nights a year. Recent off-road highlights include 2019's releases of dream-team John Knowles duo album *Heart Songs* and award-winning bio-documentary *The Endless Road*, respectively revealing his lyrical softer side and battles with personal demons.

Texas-born, now London-based, **Rodney Branigan** plays around a dozen different instruments, but his remarkable signature party-piece is performing on two guitars at once. Together with rich, soulful vocals and heartfelt lyrics, his sound fuses elements of folk, rock, flamenco, classical, bluegrass and jazz.



CATHAL MCCONNELL TRIO and THE CANNY BAND
GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SITE | 8:00PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Between his teenage All-Ireland flute/whistle double, and his beloved iconic stature today, Boys of the Lough co-founder **Cathal McConnell** has amassed some 200 songs, together with countless tunes. His current line-up, with fiddler **Kathryn Nicoll** and harper **Karen Marshalsay**, bears the affectionate alias Boy and Girls of the Lough.

"Music flows through McConnell like a life force" (Herald)

Danny Kyle winners in 2018, Glasgow's **The Canny Band** – button accordionist **Sam Mabbett** and pianist **Michael Biggins**, joined by **Callum Convoy** on bodhran – went on to triumph in 2019's Battle of the Folk Bands.



AMANDA ANNE PLATT & THE HONEYCUTTERS
and CUP O'JOE

MITCHELL THEATRE | 7:30PM

Tickets From £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

With 2017's self-titled fifth LP, singer/songwriter **Amanda Anne Platt** officially added her name to North Carolina combo **The Honeycutters**, after a decade fronting their rugged yet refined amalgam of Appalachian, honky-tonk, rock and folk influences. Platt's songs address subjects *"including but not limited to death, strangers, birthdays, money, leaving, arriving, seasons, corruption, and love"*, in a voice that's been likened to Loretta Lynn and Sheryl Crow.

Armagh sibling trio **Cup o'Joe's** debut album showcases their distinctive songwriting, interweaving strands of bluegrass, gypsy jazz, folk and swing, with fiddle, mandolin, banjo, guitar and bass.



MAGGIE MACINNES and DÀIBHIDH STIÙBHARD
GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SITE | 8:00PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Gaelic singer and harpist **Maggie MacInnes'** 2002 New Voices composition *Òran na Mnà* was among the first to achieve success well beyond its original première; first as her fourth album, then inspiring an eponymous BBC Alba TV series. Daughter of Barra icon Flora MacNeil, MacInnes continues the family tradition here alongside son **Calum Park** – plus **Brian McAlpine** and **Anna Massie** – launching new solo release *Port Bàn*.

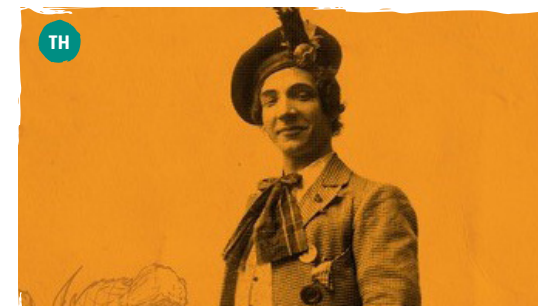
A featured guest on Malinky's 20th anniversary album *Handsel*, Tyrone-born **Dàibhidh Stiùbhard** sings songs in Ulster English, Scots, Irish and Scots Gàidhlig, combining crystalline tone with flawless ornamentation.



JIMMIE MACGREGOR AT 90 YEARS YOUNG
ORAN MÒR | 7:30PM

Tickets from £19.80 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Jimmie MacGregor was a pivotal figure in the 1960s folk revival. After singing his way to fame in duet with Robin Hall on the BBC's Tonight programme and White Heather Club, he later championed traditional music through his long-running radio show, MacGregor's Gathering. A Celtic Connections regular, Jimmie celebrates his 90th birthday year in the company of musical friends, including **Archie Fisher**, **Alastair McDonald**, **Rab Noakes**, **Innes Watson** and **Sheena Wellington**.



JAMIE MACDOUGALL: LAUDER
TRON THEATRE | 2:00PM & 8:00PM

Tickets from £19.80 incl. booking fee* (seated)

The remarkable Sir Harry Lauder (1870-1950) was the first global superstar – the first UK artist to sell a million records, the first music-hall knight – sharing his couthy humour and poetic charm with audiences across four continents. Celebrating 150 years since Lauder's birth, leading Scottish tenor **Jamie MacDougall** reprises his hit one-man show, adapted from Jimmy Logan's *A Play With Tunes*, in the city where Lauder first found fame.



YORKSTON/THORNE/KHAN and DJANA GABRIELLE
DRYGATE | 7:30PM

Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (seated & standing)

The serendipitous collaboration between Fife singer-songwriter **James Yorkston**, English jazzier **Jon Thorne** and Indian classical sarangi player and singer **Suhail Yusuf Khan** richly exemplifies cross-cultural musical unity. New third album *Navarasa: Nine Emotions* brings together influences and inspirations including Burns, Dick Gaughan, Sufi poetry and traditional ragas.

French-Cameroonian singer-songwriter **Djana Gabrielle** draws on time spent in Clermont-Ferrand, Paris and Glasgow, adding introspective dimension to her vibrant songs.



SIMON THOUMIRE & DAVE MILLIGAN
CITY HALLS: RECITAL ROOM | 5:00PM

Tickets from £14.30 incl. booking fee* (seated)

The last time they played Celtic Connections, virtuoso concertina player **Simon Thoumire** and pianist **Dave Milligan** recorded a version of Hamish Henderson's 'Freedom Come All Ye'; since then, it's had over a million plays on SoundCloud. The pair first bonded musically when they shared a festive stage at Edinburgh's Queen's Hall. Two successful albums later, they've been acclaimed for *"astonishing musicality and empathy"*, and their magical blending of traditional and contemporary music.



TR INAUGURAL WINNER GILLIAN FRAME

BBC RADIO SCOTLAND YOUNG TRADITIONAL MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR 20TH CELEBRATION

GRCH: MAIN AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £22.00 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Since 2001, when the final was first staged at Celtic Connections, the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year competition – initiated and still organised by Hands Up for Trad – has been a prestigious career launch-pad for winners and runners-up alike, showcased in the TMSA's popular annual Young Trad tour. Among the honour-roll of victors are past and current members of such leading acts as Blazin' Fiddles, Ímar, Fara, Breabach, The Shee and Back of the Moon, while many others have gone on to major solo success. With the 20th title-holder set to be crowned at Celtic Connections 2020, tonight's show lines up all 19 of their predecessors, featuring a specially-curated mix of solo and ensemble sets from **Benedict Morris**, **Hannah Rarity**, **Charlie Stewart**, **Mohsen Amini**, **Claire Hastings**, **Robyn Stapleton**, **Paddy Callaghan**, **Rona Wilkie**, **Kristan Harvie**, **Daniel Thorpe**, **Rua Macmillan**, **Ewan Robertson**, **Catriona Watt**, **Shona Mooney**, **Stuart Cassells**, **James Graham**, **Anna Massie**, **Emily Smith** and **Gillian Frame**.



RB WO AM

KEB' MO' AND THE JELLYMAN'S DAUGHTER

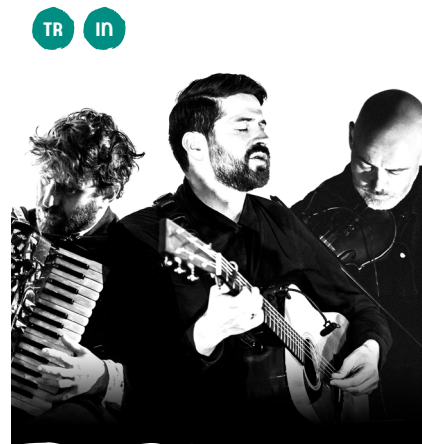
OLD FRUITMARKET | 8:00PM

Tickets From £26.40 incl. booking fee* (seated & standing)

Having originally paid his dues playing gospel, R&B, jazz and rock music, four-time Grammy-winner **Keb' Mo'** shares his name today with signature models of both Gibson and Martin guitars, honouring his rarefied stature as a comprehensive blues master.

Released a quarter-century on from 1994's self-titled debut, his latest album *Oklahoma* highlights his now equally seasoned storytelling gifts, addressing such themes as environmentalism, mental health, immigration and love, with stellar cameos by Rosanne Cash, Taj Mahal, Robert Randolph, Jaci Velasquez and Mo's wife Robbie Brooks Moore.

Exploring fresh stylistic intersections between bluegrass, post-rock, folk and soul, Scottish duo **The Jellyman's Daughter** unite sublime vocal harmonies with artfully-deployed guitar, mandolin and cello.



TR IN

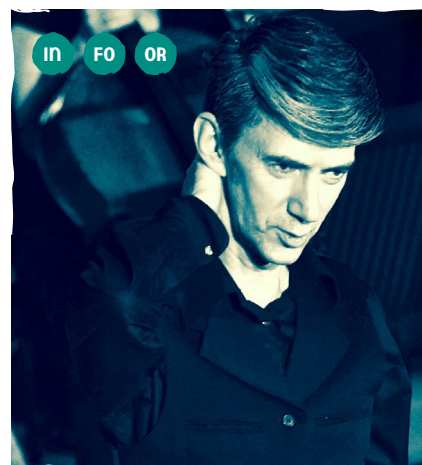
LAU AND ELMØ & HOFFMANN

CITY HALLS | 8:00PM

Tickets from £28.60 incl. booking fee* (seated)

After the enriched electronic experimentation and myriad textural effects that characterise **Lau's** stunning 2019 album *Midnight and Closedown*, its final, full-circle track sees the trio stripped back to the pure sounds of fiddle, accordion and guitar. This proves to be the cue for their latest switch in direction, with tonight's unplugged performance revisiting their original all-acoustic sound for the first time in a decade. **"Scotland's premier future-facing folkies"** (*Herald*)

Support comes from the award-winning young Danish duo of **Emma Elmø** (violin/viola) and **Villads Hoffmann** (guitar).



IN FO OR

JAMES GRANT & THE HALLELUJAH STRING QUARTET AND SUPPORT

GRCH: NEW AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £24.20 incl. booking fee* (seated)

During **James Grant's** debut gig with the 14-strong, Greg Lawson-led **Hallelujah Strings** at Celtic Connections 2016, the famously thrawn, laconic ex-Love and Money frontman – now an outstanding solo artist – found himself waxing uncharacteristically rhapsodic. **"I'm so totally loving this,"** he enthused at one point. **"It's been a total gas"**. After that show became Grant's first live album, he returns to the scene and the same "rockestral" format, to unveil new compositions and cover-songs alongside L&M classics.



AM IN

FRAZEY FORD WITH ADAM HOLMES & THE EMBERS

SAINT LUKE'S | 7:30PM

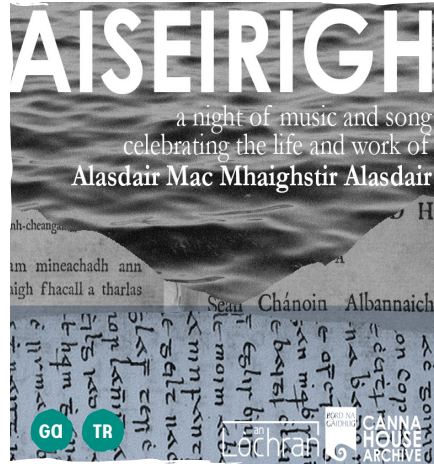
Tickets from £18.70 incl. booking fee* (standing)

A founder member of cult Canadian folk heroines The Be Good Tanyas, **Frazey Ford** hit another creative peak on her last solo album, 2014's *Indian Ocean*, featuring Al Green's iconic Hi Rhythm Section, melding her sensual, opulent vocals into their classic Memphis sound. Her third LP is due in early 2020.

"Packs a wealth of heartbreak, forbearance and rapture into the smallest intimations" (*Uncut*)

In amongst his recent collaborations with Heidi Talbot, as Arcade, and alongside Martin Simpson and Nancy Kerr in The Magpie Arc, Edinburgh singer-songwriter **Adam Holmes** reconvenes his motherlode folk/Americana line-up **The Embers**, ahead of recording new material during 2020.





AISEIRIGH - THE SONGS OF ALASDAIR MAC MHAIGHSTIR ALASDAIR

GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SITE | 8:00PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

The brilliant, controversial poet Alasdair Mac Mhaighstir Alasdair's solo collection was the first to be printed in any Celtic language. A rebel in the '45, he sought to rebuild connections between Gaelic and mainland European cultures, deploying voice and style from classically-influenced formality to uniquely Gaelic ribaldry. Produced with An Lòchran and Bòrd na Gàidhlig, **Aiseirigh** marks 2020's 250th anniversary of the bard's death, highlighting his continued influence as a revivalist and innovator, celebrated tonight with special guests including **Fiona J MacKenzie** and **Rachel Walker**.



ROWAN RHEINGANS: DISPATCHES ON THE RED DRESS

TRON THEATRE | 8:00PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

A theatrical companion-piece to **Rowan Rheingans'** acclaimed debut solo album, 2019's *The Lines We Draw Together*, this Fringe First-winning performance – inspired by her German grandmother's 1940s childhood – combines original songs and storytelling with fiddle and banjo accompaniment, live looping and pre-recorded sounds. Exploring themes of "memory, history, fascism, waltzes, folk-song, bird-song, trauma, family and war", it ultimately celebrates human empathy and resilience, together with the power of small acts of resistance. "Sublime. . . stitched with the subtlety of an expert dressmaker. . . packs a fierce political punch." (*Guardian*)



THE WANDERING HEARTS and ZOE GRAHAM ORAN MÒR | 7:30PM

Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Citing such diverse influences as Fleetwood Mac, First Aid Kit, Tom Petty, Simon & Garfunkel and Cara Dillon, London quartet **The Wandering Hearts** have shot up the Americana rankings on both sides of the Pond, with 2018's debut album *Wild Silence* showcasing their sophisticated songcraft, four exceptional voices and slick fingerpicking, amid a distinctive blend of pop, rock, blues, folk and country.

There is an impressive maturity and attention to detail in **Zoe Graham's** music that sets this accomplished young songwriter apart, as seen on 2017's *Hacket & Knackered EP*.



DAVE MILLIGAN: SOLO PIANO

CITY HALLS: RECITAL ROOM | 5:00PM

Tickets from £14.30 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Pianist **Dave Milligan** goes all the way back with Celtic Connections, having performed at the inaugural festival in the duo Bachué Café. In contrast to such subsequent large-scale projects as String Sisters and The Unusual Suspects, the pioneering jazz/folk fusioner takes it right back to basics tonight, performing alone at the keyboard, exploring the beauty of simplicity and harmony within both traditions, in fiddle and pipe tunes interwoven with artful improvisation.



GUITAR SUMMIT: WILL MCNICOL WITH INNOTET, TIM EDEY, ABAJI & INNES WATSON MITCHELL THEATRE | 7:30PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Highlighting the diverse voices of folk music's most ubiquitous instrument, this assembly of leading pickers and composers includes multi-award-winning guitarist/composer **Will McNicol**, who has collaborated with **Innes Watson** in arranging selections from his past decade's work for the specially-formed string quartet **Innotet**, also featuring **Seonaid Aitken**, **Patsy Reid** and **Alice Allen**. Following his own highly-praised *Guitar Colloquium* project, Watson will also showcase his six-string skills, along with what's sure to be another prodigious, pyrotechnic performance from **Tim Edey**. Completing the line-up, Lebanese-born, French-based artist **Abaji** plays a bespoke, double-necked hybrid of guitar, oud and cello, forging a musical bridge between eastern and Western traditions.



THE ALISTAIR ANDERSON BAND WITH KEVIN HENDERSON & NEIL PEARLMAN THE MACKINTOSH CHURCH | 7:30PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

In amongst myriad career achievements – from co-founding Folkworks and Newcastle University's traditional music degree, to collaborations with jazz and world musicians – Northumbrian concertina/pipes maestro **Alistair Anderson** is a groundbreaking composer. Tonight's programme comprises two such major works, 1999's *A Lindisfarne Gospel* and 2013's *On Cheviot Hills*, also featuring **Sophy** and **Emily Ball**, **Rachel Newton**, **Andy May** and **Fiona Beyer**.

Teaming Shetland fiddler **Kevin Henderson** (Fiddlers' Bid/Session A9/Nordic Fiddlers Bloc) with US pianist **Neil Pearlman**, whose core Cape Breton influences sizzle with jazz, funk and Latin accents, this evening's first half presents their duo debut.



WO

ANA MOURA WITH MOISHE'S BAGEL GRCH: MAIN AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £22.00 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Back in 2009, a track from **Ana Moura's** first platinum LP, *Não É Um Fado Normal*, served as both a triumphant and prophetic manifesto: 'Não É Um Fado Normal' (This is No Ordinary Fado). Moura has since taken Portugal's national music to stages shared with Prince, the Rolling Stones, Gilberto Gil and Herbie Hancock - meanwhile creating fado versions of such unlikely-seeming classics as 'No Expectations', 'A Case of You' and 'Lilac Wine'. While its two multi-platinum predecessors were produced by US legend Larry Klein, Moura's brand-new seventh album features Emile Haynie at the controls, known for his work with the likes of Kanye West, Beyoncé, Adele and Lana Del Ray.

Few acts have claimed the world as their musical oyster so masterfully and joyously as Scotland's **Moishe's Bagel**, whose audacious, intoxicating mélange of klezmer, Balkan, Celtic, Latin, jazz, Middle Eastern and classical flavours is always at its finest live. **"They demolish pigeonholes with indecent relish"** (*Scotsman*)



GA TR FU FO

MÁNRRAN 10TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY WITH BAND OF BURNS BARROWLAND BALLROOM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £22.00 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Scotland's finest contemporary folk-rockers, **Mánran** return to the Barrowlands to launch their 10th anniversary year, welcoming new vocalist **Kim Carnie** and Orkney guitarist **Aidan Moodie** into the line-up – along with surprise special guests - amid their rich signature mix of Gaelic and English songs, traditional instrumentation and rock-style rhythm section.

By turns raucous and reflective, the 12-strong **Band of Burns** take inspiration from both the songs and spirit of Scotland's national bard, with 2019's second album *The Thread* combining original material with reworked classics.

"Like a rolling Burns supper celebration, the banter, tales and tunes are free-flowing. . . challenging and endlessly creative" (*FRUK*)



TR FU GA

MICHAEL MCGOLDRICK: FUSED 20TH WITH DÒCHAS OLD FRUITMARKET | 8:00PM

Tickets From £19.80 incl. booking fee* (standing)

There have been many hotly anticipated shows at Celtic Connections over the years, but few have exceeded the advance excitement surrounding the launch of **Michael McGoldrick's** second solo album, *Fused*, also at the Old Fruitmarket, back in January 2000. Following his exhilarating trad-based 1996 debut, *Morning Rory*, *Fused* marked McGoldrick's great creative leap forward, an indivisible alloy of traditional-style tunes and instrumentation with funk, jazz, trance, ambient and world music, plus guest vocals from Karan Casey and **Karen Matheson**. The same concert also marked the launch of McGoldrick's big-band line-up, which reconvenes here to celebrate 20 years since that seminal recording.

Redoubling the night's reunion element, award-winning Scottish band **Dòchas** play their first gig in at least a decade (both acts were also billed together at Celtic Connections 2005, before a Scottish tour). Featuring **Julie Fowles**, **Jenna Reid**, **Kathleen Boyle**, **Carol-Anne Mackay**, **Eilidh MacLeod** and **Martin O'Neill**, they revisit their intoxicating blend of powerhouse instrumentals and bewitching Gaelic song.



GA FO WO

SIAN / EBEN CITY HALLS | 7:30PM

Tickets From £17.60 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Born of the ongoing partnership between Fèis Rois and Festival Interceltique de Lorient, this UK première performance follows its debut in 2019, as part of the latter event's New Leurrenn ('New Scene') programme, which highlights emerging talents. The project brings together stellar young Gaelic song trio **SIAN** - **Ceitlin Lilidh**, **Eilidh Cormack** and **Ellen MacDonald** - renowned for their focus on female bards and forward-looking musical approach, with Breton counterparts **EBEN** - **Sterenn Le Guillou**, **Marine Lavigne** and **Enora Jegou**. Taking turns to sing in their own and each other's languages, they explore such common ground as the likenesses between Gaelic pìut-a-beul and Breton kan-ha-diskan (call and response songs), both forms of vocal dance music. Completing the line-up are three master musicians representing each territory: Scotland's **Duncan Chisholm** (fiddle), **James Ross** (piano) and **Jarlath Henderson** (pipes, alongside Brittany's **Jonathan Dour** (violin); **Antoine Lahay** (guitar) and **Julien Stevenen** (double bass).



THE FELICE BROTHERS and THE RAILS SAINT LUKE'S | 8:00PM

Tickets from £19.80 incl. booking fee* (standing)

According to Deer Tick's Ian O'Neil, "All your favourite bands want to be in the Felice Brothers." Admiration for the poetically ramshackle Hudson Valley roots-rockers was intensified by 2019's eighth album *Undress*, introducing their new four-piece line-up while reflecting "a shift from private to public concerns".

The Rails' brilliant third album, *Cancel The Sun* is harder, tougher and rockier than ever before, bringing together the musical pasts of **Kami Thompson** and **James Walbourne** – her family heritage, as the daughter of Linda and Richard Thompson; his as guitarist for The Pogues and The Pretenders.



THE JACOB JOLLIFF BAND AND JOCELYN PETTIT, ELLEN GIRA & ALI HUTTON GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SUITE | 8:00PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

In between touring with legendary progressive bluegrass outfit Yonder Mountain String Band, US mandolin firebrand **Jacob Jolliff** helms his own next-generation supergroup. Featuring fiddler **Alex Hargreaves** (Turtle Island String Quartet), guitarist **Stash Wyslouch** (Deadly Gentlemen/Molsky's Mountain Drifters) and bassist **Jeff Picker** (Sarah Jarosz), Jolliff's debut solo album, *Instrumentals Vol. 1*, won rave reviews in 2018.

Canadian fiddle-player/step-dancer **Jocelyn Pettit**, eminent Scottish guitarist **Ali Hutton**, and seasoned US cellist **Ellen Gira** are excited to fuse their influences as part of a new project, debuted tonight.



ROSS COUPER & TOM OAKES WITH DUO RUUT AND LUKE DANIELS & RIHAB AZAR GRCH: NEW AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

A night of international duo-based diversity, hosted by the decade-old Shetland/Devon partnership of Shetland fiddler **Ross Couper** and flautist/guitarist **Tom Oakes**, whose cited influences stretch from Arabic hip-hop to Scandinavian jazz.

Estonia's enthralling **Duo Ruut** play together on a single kannel zither, accompanying re-imagined traditional songs and innovative original compositions, and following 2019's latest solo release, the ever-inventive multi-instrumentalist/composer **Luke Daniels** introduces his new collaboration with pioneering Syrian oud player **Rihab Azar**.



EMBASSY OF ESTONIA
LONDON



THE PAUL MCKENNA BAND WITH THE EAST POINTERS ORAN MOR | 7:30PM

Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Matching power with subtlety, passion with eloquence, raw energy with superb musicianship, **The Paul McKenna Band's** 2019 fifth album *Breathe* reaffirmed their standing among Scotland's foremost song-based folk acts. McKenna's richly stirring voice and songcraft anchor a dynamic, finely-honed blend of Scottish and Irish tradition with deft pop and rock accents.

Rooted in the hybrid traditions of Canada's Prince Edward Island, **The East Pointers** are one of Canada's hottest recent roots acts, hence the high-on fevered anticipation attending October's third album *Yours to Break*. Vibrant three-part harmonies, heart-tugging hooks, bluegrass-hued breakdowns and artful indie twists all feature in the mix, together with potent lyrics and muscular instrumental work.



9BACH and THE LITTLE UNSAID DRYGATE | 7:30PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated & standing)

Longtime vanguard insurgents in Welsh music's uphill/underdog battle within the wider Celtic scene, **9Bach** followed up 2015's landmark Best Album win at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards with brooding third LP *Anian*. Fusing original Welsh-language folk, downtempo grooves, dirty guitar riffs and Greek/Middle Eastern influences, the record also features Rhys Ifans and Peter Gabriel as guest vocalists.

Fronted by singer-songwriter **John Elliott**, London/Aarhus-based alt-folk/acoustic rock combo **The Little Unsaid** also won torrents of praise for their third album, 2019's *Atomise*. "A perfect synthesis of hope and catharsis" (FRUK)



NATIONAL WHISKY FESTIVAL SATURDAY 25 JANUARY SWG3 | 12:00PM & 4:15PM

Tickets from £38.50 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Returning to the festival for a third year, the hugely successful **National Whisky Festival** once again descends upon SWG3, with seven hours of entertainment featuring live music curated by Celtic Connections. Whisky-lovers can meet industry experts from around the world, and enjoy masterclasses, talks, food and much more.

Naturally, there will be plenty of uisge-beatha (water of life) to be sampled or mixed. Slàinte mhath!



SUSANNA 'GO DIG MY GRAVE'
WITH HANNAH RARITY
THE MACKINTOSH CHURCH | 7:30PM

Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Renowned for her unique repertoire of haunting originals and transformative cover versions, Norway's **Susanna Wallumrød** reprises her 2018 album *Go Dig My Grave*, featuring material inspired by Lou Reed, Joy Division, Baudelaire, Purcell, Elizabeth Cotton and traditional folk ballads.

Award-winning Scottish singer **Hannah Rarity** pays homage to celebrated female vocalists in her new trio with piano and guitar, led by **John Lowrie**.



BOO HEWERDINE & GUSTAF LJUNGGREN:
BEFORE AND KATHERINE PRIDDY
TRON THEATRE | 8:00PM

Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Boo Hewerdine's new album *Before* seeks to capture songs at their earliest, purest point of creation: before too much thought creeps in. Hewerdine then enlisted Swedish musical polymath **Gustaf Ljunggren**, on Dulcitone, Indian harmonium, Mellotron and langspil (a traditional Icelandic zither), to respond instinctually in kind.

After releasing her debut EP, 2018's *Wolf*, **Katherine Priddy** has been quietly gaining critical acclaim, supporting Richard Thompson on his 2019 Irish tour.



HANNAH READ & ANDY MONAGHAN
WITH CARA ROSE
CCA | 7:30PM

Tickets from £14.30 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Bridging **Hannah Read** and **Andy Monaghan's** disparate backgrounds – she a Scottish Brooklyn-based singer/fiddler; he Frightened Rabbit's guitarist, one of Glasgow's most sought-after sidemen and producers – their shared collaborative appetites create evocative, beautifully soundscaped songs.

An action-packed 2019 saw singer-songwriter **Cara Rose's** soulful delivery and direct, insightful, distinctively Glaswegian lyrics wowing crowds at XpoNorth, Wide Days and TRNSMT's new Queen Tut's Stage.



ADAM SUTHERLAND'S TUNES & TALES
CITY HALLS: RECITAL ROOM | 5:00PM

Tickets from £14.30 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Renowned for his work with Treacherous Orchestra, Session A9, Peatbog Faeries, Croft No. Five and Nae Plans, fiddler and composer **Adam Sutherland** has recently ventured into wholly solo performance, presenting a one-man ceilidh of stories and tunes. Telling tales from throughout his life and musical journey, peopled by myriad memorable characters encountered en route, he intertwines these narratives with the music they helped create.



TR OR

AULD LANG SYNE: BBC SSO & SPECIAL GUESTS
GRCH: MAIN AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £24.20 incl. booking fee* (seated)

As a kind of follow-up or companion-piece to 2018's magnificent *Òrain nan Gàidheal* show at Celtic Connections, which matched the **BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra** with the power and beauty of Gaelic song – and also as a sumptuous pre-Burns Night musical feast – tonight's concert celebrates Scotland's proud recent history of orchestrating the Bard's iconic song canon. Our starting-point is the late great Kevin McCrae's wonderful arrangements for **Eddi Reader Sings the Songs of Robert Burns**, premiered at Celtic Connections 2003 with the RSNQ, who also featured on the subsequent album. With Reader reprising her pick of this material, she and fellow singers **Karen Matheson**, **Jarlath Henderson** and **Shona Donaldson** – collectively highlighting Burns's presence and influence across genres, geography and languages – also front the orchestra in a selection of later such works, together with brand-new treatments by contemporary practitioners.



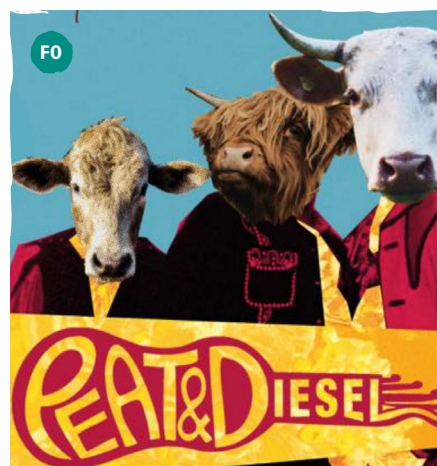
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PEOPLES FORD BOGHALL & BATHGATE
CALEDONIA PIPE BAND WITH TRYST
GRCH: MAIN AUDITORIUM | 12:30PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

One of Celtic Connections' longest-running fixtures, our 2020 annual Piping Concert features the illustrious **Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia Pipe Band**. Helmed by **Pipe Major Ross Walker**, together with **Leading Drummer Gordon Brown**, the band's continuity of membership, together with a focus on encouraging young players, has been integral to their distinguished competitive record.

Comprising ten top pipers/composers, **Tryst** showcase new music inspired by the piobaireachd tradition. With supplementary instrumentation including whistles, keyboards, guitar and accordion, as well as canntaireachd vocals and electronic samples, they're carrying the bagpipe canon boldly into the future.



PEAT & DIESEL and SUPPORT BARROWLAND BALLROOM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Barely a year from their first pub gig, the latest chapter of an unlikely musical fairytale saw Stornoway trio **Peat & Diesel** – a fisherman, an electrician and a truck driver – selling out this Celtic Connections date, originally booked for Òran Mór, within minutes, hence tonight's Barrowland festival debut. Singing "homemade songs that tell stories in a funny kind of way about the island life", slyly spiked with Gaelic slang, they're revelling in a splendidly surreal success-story.



PEATBOG FAERIES and THE POOZIES OLD FRUITMARKET | 8:00PM

Tickets from £19.80 incl. booking fee* (standing)

In a career now dating back over a quarter-century, the **Peatbog Faeries** have gone from insurgent young upstarts to recipients of Hands Up for Trad's Landmark Award, and inaugural inductees in the Hebridean Celtic Festival Hall of Fame. After seven studio albums and two live recordings (most recently 2017's *Live@25*), the visceral and joyous impact of their thrillingly immersive performances has only intensified over the years.

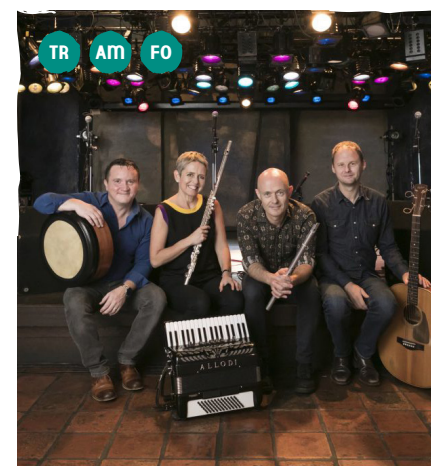
Of similar vintage, and no less excitingly evergreen, **The Poozies** feature up to three fiddles alongside co-founder **Mary MacMaster's** signature electro-harp, together with guitars, banjo, percussion and four harmonising voices, on material that ranges from traditional Gaelic ballads to barnstorming jigs'n'reels.



BEMIS PRESENTS LES AMAZONES D'AFRIQUE & SPECIAL GUESTS TRAMWAY | 7:30PM

Tickets from £18.70 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Tonight's performance features the truly awe-inspiring **Les Amazones d'Afrique**, an all-female supergroup of acclaimed West African singers dedicated to ending women's inequality and oppression, whose founders include Mariam Doumbia (of Amadou & Mariam) and Angélique Kidjo. As a showcase finale to our new **Celtic Connections in the Community** programme (a partnership with **BEMIS**, Scotland's support body for the ethnic minority voluntary sector), festival artists and groups from five Glasgow communities will present specially-created performances, celebrating the city's contemporary diversity of cultural traditions



FLOOK and THE JACOB JOLLIFF BAND CITY HALLS | 7:30PM

Tickets £19.80 incl. booking fee* (seated)

After a 14-year recording hiatus, phenomenal Anglo-Irish quartet **Flook** – flautists/whistle players **Sarah Allen** and **Brian Finnegan**, guitarist **Ed Boyd** and bodhran wizard **John Joe Kelly** – released their dazzling fourth album *Ancora* in 2019. It's in the live arena, though, that their fusion of stunning tunes, uncanny ensemble precision and virtuoso improvisation truly comes into its own.

In between touring with progressive bluegrass outfit Yonder Mountain String Band, mandolin firebrand **Jacob Jolliff** helms his own next-generation supergroup, flanked by fiddler **Alex Hargreaves**, guitarist **Stash Wyslouch**, and bassist **Jeff Picker**.

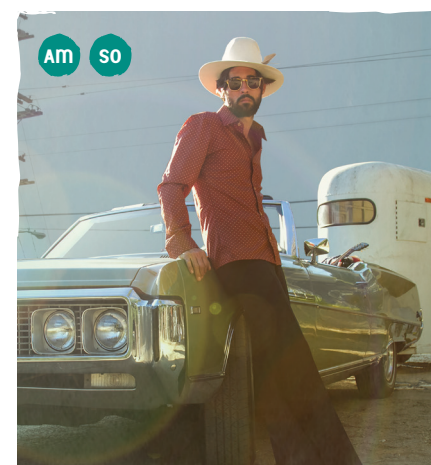


THE LONE BELLOW (TRILIO TOUR) and SUPPORT GRCH: NEW AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £24.20 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Brooklyn-formed, now Nashville-based trio **The Lone Bellow's** close collaborative cohesion, as both singers and songwriters, underpins their rapid rise up the Americana rankings. Following 2017's Dave Cobb-produced third album *Walk Into A Storm*, their current acoustic shows strip their exhilarating folk/soul/gospel alloy back to its original essence, alternating reworked back-catalogue material, brand-new songs and unexpected covers.

"Absolute sincerity and commitment. . . magnetic folk-pop built to shake the rafters" (NPR)



RYAN BINGHAM - 'AN EVENING OF SONGS AND STORIES' AND STEPH GRACE SAINT LUKE'S | 7:30PM

Tickets from £18.70 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Yet more glittering prizes beckoned after ex-rodeo-rider **Ryan Bingham** scored an Oscar, a Grammy, a Golden Globe and two AMAs for 'The Weary Kind', theme song of hit 2009 movie *Crazy Heart*. He embarked instead on the self-released album trilogy completed by 2019's unanimously applauded *American Love Song*: "A blues-country workout awash in slide guitar, soaring gospel-roadhouse stomps and meditative fingerpicking" (Rolling Stone)

With her compelling voice and agile guitar work, Sydney-born, Berlin-based **Steph Grace** swapped club gigs for crowds of thousands on Passenger's 2019 European tour, and is soon to release her second album.



DAMIENT O'KANE & RON BLOCK WITH SNUFFBOX

GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SITE | 8:00PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Tonight's deadly banjo duo spans the Atlantic, uniting Coleraine-born tenor ace **Damien O'Kane** and 14-time Grammy winner **Ron Block**, of Alison Krauss and Union Station renown. Reconnecting and revitalising the carrying streams of Irish and bluegrass music, their dazzling 2018 duo album *Banjophony* featured mainly bespoke originals, plus guests including Kate Rusby, Michael McGoldrick, Stuart Duncan and Sierra Hull.

Following their acclaimed 2019 collaboration with jazz pianist Zoë Rahman, young Scottish trio **Snuffbox** – award-winning fiddler/bassist **Charlie Stewart**, cellist **Rufus Huggan** and guitarist/singer **Luc McNally** – offer a foretaste of their upcoming second LP.



'SKYE IN HIS HEART': A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO RICK TAYLOR

GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SITE | 1:00PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

The signed platinum disc of George Michael's *Faith* in Rick Taylor's loo on Skye encapsulates much about this marvellous man and musician, who died in June 2019. Asked for his life's biggest highlight, after years of jet-setting session work – also with Elton John, the Spice Girls and Robbie Williams – Rick cited his 2002 move to Skye, from where his multi-dimensional genius and boundlessly big heart worked magic across the Scottish folk and jazz scenes. **"Whenever he entered the room,"** says SEALL director Duncan MacInnes, **"a sense of joy and well-being enveloped all those round him."** Here, a jam-packed line-up of friends and fans celebrate his music and spirit.



J.P. BIMEINI & THE BLACK BELTS AND GEORGIA CECILE ORAN MÓR | 7:30PM

Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Reconnecting the classic sounds of Stax, Atlantic and Motown with their African roots, Burundian-born **J.P. Bimeni** – now London-based, having fled his homeland as a teenage refugee – released his debut album *Free Me* in 2018, winning comparisons with Otis Redding for both his voice and impassioned lyrics. His band **The Black Belts** features six seasoned Spanish veterans, on trumpet, sax, keys, guitar, bass and drums.

Crowned Best Vocalist at 2019's Scottish Jazz Awards, **Georgia Cécile** splices classic-sounding melodies and sharp contemporary lyrics with strands of pop, R&B and soul.



CHRISTINE HANSON'S 'THE CREMATION OF SAM MCGEE'

MITCHELL THEATRE | 7:30PM

Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Fifteen years after its New Voices premiere, Canadian cellist **Christine Hanson's** *The Cremation of Sam McGee* returns to Celtic Connections, following a much-lauded Scottish tour in 2019. Upon its first performance on the festival's final day in 2005, the Herald's critic delivered surely the ultimate thumbs-up: **"Even a worn-out reviewer could have sat through it happily all over again."** A multi-media reimagining of Robert Service's celebrated poem, set amid the Yukon gold rush, the work features an eight-piece chamber-folk ensemble, spoken-word narration and evocative imagery by Canadian painter Ted Harrison.



THE FRIEL SISTERS WITH THE HIGH SEAS THE MACKINTOSH CHURCH | 7:30PM

Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Underpinned by literally lifelong bonds, Glasgow/Donegal trio **The Friel Sisters'** delectable blend of fiddle, flute, uilleann pipes and vibrant unison vocals has won major plaudits on either side of both the Irish Sea and the Atlantic, most recently for 2018's sophomore release *Before the Sun*. **"Fabulous taste and impeccable chops"** (*Irish Echo*)

Fellow three-piece **The High Seas** – triple All-Ireland concertina champion and stepdancer **Caitlín Nic Gabhann**, fiddler **Ciarán Ó Maonaigh** and singer/multi-instrumentalist **Cathal Ó Curráin** – released their self-titled debut album in 2018, and have been hailed as a dynamic new force in traditional Irish music. This sparkling double bill will include both individual and collaborative sets.



JOCK'S JOCKS AND JOE AITKEN TRON THEATRE | 8:00PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

For over 50 years, the great bothy balladeer Jock Duncan interviewed north-east Scotland's Great War veterans, faithfully transcribing their Doric dialects on an old manual typewriter. Published in 2019, the resulting book was edited by piper and professor **Gary West**, who features here in his musical play inspired by these testimonies, alongside **Scott Gardiner**, **Chris Wright** and son **Charlie West**.

As a tradition-bearer, Duncan has few peers, but among that company is fellow Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame inductee, **Joe Aitken**, who won a record sixth Bothy Ballad Champion of Champions title in 2018.



FOLK CIRCLE FEATURING REG MEUROSS, LORI WATSON AND KIM RICHARDS
DRYGATE | 7:30PM
 Tickets from £15.40 incl. booking fee*
 (seated & standing)

An intimate exchange of old and new folk songs hosted by veteran troubadour **Reg Meuross**, whose 2019 album *Raw* completed a trilogy of stripped-down, strictly-solo recordings. Singer and fiddler **Lori Watson** won acclaim for her 2018 release *Yarrow Acoustic Sessions*, reimagining traditional songs from her native Borders, while Ullapool native **Kim Richards'** original songs – accompanied by **Mike Vass** and **Mairearad Green** – draw inspiration from folklore, nature, and Scottish tradition.



GAEL'S LE CHÈILE@CEÒL'S CRAIC: IMLÉ, WHYTE, ANAMOCH
CCA | 7:30PM
 Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Ceòl's Craic returns again for 2020, with Dublin-based **IMLÉ's** unique fusion of poetry, rap, rock, trip hop and traditional music, all performed in Irish Gaelige. Sharing their passion for combining Gaelic / Gaelige language songs with innovative musical settings, Gaelictronica duo **WHYTE** perform tracks from their highly praised new release *Tairm*, while exciting new collaboration **Anamoch** features Scottish-based duo **Marit Fält** and **Rona Wilkie** with Irish rapper and poet **Séamus Barra Ó Súilleabháin**.



BATTLE OF THE FOLK BANDS
DRYGATE | 1:00PM
 Tickets from £11.00 incl. booking fee*
 (seated & standing)

Would-be Celtic Connections headliners of the future go head to head in Hands Up For Trad's Battle of the Folk Bands, as up-and-coming performers compete for a support slot at next year's festival. Vying for the prize are Skye duo **Séamus & Kenny**; **Rumskee**, a four-piece from Argyll; **Figgins-Garden** from Ayrshire, and newly-formed Glasgow band **Drouth**.



TWO OCTAVES - MALIN MAKES MUSIC
WITH JARLATH HENDERSON & ALI HUTTON
CITY HALLS: RECITAL ROOM | 5:00PM
 Tickets from £14.30 incl. booking fee* (seated)

With Skye's **Malin Lewis** playing the Lindsay System Chanter; **Jarlath Henderson** on the Uilleann pipes and vocals; and **Ali Hutton** performing on the Highland pipes and guitar, this trio creates a wholly original and hugely exciting sound that won them a standing ovation following their debut at PipingLive! 2019. This follow-up will include traditional tunes as well as new music and pieces written for the aforementioned phenomenal debut show.



PHIL CUNNINGHAM: THE BIG SIX-O BIRTHDAY BASH
CITY HALLS | 7:30PM
 Tickets from £24.20 incl. booking fee* (seated)

On multiple levels, **Phil Cunningham's** presence has been pivotal in Scottish music for decades, back to his teenage days with Silly Wizard. The tunes he's written. All the BBC work. *The Highlands and Islands Suite*. The 34-year duo with Aly Bain. The Transatlantic Sessions. The albums he's produced. The RCS artistic directorship. *The Christmas Songbook*. All the peerless accompaniment. All the peerless craic. To name but a few. Come and toast his big birthday with as many musical pals as will squeeze onstage.



ROAMING ROOTS REVUE PRESENTS BORN TO RUN: 70TH BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN
GRCH: MAIN AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM
 Tickets from £24.20 incl. booking fee* (seated & standing)

If ever a birthday called for extended celebrations, it's surely Bruce Springsteen's 70th. So much so, that we have had to add an extra **Roaming Roots Revue** show tomorrow night at the Old Fruitmarket! With **Roddy Hart & The Lonesome Fire**, beguiling Irish songstress **Lisa Hannigan**, award-winning US singer-songwriter **Ryan Bingham**, The Hold Steady frontman **Craig Finn** and folk-rock duo **The Rails**, plus our own **Karine Polwart**, California-based **Jonathan Wilson**, and The Temperance Movement's **Phil Campbell**.

This show has now sold out, however we have added an extra date on Monday 27 January – more on page 40.



CATRIN FINCH & CIMARRÓN AND DOWALLY
OLD FRUITMARKET | 8:00PM
 Tickets from £19.80 incl. booking fee* (seated & standing)

Introduced by Spanish colonists, the harp is now deeply embedded in Latin American folk music, featuring front and centre in the Grammy nominated Colombian seven-piece **Cimarrón**, who reunite here with Welsh harp adventuress **Catrin Finch**, for a project comprising thrillingly dynamic, reciprocal dialogue of traditions, styles and material.

Winners of a 2019 Danny Kyle Open Stage Award, Scottish trio **Dowally** – **Rachel Walker** (fiddle/whistle/vocals), Moisha's Bagel accordionist **Phil Alexander** and jazz guitarist **Daniel Abrahams** – cook up an intensely flavoursome melting-pot of Celtic, Balkan, Americana and pop elements.

**ALASDAIR FRASER & NATALIE HAAS****WITH AOIFE SCOTT & RON BLOCK****GRCH: NEW AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM****Tickets from £18.70 incl. booking fee* (seated)**

Despite 20 years as a duo, spontaneity and discovery remain at the heart of fiddler **Alasdair Fraser** and cellist **Natalie Haas's** extraordinary creative symbiosis, rooted in their vast and profound knowledge of Scottish and international folk traditions, as well as outstanding compositional prowess. Following excursions into Spanish, French and Nordic sounds on 2017's fifth release *Ports of Call*, they're currently at work on a new album.

Daughter and niece of Frances and Mary Black, singer-songwriter **Aoife Scott** is fast making her own name among Irish music's rising stars, here launching her second album *Homebird*, accompanied by its illustrious producer **Ron Block**, multi-Grammy-winning mainstay of Alison Krauss's Union Station.

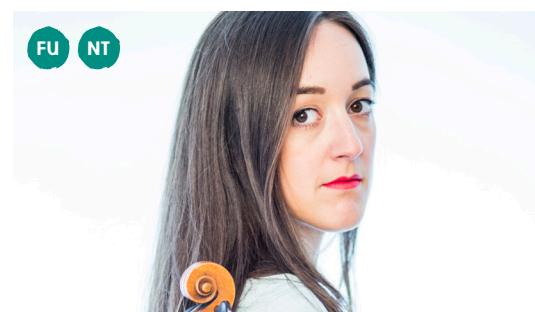
**AVI KAPLAN and Lizzie Reid****SAINT LUKE'S | 7:30PM****Tickets from £15.40 incl. booking fee* (standing)**

Following his 2017 departure from triple Grammy-winning acapella quintet Pentatonix, **Avi Kaplan** is "finally writing the music that's in my heart", inspired both by his parents' country-folk favourites (John Denver, Simon & Garfunkel, Crosby Stills Nash & Young) and such successors as Ben Harper, Bon Iver and Iron & Wine. "Folk music is everything to me," Kaplan says. "It's where I come from; it's home."

Featured at November's Ignite Scotland showcase, young indie-folk songstress **Lizzie Reid** (granddaughter of UCS icon Jimmy) combines potent storytelling and atmospheric arrangements with angular indie touches.

**TMSA 'FLOO'ERS O' THE FAIREST'****GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SUITE | 8:00PM****Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (seated)**

In tragically swift succession, between December 2018 and May 2019, Scotland's traditional music community lost Maureen Jelks, Gordeanna McCulloch and Anne Neilson, iconic singers all, whose careers bridged the earliest days of the Scottish folk revival (McCulloch and Neilson first met in Norman Buchan's Ballads Club, at Rutherglen Academy) with the current generations they in turn taught and inspired. Gathered here in celebratory tribute, an aptly mighty cast includes **Stramash**, **The Clutha**, **Aileen Carr**, **Barbara Dymock**, **Gillian Frame**, **Sheena Wellington**, **Jo Miller**, **Brian Miller**, **Iain Young**, **Fiona Hunter**, **Robyn Stapleton**, **Chris Miles**, **Cy Laurie**, **Ryan Young**, **Jenn Butterworth**, **Craig Muirhead** and **Adam McCulloch**.

**NEW VOICES: CATRIONA PRICE****GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SUITE | 1:00PM****Tickets from £13.75 incl. booking fee* (seated)**

Best known as a member of Fara and Twelfth Day, Orkney fiddler **Catriona Price** draws on both classical and traditional schooling, with influences from jazz, pop, indie music. Inspired by writings from Orkney authors and poets, her New Voices composition reflects this diversity, with a line-up including vocalists, string quartet, bass and drums, as she explores the meanings and implications of home, and the ways it stays with you when you leave.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
SCOTLAND

**ROBYN HITCHCOCK and Annie Booth****DRYGATE | 7:30PM****Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (seated & standing)**

Surrealist poet, talented guitarist, cult artist: **Robyn Hitchcock** is one of England's most enduring singer-songwriters. Having founded 1970s art-rock band The Soft Boys and recorded more than 20 albums, he blends folk with psychedelia and declares his solo album an "ecstatic work of negativity with nary a dreary groove".

Edinburgh-based singer-songwriter **Annie Booth** creates music that is melodic and movingly bittersweet. She's a popular, and critically acclaimed, force on the Scottish gig circuit.

**ROB ROY (1922) WITH LIVE MUSIC****BY DAVID ALLISON****TRON THEATRE | 2:00PM & 8:00PM****Tickets from £15.40 incl. booking fee* (seated)**

Filmed in Stirlingshire, silent movie *Rob Roy* prompted round-the-block cinema queues when it was first released in 1922. For Celtic Connections, that classic version of the Rob Roy MacGregor story is screened along with a live soundtrack by multi-instrumentalist **David Allison**, who has created several highly acclaimed scores for silent movies, including 1923 horror classic *Nosferatu*.

This event is a Hippfest commission.

HIPPOTROME
silent film festival

**LAUREN MACCOLL****CITY HALLS: RECITAL ROOM | 5:00PM****Tickets from £14.30 incl. booking fee* (seated)**

One of Scotland's most expressive fiddle players, **Lauren MacColl** hails from the Black Isle and the old songs of her home area still inform her Gaeltachd-influenced music. A multi-award-winning member of chamber folk quartet RANT, her solo work is steeped in the rich culture of the Highlands. The Scotsman applauded the "authoritative balance of fire and lyricism, vivacity and elegance" of her bowing – and so will tonight's audience.



AM FO

THE MILK CARTON KIDS WITH THE SECRET SISTERS GRCH: MAIN AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £24.20 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Unerringly hitting a unique sweet spot between heartbreak and hilarity, LA-based Grammy nominees **The Milk Carton Kids** – singer-songwriter/guitarists **Kenneth Pattengale** and **Joey Ryan** – have recently guested with such diverse luminaries as Mumford & Sons, Sarah Silverman, Mavis Staples, Chris Thile, Judd Apatow, Jason Isbell and John Prine, amidst wall-to-wall critical raves for 2018's upheaval-inspired fourth album *All the Things That I Did and All the Things That I Didn't Do*. Songs and singing to die for; equally deadly comic sparring to make you cry laughing.

Stars of Transatlantic Sessions 2018, Alabama's **Laura** and **Lydia Rogers** made a fairytale start as **The Secret Sisters**, championed by heroes like T Bone Burnett and Dave Cobb. Then the story darkened: dropped by their label in 2015, they found themselves sued, near-bankrupt and creatively blocked. Enter Brandi Carlile, who reckons the Rogers "**two of the most stunning singers in the world**", and produced their triumphant, Grammy-nominated comeback album, 2017's *You Don't Own Me Anymore*.



NITIN SAWHNEY AND SUPPORT OLD FRUITMARKET | 8:00PM

Tickets from £26.40 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Working as a songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, composer, producer and DJ, across the fields of music, film, TV, radio, dance, theatre and gaming, **Nitin Sawhney** is the very definition of a modern-day, cross-cultural Renaissance man. Since his 1993 debut album, he's released over 20 more, including solo sets, soundtracks, compilations and remixes, garnering a CBE, an Ivor Novello Lifetime Achievement Award, and six honorary doctorates. Recent projects include the score for Netflix/Warner's *Mowgli: Legend of the Jungle*, the vocal/orchestral work 'BREXIT: A Rational Anthem for a National Tantrum', premièred in early 2019, and *Beyond Skin Revisited*, a 20th anniversary live reprise, performed to a sold out audience at London's Royal Albert Hall. Sawhney will be performing tracks from his back catalogue in Glasgow.

ROAMING ROOTS REVUE PRESENTS BORN TO RUN: 70TH BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN OLD FRUITMARKET | 7:30PM

Tickets from £24.20 incl. booking fee* (standing)

If ever a birthday called for extended celebrations, it's surely Bruce Springsteen's 70th, in September 2019. During his nearly 50-year recording career, The Boss has scored 11 US No.1 albums, winning 20 Grammy awards, two Golden Globes, an Oscar, a Tony and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. **Roaming Roots Revue 2020** sees an international cast of Springsteen-loving artists take their pick from his peerless back-catalogue, highlighting both its consistent quality and stylistic diversity, alongside selections from their own material. With musical direction and house-band backing from **Roddy Hart & The Lonesome Fire**, the line-up includes beguiling Irish folk-pop songstress **Lisa Hannigan**, multi-award-winning US singer-songwriter **Ryan Bingham** and The Hold Steady frontman **Craig Finn** and folk-rock duo **The Rails**. Following the Top 40 success of her Scottish Songbook album, our own **Karine Polwart** continues to expand her palette, while California-based **Jonathan Wilson** brings his latter-day Laurel Canyon sound to the party, and Glasgow-born **Phil Campbell** steps out solo from rootsy blues-rockers The Temperance Movement.



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CHERISH THE LADIES 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION GRCH: MAIN AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £24.20 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Incredibly, given the evergreen artistry and joie de vivre of their performances, January 2020 marks a full 35 years since **Cherish the Ladies** first foregathered in New York, when musician and folklorist Mick Moloney staged a showcase of female Irish-American talent. (It's also 25 years since the band's debut on this very stage, at the second-ever Celtic Connections.) Boasting such illustrious alumnae as Eileen Ivers, Liz Carroll, Winifred Horan and Liz Knowles, today's line-up features co-founders **Joanie Madden** and **Mary Coogan** with **Nollaig Casey**, **Mirella Murray** and **Kathleen Boyle**. Arriving fresh from a five-date Irish tour, for this exclusive Scottish appearance, the Ladies are sure to be optimally warmed up for an even bigger Glasgow love-in than usual. Their bumper birthday entourage includes guest vocalists **Kate Purcell**, **Heidi Talbot**, **John Morrison** and **Cathie Ryan**, the formidable rhythm section of **Trevor Hutchinson**, **Peter McKinney** and **Donnchadh Gough**, several local musical pals and the customary squad of champion stepdancers.



DELLA MAE AND TEILHARD FROST
GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SUITE | 8:00PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Born of Boston's new acoustic scene, Nashville-based Grammy nominees **Della Mae** deliver bare-knuckle bluegrass chops, while compositionally keeping company with the likes of Punch Brothers, the Lumineers, and Hurray for the Ruff Raff. After ending a two-year timeout with 2019's *The Butcher Shoppe* EP, the quartet are soon to release their fourth album.

On his latest solo record *As the Crow Flies*, Canadian singer and multi-instrumentalist **Teilhard Frost** – best known as one-third of old-time favourites Sheesham, Lotus and Son – continues his joyous communion with Appalachian traditions.



PAUL ANDERSON: MUSIC OF THE MASTERS
CITY HALLS: RECITAL ROOM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £14.30 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Paul Anderson's evocative fiddle music is inspired by his passion for the landscape, history and culture of his rural Aberdeenshire homeland, and by the rich tradition of Scottish fiddle music. Tonight, he will perform music by iconic Scottish fiddlers Niel Gow, William Marshall, Nathaniel Gow, Peter Milne and James Scott Skinner. Uniquely, Paul will play the music on the composers' own violins, accompanied by well-known pianist **Brian McAlpine**.



SW FO

'RETURN TO Y'HUP': THE WORLD OF IVOR CUTLER
GRCH: MAIN AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £24.20 incl. booking fee* (seated)

The late Scottish humorist, poet, philosopher and surrealist Ivor Cutler's enduring legacy is celebrated in this crème-de-la-crème gathering of Scottish indie, folk, rock and pop talent, launching a new album tribute *Return to Y'Hup*, jointly masterminded by saxophonist/composer **Raymond MacDonald** (Glasgow Improvisers Orchestra), **Matt Brennan** (Citizen Bravo), **Malcolm Benzie** (eagleowl) and **Andy Monaghan** (Frightened Rabbit). As introduced on Cutler's 1959 debut recording, *Y'Hup* is an imaginary lush, fertile island where its creator claimed citizenship, repopulated here by a host of brilliant Scottish artists including:

Rick Anthony (Phantom Band/Rick Redbeard), Belle and Sebastian's **Stuart Murdoch**, **Kris Drever**, **Karine Polwart**, ex-Delgado **Emma Pollock**, Mogwai's **Stuart Braithwaite**, **James Yorkston**, **Adam Stafford**, **Duglas Stewart** (BMX Bandits), **Suse Bear** (Tuff Love), avant-pop singer and multi-instrumentalist **Kapil Seshasayee**, **Chris Thomson** (The Bathers), **Heather Leigh**, **Sarah Hayes** (Admiral Fallow/You Tell Me) and ex-Maple Leaves singer Anna Miles.



AM FO

ANAI'S MITCHELL AND BONNY LIGHT HORSEMAN
OLD FRUITMARKET | 8:00PM

Tickets from £24.20 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Nearly a decade on from its original album version, **Anais Mitchell's** folk opera *Hadestown*, based on the Orpheus myth, won eight Tony awards in 2019, further cementing the Brooklyn-based artist's reputation as one of today's foremost singer-songwriters. Fruitfully blurring the boundaries between traditional song and original composition, Mitchell addresses big archetypal themes with compelling emotional intimacy and uncanny eloquence.

Before her own full-band set, Mitchell opens the show with her new super-trio line-up **Bonny Light Horseman**, a collaboration with multi-instrumentalist/producer **Josh Kaufman** (The National/Hiss Golden Messenger) and **Eric D. Johnson** (Fruit Bats), formed during a 2018 residency at Justin Vernon's Eaux Claires Festival. As their name suggests, the band's focus is on British traditional folksong, exploring timeless tales and emotions via a relaxed mix of reinterpretation and rewriting, soon to be heard on their debut album.

POST-FESTIVAL SHOWS



THE DEAD SOUTH AND SUPPORT
FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2020
O2 ACADEMY | 7:30PM
 Tickets from £24.75 incl. booking fee*



THE LOST WORDS: SPELL SONGS
TUESDAY 14 APRIL 2020
GRCH: MAIN AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM
 Tickets from £26.40 incl. booking fee*



DALLAHAN and JUURI & JUURI MITCHELL THEATRE | 7:30PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

In just six years since they formed, Edinburgh four-piece **Dallahan's** uniquely-evolved 'world folk' alloy of Scottish, Irish, and Balkan elements – on vocals, guitar, fiddles, banjo, mandolin and accordion – has won them fans from Milwaukee to Kathmandu, boosted further by 2019's largely self-penned third album, *Smallworld*. "A wonderful blend of multicultural music-making." (*Fatea*)

Juuri & Juuri are leading Finnish folk artists **Emilia Lajunen** and **Eero Grundström**, whose immediate, collaborative approach and distinctive instrumental mix, comprising five-string fiddle, nyckelharpa, harmonium and harmonica, render ancient traditional material magically anew.



SAM BAKER SAINT LUKE'S | 7:30PM

Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (seated)

A **Sam Baker** show is a celebration. Some songs tell of everyday people who survive life's daily challenges; others are stories of growing up in a small Texas prairie town. All his shows are an acknowledgement and appreciation of the pure joy that comes with people gathering to listen to live music. Sam's fans travel to see him, often driving hours to experience the powerful performance. After the show, they tell Sam their stories. At the end of the day, we all go in peace.

"Simultaneously beautiful and broken... **Sam Baker** is an artist worth waiting for." (*NPR All Things Considered*)



SAM LEE and IONA FYFE TRIO GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SUITE | 8:00PM

Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Asked for his favourite advice, folk-song crusader **Sam Lee** recalls his late artistic benefactor Stanley Robertson's injunction – indicating ears then mouth – "You've got two of these, and one of those: use them in that proportion." It's a pearl that's served Lee well, from his Mercury-nominated debut LP to recent singing adventures with nightingales and Extinction Rebellion. His anticipated third album *Old Wow* reimagines material sourced on his regular song-hunting quests.

Spanning the Scottish song spectrum from Lizzie Higgins and Stanley Robertson to Michael Marra and Aidan Moffat, Aberdeenshire's **Iona Fyfe** bewitchingly added Americana and jazz on 2019's *Dark Turn of Mind* EP.



RORY BUTLER with KITTY MACFARLANE CCA | 7:30PM

Tickets from £15.40 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Scottish acoustic troubadour **Rory Butler** has won comparisons with iconic balladeers such as John Martyn, Nick Drake and Jeff Buckley. Tonight he previews material from his eagerly-awaited second album, further showcasing his rich, poignant vocals.

The debut LP from Somerset singer-songwriter **Kitty Macfarlane**, 2018's *Namer of Clouds*, combines radiantly winsome delivery with thoughtful, wide-ranging songcraft, variously reflecting on humanity's relationship with nature.



MHAIRI HALL: AIRS CITY HALLS: RECITAL ROOM | 5:00PM

Tickets from £14.30 incl. booking fee* (seated)

More than a decade since her last album *Cairngorm*, the superb Scottish pianist **Mhairi Hall** unveils her new album project, centred on her deeply-felt interpretations of traditional slow airs – widely regarded as any folk player's ultimate test. Found sounds, archive recordings and harmonium chords subtly complement her piano work, together with paintings by landscape artist **Beth Robertson Fiddes**, which share their inspirations with the music.



GRACE PETRIE and SUPPORT KING TUT'S | 7:30PM

Tickets from £15.40 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Proudly self-styled as "a socialist, feminist, lesbian, left-wing protest singer", **Grace Petrie** came to wider attention with 2010's impassioned anthem 'Farewell to Welfare', and has since built up a grassroots following for her unique take on life, love and politics, allied with her warmth and wit. Following rave reviews for her 2018 album *Queer as Folk*, she won more new fans opening for Frank Turner on his 2019 arena tour.



DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONCERT: AINSLEY HAMILL & ALISTAIR PATERSON GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SUITE | 1:30PM

Free (ticketed)* (seated)

Young Glasgow-based musicians **Ainsley Hamill** and **Alistair Paterson** are both members of the critically acclaimed folk band, *Barluath*, but have also played extensively as a duo. She sings; he plays piano/keyboards. Together they've played many festivals, with a repertoire that includes Gaelic songs. The concert is one of a series designed to be accessible and enjoyable for people with dementia, and their friends and families.



TR AM

'SKY' & 'LAMMERMUIR' - FEATURING TESSA LARK, PHAMIE GOW & THE ROYAL SCOTTISH NATIONAL ORCHESTRA

GRCH: MAIN AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £24.20 incl. booking fee* (seated)

First performed in 2019 to an extended standing ovation, *Sky* is a concerto by acclaimed US composer Michael Torke, written for the dazzling Kentucky-born classical violinist and bluegrass fiddler **Tessa Lark**, soloist again for tonight's European première with our own **Royal Scottish National Orchestra**. A multi-award-winning alumna of New England Conservatory and the Juilliard School, Lark has collaborated with cross-genre greats Itzhak Perlman, Edgar Meyer and Mark O'Connor.

Written by Scottish composer **Phamie Gow** in 2000 at the age of 19, *Lammermuir* gained her international acclaim. Since then, Gow has released nine albums, performed in major concert halls around the world, and worked with top calibre artists including Philip Glass and Carlos Nuñez. Gow returns with a new symphonic collaboration featuring the original cast of **Alasdair Fraser**, **Mairi Campbell** and special guests the **RSNO**, **Jarlath Henderson** and more.



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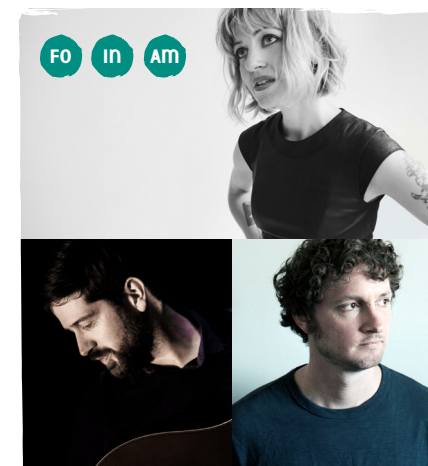
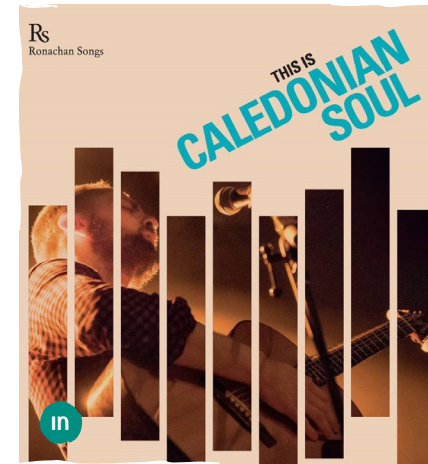
SESSION A9 and JOHANNA JUHOLA TRIO

GRCH: NEW AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £18.70 incl. booking fee* (seated)

It's been a long old wait since Scottish fiddle supergroup **Session A9's** last album, 2013's *Live at Celtic Connections* – but given that the line-up juggle their time with such equally sought-after acts as Capercaillie, Treacherous Orchestra, The Chieftains, Boys of the Lough, Nordic Fiddlers Bloc and Croft No. Five, it's hardly surprising. A new studio release is currently in the works however, to be previewed here alongside earlier favourites.

Esteemed by her peers as a genre-transcending visionary, Finnish accordionist/composer **Johanna Juhola** is a prolific collaborator across multiple musical fields. Her own free-spirited exploration of Finland's folk and tango traditions also features guitarist **Roope Aarnio** and sound designer **Teemu Korpipää**.



BLUE ROSE CODE PRESENTS THIS IS CALEDONIAN SOUL OLD FRUITS MARKET | 9:30PM

Tickets from £23.10 incl. booking fee* (standing)

What is Caledonian soul? There'll never be any short or simple answer, but **Blue Rose Code** – singer-songwriter **Ross Wilson** and his ever-evolving troupe of collaborators – make a panoply of beautiful noise exploring the question. Wilson's lavish rolling revue features an all-star 14-piece band and very special vocal guests, reinterpreting classic and contemporary Scots song across a swathe of styles and sources, from Trad.

Anon. to The Proclaimers, Davy Steele to The Blue Nile. Tonight features singers from previous triumphant performances, including **Eddi Reader**, **John Douglas**, **Karen Matheson** and **Robert Vincent**.

'THE ORCADIAN OF HUDSON'S BAY' and ASSYNT MITCHELL THEATRE | 7:30PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Marking the Hudson's Bay Company's 350th anniversary in 2020, Gnos fiddler and mandolinist **Graham Rorie** premières a new instrumental suite celebrating Orkney's close ties with the firm, whose 18th- and 19th-century workforce was up to 80 percent Orcadian. Inspired by stories from this shared history, Rorie performs with **Kristan Harvey**, **Pàdruig Morrison**, **Rory Matheson**, **Signy Jakobsdottir**, **James Lindsay**, and roof-raising Québécois quintet **Le Vent du Nord**.

Up and Coming Artist of the Year at 2018's Scots Trad Music Awards, young Highland trio **Assynt** - **Graham Mackenzie**, **David Shedden** and **Innes White** – preview material from their imminent second album.



ANDI'S MITCHELL'S CAMPFIRE WITH SAM AMIDON, KRIS DREVER & ROZI PLAIN SAINT LUKE'S | 7:30PM

Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (standing)

While health'n'safety sadly precludes an actual campfire, we can promise a big warm glow from this in-the-round singer/songwriter gathering, hosted by *Hadestown* creator **Anaïs Mitchell**, fresh from the folk-opera's triumphs at 2019's Tony Awards. Besides her new colleagues in super-trio **Bonny Light Horseman**, **Josh Kaufman** and **Eric D. Johnson**, she's joined by fellow tradition-loving free spirit **Sam Amidon**, hailed by the New York Observer as "spokesman for the new, weird America", beguiling songwriter and *This Is The Kit*'s bassist **Rozi Plain**, and Scotland's own **Kris Drever**, whose recent solo set-lists have taken in "traditional songs, previously unreleased material, new songs and new ideas" as well as fan faves from his award winning back-catalogue.



ISOBEL CAMPBELL and HANNAH FISHER & SORREN MACLEAN THE MACKINTOSH CHURCH | 7:30PM

Tickets from £22.00 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Following recent guest appearances with The Jesus and Mary Chain, **Isobel Campbell's** 2019 signing to fabled indie/roots imprint Cooking Vinyl - nine long years since her last recorded output - heralded the Belle and Sebastian alumna's fervently-anticipated eighth solo album. After previous releases plus three stunning duo records with Mark Lanegan, this will be some homecoming gig.

Hannah Fisher and **Sorren Maclean** have absorbed a wealth of collaborative experience touring, writing and recording with household names Roddy Woomble, King Creosote, and Idlewild. Here they debut new music from their forthcoming album, alongside their back catalogue.



THE LANGAN BAND and MAMA'S BROKE ORAN MOR | 7:30PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Every **Langan Band** ticket comes with the trio's personal guarantee: "If you're not dancing like a demented ostrich by the end of their set you get a refund", although exact definition of said crazed avian moves may be debatable. Their extravagantly freewheeling yet tautly configured sound embraces Celtic, Roma, bluegrass, flamenco, swing and punk elements, topped with vibrant vocal harmonies. "Extraordinary stylistic dexterity. . . uncategorisable and irresistible" (*Acoustic Magazine*)

Featuring singers and multi-instrumentalists **Amy Lou** and **Lisa Maria**, **Mama's Broke's** darkly intriguing blend of old-time and folk with punk, doom metal and Balkan shades won them a Canadian Folk Award for 2017's debut album *Count the Wicked*.



JOE NEWBERRY & APRIL VERCH WITH THE LEDGER GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SITE | 8:00PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Following his much-lauded previous Celtic Connections appearances, in his duo with mandolin legend Mike Compton and the Transatlantic Sessions, old-time maestro **Joe Newberry** returns with his newest collaborative partner, the dazzling Canadian fiddler, singer and step-dancer **April Verch**. "A simply gorgeous expression of musical multiculturalism" (*Barry Poss, Sugar Hill Records*)

The Ledger is a new collaboration between **Findlay Napier**, **Gillian Frame** and **Mike Vass**, revisiting afresh the seminal contents of Norman Buchan's *101 Scottish Folk Songs* (aka 'The Wee Red Songbook') and *The Scottish Folksinger*, inspired by Napier's own family connection with the material.



THE HIGH ROLLING SESSIONS WITH TIM EDEY & GUESTS DRYGATE | 7:30PM

Tickets from £15.40 incl. booking fee* (seated & standing)

Bonded by sharing countless late-night tunes in sundry Edinburgh pubs – as well as their love of cycling - **The High Rolling Sessions'** core trio comprises Salsa Celtica trumpeter/percussionist **Toby Shippey**, former Fara pianist **Jennifer Austin** and Dallahan multi-instrumentalist **Ciaran Ryan**. Joined here by the prodigiously virtuosic **Tim Edey** and other surprise guests, they unite A-list musicianship with session-style spontaneity and unpredictability.



KACY & CLAYTON and AVOCET CCA | 7:30PM

Tickets from £15.40 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Second cousins and childhood friends, Canadian duo **Kacy Anderson** and **Clayton Linthicum** combine vintage British folk-rock influences with country, soul and garage sounds; sweetly forlorn melodies with homespun lyrics and rich vocal harmonies, as heard most recently on 2019's Jeff Tweedy-produced album *Carrying On*.

Taking their name from Bert Jansch's classic album, Scottish quartet **Avocet** showcase a line-up of vocals, harp, guitar bass and drums.



CHARLIE GREY & JOSEPH PEACH: AIR IOMALL CITY HALLS: RECITAL ROOM | 5:00PM

Tickets from £14.30 incl. booking fee* (seated)

In 2018, the young Highland fiddle/piano duo **Charlie Grey** and **Joseph Peach** journeyed by sail-boat around Scotland's now-uninhabited westernmost extremes - the Flannan Isles, the Shiant, North Rona, Sula Sgeir and St Kilda – writing music inspired by each place. Here they present the resulting suite of tunes, *Air Iomall* (On the Edge), together with filmmaker Hamish MacLeod's chronicle of the voyage. "Utterly captivating. . . enthralling prowess and attunement" (*Scotsman*)



EWAN MCLENNAN and SUPPORT TRON THEATRE | 8:00PM

Tickets from £15.40 incl. booking fee* (seated)

From a BBC Folk Award to his work with Transatlantic Sessions through to his recent critically-acclaimed collaboration with the author George Monbiot, **Ewan McLennan** has come to be known as one of the finest troubadours, singer-songwriters and balladeers of his generation. As well as some of the favourites from his previous albums, tonight will feature tracks from his forthcoming album *Borrowed Songs*.



TR AM

TRANSATLANTIC SESSIONS

GRCH: MAIN AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £30.80 incl. booking fee* (seated)

The 17th live edition of the Transatlantic Sessions highlights the format's evergreen fruitfulness, with a cross-generational array of Scottish, Irish and US special guests joining its all-star instrumental line-up.

Tennessee native **Sierra Hull** is a three-time winner of the IBMA Mandolin Player of the Year Award, with her follow up to 2016's *Weighted Mind* soon to be released. Having first wowed Americana fans in his duo with Eli West, US singer and Western Centuries' multi-instrumentalist **Cahalen Morrison** also features.

Transatlantic goes trans-Pacific with Australian-born guitar deity **Tommy Emmanuel**, whose dazzling fingerstyle prowess earned him the title of Certified Guitar Player from the late Chet Atkins.

From Ireland, Dervish's dynamic frontwoman **Cathy Jordan** has previously explored transatlantic connections in side-project *The Unwanted*, as well as releasing an acclaimed solo album *All the Way Home* in 2012, while Scottish 'folk noir' singer-songwriter **Rachel Sermanni** builds on her stellar reputation from 2019's third studio album *As It Turns*.

Under the musical direction of Shetland fiddler **Aly Bain** and multi-Grammy-winning dobro maestro **Jerry Douglas**, the accompanying instrumental dream-team once again features **Russ Barenberg**, **Phil Cunningham**, **John Doyle**, **Michael McGoldrick**, **John McCusker**, **Donald Shaw**, **Daniel Kimbro** and **James Mackintosh**.



WO

FATOUMATA DIAWARA and VILDÁ

TRAMWAY | 7:30PM

Tickets from £22.00 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Hailed as a thrilling new standard-bearer of Mali's celebrated musical traditions, **Fatoumata Diawara** has featured in collaborations with Bobby Womack, Herbie Hancock, Roberto Fonseca and Damon Albarn, plus compatriots Amadou and Mariam, Oumou Sangaré and Toumani Diabaté. 2018's Grammy nominated second album, *Fenfo*, showcased her compelling range and depth of expression amid a vibrant array of ancient and modern sounds.

Nordic duo **VILDÁ** evoke their wild native landscapes in a unique fusion of Sámi joiks and Finnish accordion tradition, allied with shamanic grooves, beatboxing, throat-singing and electronica.



AM

STURGILL SIMPSON

OLD FRAZIMARKET | 9:30PM

Tickets from £26.40 incl. booking fee* (standing)

In another characteristically bold artistic departure, **Sturgill Simpson**'s new fourth album *Sound and Fury* is self-styled as a "sleazy, steamy, rock 'n' roll record", inspired by such unlikely forebears as the Bee Gees, Cheap Trick, T. Rex and La Roux. Released alongside an eponymous Netflix anime film, it finds Simpson inveighing furiously against the commercial pressures that followed his previous release, 2016's Grammy-winning *A Sailor's Guide to Earth*. Amidst high-octane production, glam-rock guitars, analogue synths and even disco beats, Simpson's lyrics and expressive abandon affirm him as one of Americana's most singularly exciting artists.



GO TR

ANÚNA WITH M'ANAM and SUPPORT

KELVINGROVE ART GALLERY | 8:00PM

Tickets from £22.00 incl. booking fee* (seated & standing)

Having debuted at Celtic Connections in 1995, after rocketing to popular attention as part of the original Riverdance phenomenon, Irish choral ensemble **ANÚNA** celebrated their 30th anniversary in 2017. Deploying their unique sean nós-rooted vocal style in a seamless blend of reworked medieval music, traditional songs, and director **Michael McGlynn**'s original compositions, they're joined amid Kelvingrove's stunning surroundings and soaring acoustics by recently formed all-male offshoot **M'ANAM**, whose repertoire bridges medieval Iceland with Ireland today.



TR

KINNARIS QUINTET

KINNARIS QUINTET and WESTWARD THE LIGHT

GRCH: NEW AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Having swiftly transitioned from exciting new prospect to in-demand headliners, Glasgow's **Kinnaris Quintet** – on three fiddles, mandolin and guitar – continue to enthral as one of Scotland's most excitingly accomplished current folk acts. Balancing elegant finesse with bare-knuckle attack, their intricate sound distils Celtic, Nordic, Appalachian elements. "Skilful and sophisticated...really rather remarkable" (*Living Tradition*)

With four top young Scottish talents on fiddle, viola, vocals, piano and guitar, **Westward the Light** – here launching their debut album – brings together acclaimed duo **Charlie Grey** and **Joseph Peach** with **Sally Simpson** (Heisk/Hannah Rarity) and **Owen Sinclair** (Tannara/Inyal).



TRADBEATS / É.T.É / KRISMENN & ALEM MITCHELL THEATRE | 7:30PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

A thrilling mix of oral dance music, percussive footwork, contemporary beatboxing and hip-hop grooves, **TradBeats**, the brainchild of Scottish stepdancer **Sophie Stephenson**, also features Mòd Gold Medallist **Eilidh Munro**, Skye's **Deirdre Graham** and **Catherine Tinney**, plus Glasgow-Indian beatboxer **Bigg Taj**. Together with Québécois trio **É.T.É** and Breton fusioners **Krismenn & Alem**, they map fresh common ground between their respective traditions of Gaelic puirt-à-beul, Breton kan ha diskann and Quebecois tongue-twisting turlutte.

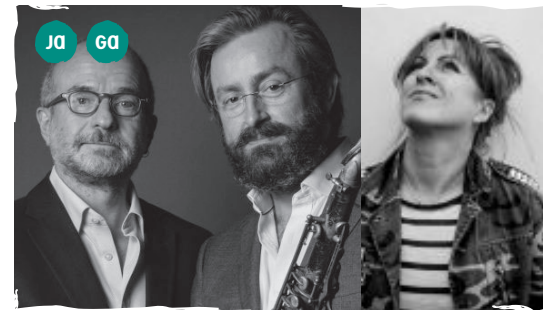


ROSS AINSLIE & THE SANCTUARY BAND AND OKRA PLAYGROUND SAINT LUKE'S | 7:30PM

Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Multi-instrumentalist **Ross Ainslie** reprises his acclaimed third album *Sanctuary* – a collection of compositions reflecting on his path to sobriety – followed by tracks from his new solo release, *Vana*. His accompanying line-up features **Greg Lawson**, **Paul Towndrow**, **Steve Byrnes**, **James Lindsay**, **Hamish Napier** and **Fraser Stone**.

Finnish electro-folk sextet **Okra Playground** combine vibrant three-part vocals with ancient and modern instrumentation.



TOMMY SMITH & BRIAN KELLOCK WITH KATHLEEN MACINNES AND UNDER THE SURFACE THE MACKINTOSH CHURCH | 7:30PM

Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Sublime South Uist singer **Kathleen MacInnes** partners again with Scottish jazz duo **Tommy Smith** and **Brian Kellock**, whose alchemical saxophone/piano interplay has long centred on classic melodies, finding inspiration in the glories of Gaelic song.

Acclaimed for their improvised performances, Dutch trio **Under the Surface** (**Joost Lijbaart**, **Bram Stadhouders** and **Sanne Rambags**) fuse contemporary jazz with Sami, African, Latin and electronic sounds.



GNOSS WITH BARRY, FOLAN AND MCGOWAN TRON THEATRE | 8:00PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Orkney/Glasgow four-piece **Gnoss** – on fiddle, flute, guitar, percussion and vocals – combine outstanding musicianship, deep traditional roots and contemporary compositional flair, as showcased on their highly-praised debut album, 2019's *Drawn From Deep Water*.

Drawing on decades of friendship and a shared love of south Sligo tradition, uilleann piper **Leonard Barry**, fiddler **Declan Folan** and guitarist **Shane McGowan** released their first trio recording, *Hurry the Jug*, to glowing reviews in 2019.



FIONA HUNTER WITH THE TRAILS OF CATO GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SITE | 8:00PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

While compiling her second solo album, Malinky vocalist **Fiona Hunter** drew inspiration from her days working as crew on 2002's fabled Scottish Women tour, soaking up songs from heroines like Ray Fisher and Sheila Stewart. The new record includes several favourites, among its classic and lesser-known material.

2019's BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards' Best Album winners **The Trials of Cato** showcase their fusion of British, Irish and US traditions.



CIARAN RYAN BAND WITH CHRIS GRAY BAND ORAN MÓR | 7:30PM

Tickets from £15.40 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Multi-instrumentalist and Dallahan co-founder **Ciaran Ryan**'s debut solo album, *Banjaxed*, splices Irish trad and bluegrass styles, spotlighting his banjo and fiddle skills. Accordionist **Sam Mabbett**, guitarist **Chris Waite**, bassist **Bev Morris** and percussionist **Donald Hay** complete his formidable live band.

Playing Highland and Border pipes, whistles and piano, **Chris Gray** launches his debut album, interweaving Scottish folk idioms with jazz, classical and Nordic influences, accompanied by a multi-instrumental ensemble.



BEERJACKET WITH CAIRN STRING QUARTET & GUESTS CCA | 7:30PM

Tickets from £15.40 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Glasgow alt-folk singer-songwriter **Peter Kelly** – aka **Beerjacket** – is “one of Scotland's finest singer-songwriters”, in the words of radio DJ Jim Gellatly. He has shared the stage with The National, Kristin Hersh, St. Vincent and Mogwai, among many others.

This unique show will blend his compositions with arrangements and performance from **Cairn String Quartet**. Expect to hear reimagined versions of songs from recent Beerjacket album *Silver Cords* alongside favourites from his back catalogue.



CHRIS STOUT & CATRIONA MCKAY CITY HALLS: RECITAL ROOM | 5:00PM

Tickets from £14.30 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Winners of the Best Duo title at 2018's Radio 2 Folk Awards, fiddler **Chris Stout** and harpist **Catriona McKay** – renowned for their dazzling experimentation and cross-genre collaborations – take their alchemical interplay back to the source in this intimate acoustic performance, which also offers a foretaste of their new ongoing film/music project with artist, photographer and musician **Somhairle MacDonald**.



LE VENT DU NORD 'SYMPHONIQUE' WITH L'ORCHESTRE ÉCOSAÏS

GRCH: MAIN AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £24.20 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Always a hugely popular draw, today's leading champions of Québécois folk music **Le Vent du Nord** return to Glasgow for their biggest Celtic Connections show yet, a sumptuous and exhilarating live reworking and updating of their 2010 album *Symphonique*, featuring the band with full-scale orchestral accompaniment. Triumphant bridging the divide between the traditional and classical realms, 17 Vent du Nord tracks have been specially arranged by leading US composer Tom Myron, deploying the orchestra – here comprising a hand-picked Scottish folk/classical ensemble, led by conductor **Greg Lawson** – almost as a sixth member of the line-up. Since *Symphonique*'s release, Le Vent du Nord have continued to go from strength to strength, latterly expanding from a quartet to a five-piece with the addition of **André Brunet**, and winning yet more rave reviews for their 2019 release *Territoires*. "A pre-eminent force in their field" (FRUK)

FO OR



SALSA CELTICA 25TH ANNIVERSARY BIG BAND AND PROJECT SMOK

OLD FRUITMARKET | 8:00PM

Tickets from £22.00 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Born amid the stylistic melting-pot of Edinburgh's 1990s folk scene, **Salsa Celtica**'s unique fusion of Latin and Scottish/Irish music went on to major international success. Here, an expanded line-up of over a dozen musicians from Cuba, Venezuela, Scotland, Ireland and beyond, plus old friends and special guests, reconvene to celebrate the band's quarter-century, launching the first of two compilation albums to be released in 2020. It promises to be one mighty fiesta.

Uniting three of Scottish music's most exciting young players – **Ali Levack** (pipes/whistles), **Pablo Lafuente** (guitar) and **Ewan Baird** (bodhran) – **Project SMOK** revitalise their West Coast traditions with a high-octane brew of funk, jazz and electronic stylings.

TR FU



IN

FIELD MUSIC and TENEMENT & TEMPLE KELVINGROVE ART GALLERY | 8:00PM

Tickets from £23.10 incl. booking fee* (seated & standing)

Having noted the "howling injustice" of **Field Music**'s bijou fanbase, a glowing Guardian review of 2018's sixth album *Open Here* ruefully concludes, "Short of running naked through Sunderland, it's hard to know what else they can do to alert a wider public." Sparing their modesty however, non-stop transatlantic critical raves since 2005's self-titled debut are now matched by spiralling popularity: catch them amid Kelvingrove's splendour while you can.

Support comes from Glaswegian duo **Tenement & Temple**, who have previously worked with Thrum, Belle and Sebastian, Snow Patrol and Shane McGowan.



WO



SIMON THACKER'S SVARA-KANTI WITH AFSANA KHAN, JACKIE SHAVE & SUKHVINDER SINGH

"PINKY" AND NAD-HAARA

TRAMWAY | 7:30PM

Tickets from £22.00 incl. booking fee* (seated)

An artist of myriad musical passions and polymath virtuosity, Scottish-born guitarist, composer, improviser and ensemble leader **Simon Thacker** explores and reimagines north Indian folk-song traditions with young Punjabi/Sufi/Bollywood star **Afsana Khan**, Grammy-winning tabla master **Sukhvinder Singh "Pinky"** and violinist **Jackie Shave**, leader of the Britten Sinfonia.

Brand-new Scottish/Indian project **Nad-Haara** features Lewis singer **Mischa Macpherson** and Hyderabad's **Ankna Arockiam**, exploring their respective traditions together with award-winning Snuffbox fiddler/bassist **Charlie Stewart**, pianist **Alistair Iain Paterson** and Glasgow-born **Hardeep Deerhe (Sodhi)** on tablas.



TR

WO

FRIGG WITH ÍMAR CITY HALLS | 7:30PM

Tickets from £19.80 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Kicking off Finnish septet **Frigg**'s 20th anniversary year, and launching their celebratory 10th album, tonight features two of today's most exciting instrumental folk acts. Wielding four fiddles, mandolin, cittern, guitar and double bass with all-conquering virtuosity, Frigg have showcased their homeland's traditions and modernity triumphantly across four continents.

Glasgow-based five-piece **Ímar**, meanwhile – collectively of UK/Manx/Irish extraction – have taken the Celtic world by storm in just four years, and show no signs of stopping. Knowing both bands' appetite for adventure/mischief, expect the odd surprise cooked up between them.

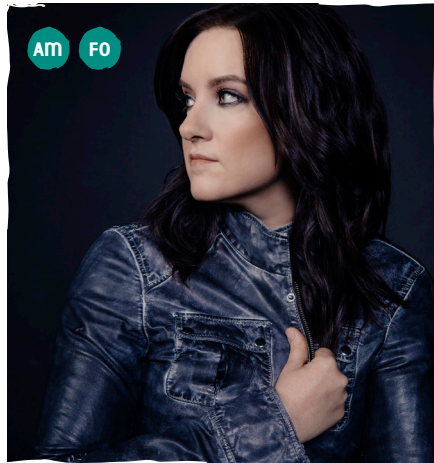


SIERRA HULL AND AWKWARD FAMILY PORTRAITS
GRCH: NEW AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £18.70 incl. booking fee* (seated)

A former child prodigy mentored by Alison Krauss, Tennessee native **Sierra Hull** is a three-time (and first-ever female) winner of the IBMA Mandolin Player of the Year Award. Her 2016 album *Weighted Mind* – featuring guest turns by Krauss, Béla Fleck, Rhiannon Giddens and Abigail Washburn – introduced her as a songwriter of matching calibre, and she's soon to release its all-original follow-up.

Glasgow's **Awkward Family Portraits** distil wicked musical moonshine from rockabilly, bluegrass and Western swing influences, winningly showcased on 2019's debut LP *Everything We've Done Up Until Now Except What We've Done Since*.



BRANDY CLARK AND HEATHER RANKIN
SAINT LUKE'S | 7:30PM

Tickets from £22 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Having authored dozens of country hits for the likes of Kacey Musgraves, Miranda Lambert and Toby Keith, **Brandy Clark** won an all-genre Best New Artist Grammy nomination with her own first album, 2013's *12 Stories*. Her stunning voice and sharply-observed songs earned two more Grammy nods for 2016 follow-up *Big Day in a Small Town*.

Best known via her long career with the Rankin Family, Cape Breton singer-songwriter **Heather Rankin** made her solo recording debut with 2016's *A Fine Line*, an exquisite collection of traditional and original material, plus the odd unexpected cover.



DIRK POWELL WITH SMITH & MCCLENNAN
MITCHELL THEATRE | 7:30PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Dirk Powell's profound mastery of multiple Americana traditions has led to extensive work with film directors including Ang Lee, Anthony Minghella and Spike Lee, and as a right-hand sideman for Joan Baez and Rhiannon Giddens. Here he launches his new solo album, mapping old and new common ground between Appalachian, Cajun and Celtic music, with guests including **Michael McGoldrick**, **Donald Shaw** and **James Mackintosh**.

"An artist of unique vision and unbending integrity" (Steve Earle)

The acclaimed Scottish duo of **Emily Smith** and **Jamie McClellan** perform songs from their new album *Small Town Stories*, combining gorgeous vocal harmonies with guitars, fiddle and accordion, in largely self-penned, always heartfelt material.



JARLATH HENDERSON WITH AILÁ
AND RYAN YOUNG & JENN BUTTERWORTH
STRATHCLYDE SITE | 7:30PM

Tickets from £15.40 incl. booking fee* (seated)

After his 2016 solo debut, **Jarlath Henderson** – multi-instrumentalist, singer, composer and doctor – brought uilleann pipes and whistle back to the fore on 2019's *Raw*, accompanied by **Hamish Napier**, **Innes Watson** and **Duncan Lyall**. With vocals, gaita, accordion, trumpet and percussion, new Galician quartet **Alia** revitalise traditional material in vibrant new arrangements, while Scottish fiddle/guitar duo **Ryan Young** and **Jenn Butterworth** take their classic pairing to thrilling heights.



RANT WITH SVÄNG
MACKINTOSH CHURCH | 7:30PM

Tickets from £18.70 incl. booking fee* (seated)

RANT return in a panoply of tunings and textures to the venue where they recorded 2019's spine-tingling third album, *The Portage*. Shetland's **Jenna** and **Bethany Reid**, alongside Highlanders **Lauren MacColl** and **Anna Massie** define elegant and dynamic ensemble interplay.

From Finland, **Sväng's** line-up features chromatic, diatonic and bass harmonicas plus the rare vintage Harmonetta, creating a truly unique sound that spans Sibelius and Chopin to tango, blues and Balkan sounds.



CHRISTINE KYDD'S SHIFT & CHANGE
WITH LUCY FARRELL & ANDREW WAITE
DRYGATE | 7:30PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated & standing)

Linchpin of Scottish folk song, **Christine Kydd** ended a 20-year solo recording hiatus with her 2019 album *Shift & Change*. She's accompanied here by **Andy Shanks**, **Innes Watson**, **Gillian Frame**, **Fraser Speirs** and **Angus Lyon**. Singer-songwriter and viola player **Lucy Farrell** (Furrow Collective) launches her new album with Dallahan accordionist **Andrew Waite**, rooted in the traditional ballads that first inspired her.



TMSA YOUNG TRAD TOUR
AND OBAN HIGH SCHOOL TRAD SCHOOL OF MUSIC
GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SITE | 1:00PM

The TMSA Young Trad tour offers winners and runners-up a string of professional gigs and a feature in each year's accompanying album. Ahead of 2020's 20th competition, today's line-up includes recent winners **Benedict Morris** and **Hannah Rarity**, together with **Cameron Ross**, **Catherine Tinney**, **Luc McNally**, **Ross Miller** and **Sarah Markey**. The concert opens with the **Oban High School Traditional School of Music** led by award-winning composer and choir arranger **Sileas Sinclair**.

**RYLEY WALKER and cian nugent**

CCA | 7:30PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

New York-based singer-songwriter and fingerstyle guitarist **Ryley Walker** learned his trade on Chicago's indie and experimental scenes. Following a spell of fruitful collaborations with percussionist Charles Rumbach he's now touring as a solo acoustic artist offering a shapeshifting blend of blues, folk, pop and experimental sounds.

Guitarist-composer **Cian Nugent's** musical influences range from suburban/coastal blues to the Takoma school, resulting in an orchestrated and fully instrumented sound that's both playful and eerie.

**ANNIE EBREL QUARTET WITH JEAN-MICHEL VEILLON & YVON RIOU**
TRON THEATRE | 8:00PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

The renowned Breton singer **Annie Ebrel** has collaborated across numerous genres throughout her long career, yet traditional a capella singing remains at the heart of her artistry, showcased in her quartet with **Ronan Pellen**, **Daravan Souvanna** and **Clement Dallot**.

The duo of Kornog and Pennoù Skoulm co-founder **Jean-Michel Veillon** – credited with introducing the wooden flute into Breton music – and guitarist **Yvon Riou** remain one of Brittany's foremost traditional acts.

**TESSA LARK**

CITY HALLS: RECITAL ROOM | 5:00PM

Tickets from £14.30 incl. booking fee* (seated)

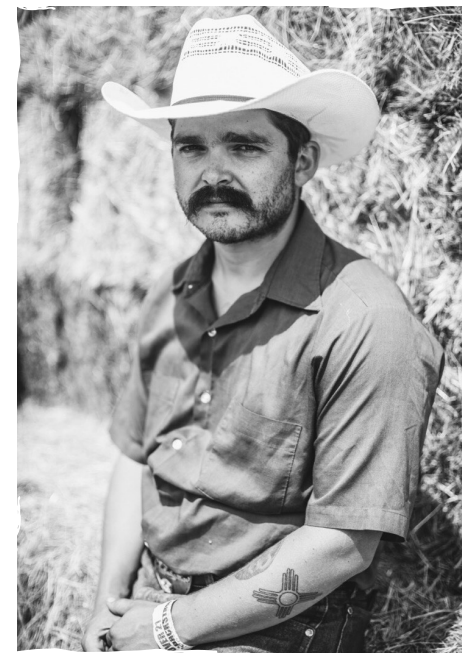
Kentucky-born violinist **Tessa Lark** is a captivating performer: an accomplished classical musician, she is also astonishingly versatile. The daughter of a veteran Bluegrass musician, her fiddle-playing is inspired by the Appalachian music of her home country. A featured soloist with some of America's most prestigious orchestras, she's also a seasoned chamber musician who has won numerous awards and is lauded for her musical elegance, technical agility and impressive range.

**MUSICALL: THE FRIDAYS**

GRCH: NEW AUDITORIUM | 2:00PM

Tickets from £8.80 incl. booking fee* (seated)

The Fridays have sold out previous Celtic Connections shows – and now the inclusive rock band are back with a lively repertoire of sing-along songs. Part of the MusicALL charity, which provides access to high-quality music opportunities for people of all abilities, their show includes a special guest appearance from **Phil Campbell**, vocalist with blues rock group, The Temperance Movement. A great way for all the family to spend Saturday afternoon.



TR AM

TRANSATLANTIC SESSIONS

GRCH: MAIN AUDITORIUM | 7:30PM

Tickets from £30.80 incl. booking fee* (seated)

The 17th live edition of the Transatlantic Sessions highlights the format's evergreen fruitfulness, with a cross-generational array of Scottish, Irish and US special guests joining its all-star instrumental line-up.

Tennessee native **Sierra Hull** is a three-time winner of the IBMA Mandolin Player of the Year Award, with her follow up to 2016's *Weighted Mind* soon to be released. Having first wowed Americana fans in his duo with Eli West, US singer and Western Centuries' multi-instrumentalist **Cahalen Morrison** also features.

Transatlantic goes trans-Pacific with Australian-born guitar deity **Tommy Emmanuel**, whose dazzling fingerstyle prowess earned him the title of Certified Guitar Player from the late Chet Atkins.

From Ireland, Dervish's dynamic frontwoman **Cathy Jordan** has previously explored transatlantic connections in side-project The Unwanted, as well as releasing an acclaimed solo album *All the Way Home* in 2012, while Scottish 'folk noir' singer-songwriter **Rachel Sermanni** builds on her stellar reputation from 2019's third studio album *As It Turns*.

Under the musical direction of Shetland fiddler **Aly Bain** and multi-Grammy-winning dobro maestro **Jerry Douglas**, the accompanying instrumental dream-team once again features **Russ Barenberg**, **Phil Cunningham**, **John Doyle**, **Michael McGoldrick**, **John McCusker**, **Donald Shaw**, **Daniel Kimbro** and **James Mackintosh**.



TR FU

RURA: 10 YEARS & SPECIAL GUESTS

OLD FORTH MARKET | 8:00PM

Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (standing)

It's been a whirlwind decade for **RURA** since their debut at Celtic Connections in 2010, a globe-trotting journey that's won them fans and accolades galore. As referenced by their third album's title, though – 2018's *In Praise of Home* – musically the Scottish four-piece remain rooted where they began, while their subtly progressive approach and sophisticated original compositions carry this rich heritage buoyantly into the future. Tonight's celebratory gathering features a string section and house-band of pals and past collaborators, including multi-instrumentalists **Ali Hutton** and **Chris Waite**, bassist **James Lindsay**, singer/songwriter **Adam Holmes**, and piper **Finlay MacDonald**.



2019 WINNER BENEDICT MORRIS

BBC RADIO SCOTLAND YOUNG TRADITIONAL MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR FINAL 2020 CITY HALLS | 5:00PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Since 2001, when the final was first staged at Celtic Connections, the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year competition, promoted by Hands Up for Trad, has been a prestigious career launch-pad for winners and runners-up alike, showcased in the TMSA's popular annual Young Trad tour. Among the victors' honour-roll are past and current members of Blazin' Fiddles, Ímar, Fara, Breabach, Dosca, Snuffbox, The Shee, Back of the Moon and more, while many others have gone on to major solo success. The semi-finals for 2020's 20th title take place on November 23rd 2019: please check our website after this for the finalists' line-up.

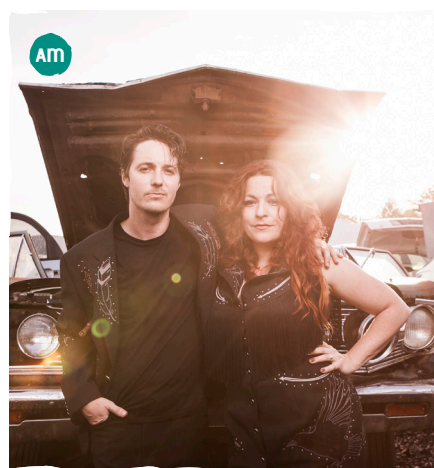


KOKOROKO AND SUPPORT SAINT LUKE'S | 7:30PM

Tickets from £16.50 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Filtering diverse West African influences through a London jazz-scene background, young horn-led octet **Kokoroko** tore up festival stages across Europe during summer 2019, not least back home at Nile Roger's Meltdown. Centrally inspired by Fela Kuti, Ebo Taylor and Tony Allen, their intoxicating sounds span soul-shaking dancefloor workouts and dreamy palm-wine ballads.

"Combining a firm grip on the post-Afrika 70 tradition with some striking new directions" (*AllAboutJazz*)



SHOVELS & ROPE AND SUPPORT ORAN MOR | 7:30PM

Tickets from £15.40 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Fuelled by their intense musical and personal rapport, centred on a shared love of folk, blues, gospel and Southern rock tradition, the raw, punkish sound of US husband/wife duo **Shovels & Rope** – aka **Michael Trent** and **Cary Ann Hearst** – stepped up another few gears with 2019's visceral, cinematic fourth album *By Blood*.

"Bursting with ingenuity and the joy of creation" (*Charleston City Paper*)



365 FEATURING AIDAN O'ROURKE & JAMES ROBERTSON THE MACKINTOSH CHURCH | 7:30PM

Tickets from £17.60 incl. booking fee* (seated)

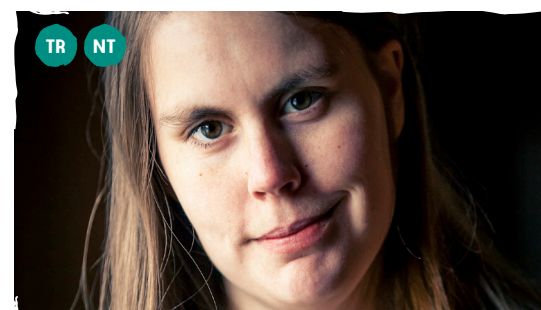
Scottish fiddler and composer, Lau's **Aidan O'Rourke** performs highlights from his acclaimed 365 tune cycle and multi-album project with **Kit Downes** (piano and harmonium) and **Sorren Maclean** (guitar), while author **James Robertson** reads his related stories with guests **Tam Dean Burn**, **Gerda Stevenson** and **Iona Zajac**. O'Rourke's sound installation (containing all 365 tunes and stories) is in the Concert Hall foyer throughout the festival.



BOGHA-FROIS: LGBT+ VOICES IN FOLK STRATHCLYDE SITE | 8:00PM

Tickets from £15.40 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Following its much-lauded showcase at Celtic Connections 2019, **Bogha-Frois** – Gaelic for rainbow – returns with more music and voices from LGBT+ folk performers. Alongside acclaimed Gaelic artists **Kim Carnie** and **Mischa MacPherson**, singer-songwriter Hannah Rarity and singer/harpist **Gillian Fleetwood**, featured acts include multi-instrumentalist **Marit Fält**, and Glasgow-based **Scarlett Randle**, **Finn Anderson** and **Megan D**, together with a new collaboration between singer **Man of the Minch**, fiddler **Laura Wilkie** and award-winning poet/theatre-maker **Leyla Josephine**.



NEW VOICES: MARIT FÄLT GRCH: STRATHCLYDE SITE | 1:00PM

Tickets from £13.75 incl. booking fee* (seated)

After a tumultuous few years spanning creative highs and troughs of ill-health, the Scandinavian-born, Scottish-based **Marit Fält** describes her New Voices composition, *Irrationalities*, as "an uncensored stream of consciousness". Part of an award-winning duo with fiddler **Rona Wilkie** – composers of a live score to Norwegian movie *Laila* – Fält features on mandola, leading an ensemble of strings, accordion and clarinet.

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
SCOTLAND



MATT CARMICHAEL & FERGUS MCCREDDIE CITY HALLS: RECITAL ROOM | 5:00PM

Tickets from £14.30 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Pianist **Fergus McCreddie** and saxophonist **Matt Carmichael** are two of Scotland's most exciting young musicians. Collaborators since their National Youth Jazz Orchestra days, their music reflects a shared love for both folk and jazz, and is full of beautiful melodies and virtuosic improvisation. Having performed at Ronnie Scott's, The Usher Hall, Edinburgh Jazz Festival and had widespread radio coverage, they've won multiple accolades and promise a hugely entertaining show.

THE GLAD CAFE



F0

DANNI NICHOLLS AND DAVID LATTO

Wed 22 January, 7:30pm
From £15.40 incl. booking fee*
(standing)



F0

ELAINE LENNON ALBUM LAUNCH AND SUPPORT

Fri 24 January, 7:30pm
From £13.20 incl. booking fee*
(standing)



F0

P0

GLAD COMMUNITY CHOIR SING GLASGOW INNER CHOIR

Fri 24 January, 7:30pm
From £15.40 incl. booking fee*
(seated) Please note this concert will take
place at Langside Church (167 Ledard Rd,
Glasgow G42 9QU)



F0

P0

GLORIOUS TRACES: THE MUSIC OF OTHERS

Sat 25 January, 7:30pm
From £15.40 incl. booking fee*
(seated)



F0

P0

RACHAEL DADD AND SUPPORT

Wed 29 January, 7:30pm
From £15.40 incl. booking fee*
(standing)



F0

FU

YNG NGHEREDIGION

Sat 1 February, 7:30pm
From £15.40 incl. booking fee*
(standing)

KING TUT'S



IN

THE NICKAJACK MEN AND SUPPORT

Fri 31 January, 9pm
From £9.90 incl. booking fee*
(standing)



IN

THE WAKES AND SUPPORT

Sat 1 February, 9pm
From £14.30 incl. booking fee*
(standing)



F0

GRACE PETRIE

Wed 29 January, 7:30pm
From £15.40 incl. booking fee*
(standing)

THE HUG AND PINT



IN

NATIVE HARROW AND SUPPORT

Fri 17 January, 8pm
From £11.00 incl. booking fee*
(standing)



IN

MOLLY LINEN AND SUPPORT

Sat 18 January, 8pm
From £11.00 incl. booking fee*
(standing)



IN

COMMON HOLLY AND SUPPORT

Sun 19 January, 8pm
From £11.00 incl. booking fee*
(standing)



IN

GWENIFER RAYMOND AND SUPPORT

Tues 21 January, 8pm
From £11.00 incl. booking fee*
(standing)



IN

JONAH TOLCHIN AND SUPPORT

Thurs 23 January, 8pm
From £11.00 incl. booking fee*
(standing)



IN

KETTLE OF HITES AND SUPPORT

Fri 24 January, 8pm
From £11.00 incl. booking fee*
(standing)



IN

SHHE AND SUPPORT

Sat 25 January, 8pm
From £11.00 incl. booking fee*
(standing)

BUY TICKETS
celticconnections.com



IN

**THE BELLRAYS
AND SUPPORT**

Wed 22 January, 8:30pm
From £14.30 incl. booking fee*
(standing)



IN

**KATE DAVIS
AND SUPPORT**

Fri 24 January, 8:30pm
From £11.00 incl. booking fee*
(standing)



IN

**WREST
AND SUPPORT**

Fri 17 January, 8pm
From £12.10 incl. booking fee*
(seated & standing)



JA

**BEATS AND PIECES BIG BAND
AND SUPPORT**

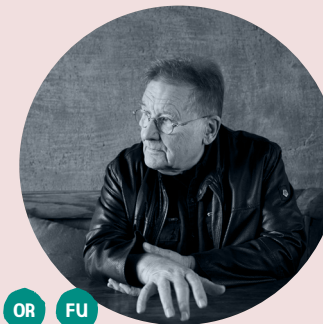
Sat 18 January, 8pm
From £15.40 incl. booking fee*
(seated & standing)



FO WO

**ALASDAIR ROBERTS 09
VÖLVUR AND SUPPORT**

Fri 24 January, 7:30pm
From £16.50
incl. booking fee* (seated)



OR FU

**IRMIN SCHMIDT
AND SUPPORT**

Sun 26 January, 7:30pm
From £22.00
incl. booking fee* (seated)



IN

**BROKEN CHANTER
AND MARTIN JOHN HENRY
(DE ROSA)**

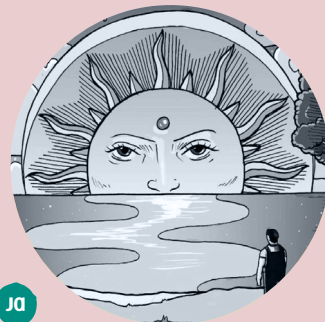
Sat 25 January, 8:30pm
From £16.50 incl. booking fee*
(standing)



IN

**JOHN EDGE & THE KINGS
OF NOWHERE ALBUM
LAUNCH AND SUPPORT**

Sun 26 January, 8:30pm
From £7.70 incl. booking fee*
(standing)



JA

**LUCA MANNING & FERGUS
MC CREADIE AND SUPPORT**

Wed 22 January, 8pm
From £11.00 incl. booking fee*
(seated & standing)



IN

**RAMBLER (FKA CAITLIN
BUCHANAN) + FENELLA
& LUTHIA**

Thurs 23 January, 8pm
From £11.00 incl. booking fee*
(seated & standing)



FO

ALEX REX ALBUM LAUNCH

Sat 1 February, 7:30pm
From £16.50
incl. booking fee* (seated)



GA

MOVE-GLUASAD

Sun 2 February, 7:30pm
From £13.75
incl. booking fee* (seated)



IN

**HIBOU
AND SUPPORT**

Wed 29 January, 8:30pm
From £9.90 incl. booking fee*
(standing)



IN

**DADDY LONG LEGS
AND SUPPORT**

Fri 31 January, 8:30pm
From £14.30 incl. booking fee*
(standing)



IN

**FROM NIGHT 'TIL MORNING
- A LAST NIGHT FROM
GLASGOW SHOWCASE**

Fri 24 January, 8pm
From £16.50 incl. booking fee*
(seated & standing)



IN JA FU

**JEFF PARKER (TORTOISE)
& THE NEW BREEDS
AND SUPPORT**

Sat 25 January, 8pm
From £19.25 incl. booking fee*
(seated & standing)

DRYGATE**HAZY RECOLLECTIONS**

Sun 19 & 26 January, 2:00pm
From £14.30 incl. booking fee*

Sunday 19:

Ryan Joseph Burns, Scarlett Randle, Tannara, Siv Jakobsen

Sunday 26:

Hö-rò, Megan D, Randolph's Leap, Between Brothers

BUY TICKETS
celticconnections.com

THE FESTIVAL CLUB

THE ART SCHOOL | 10:30PM - LATE

Fridays & Saturdays from £11.00 incl. booking fee*, Sundays from £5.00 (no booking fee)

The gigs may be over for the evening but the after-party is just beginning. Every weekend during the festival, The Art School will host our after-gig celebration, with musicians and fans alike gathering for a late-night jam session. Line-ups are only revealed on the night, so you never know who you might encounter, doing a rare solo set or having a jam in the bar at the Festival Club.

- Friday 17 January
- Saturday 18 January
- Friday 24 January
- Saturday 25 January
- Sunday 26 January
- Thursday 30 January
- Friday 31 January
- Saturday 1 February
- Sunday 2 February

LATE NIGHT SESSIONS

DRYGATE | 11:00PM - LATE

From £8.80 incl. booking fee* (seated & standing)

Those seeking a relaxed evening away from the raucous atmosphere of the Festival Club will enjoy our Late Night Sessions at Drygate Brewery. Throughout the festival, these sessions offer line-ups featuring just as many talented musicians as the main Festival Club, and the bar will be open late. Be sure to get there early to secure a seat.

- Friday 17 January
- Saturday 18 January
- Thursday 23 January
- Friday 24 January
- Saturday 25 January
- Thursday 30 January
- Friday 31 February
- Saturday 1 February

For a more intimate experience, make sure you check out the House of Song, hosted with the TMSA. Nestled away in the Holiday Inn (Glasgow Theatreland), this calm and warm session is just across the road from the Concert Hall.

Friday 17 – Sunday 19 January: hosted by Natalie Chalmers

Thursday 23 – Sunday 26 January: hosted by Amy Lord

Thursday 30 January – Sunday 2 February: hosted by Scott Gardiner

BREW & A BLETHER

MACKINTOSH AT THE WILLOW | 1:00PM

TUESDAY 21 | THURSDAY 23 | TUESDAY 28 | THURSDAY 30 JANUARY

From £11.00 incl. booking fee* (seated)

Enjoy tea and good company amidst the stunning surroundings of one of Scotland's architectural masterpieces, as our hosts chat to some of this year's festival artists in the Mackintosh at the Willow Tea Rooms. This is a rare opportunity for audience members to learn more about their favourite performers, as hosts **Rachel Sermanni** (Tuesday 21), **Kim Carnie** (Tuesday 28) and **Adam Sutherland** (Thursday 23 & 30), skilfully guide the conversation. So sip your brew and enjoy a wee treat, while their guests share stories and talk about their music, their inspiration, and their lives.

TALKS

WATERSTONES SAUCHIEHALL STREET

JOCK'S JOCKS: BEHIND THE SCENES WITH GARY WEST

Tues 21 January, 5:30pm

From £6.60 incl. booking fee* (seated)

DOVE TALES: HOME FRONT

Wed 29 January, 5:30pm

From £6.60 incl. booking fee* (seated)

THERE'S ALWAYS THE HILLS: A LIFETIME OF BOOKS AND WILD PLACES WITH CAMERON MCNEISH

Wed 22 Jan, 5:30pm

From £6.60 incl. booking fee* (seated)

BBC SCOTLAND

BBC Scotland is delighted to be at the heart of the festival again in 2020 with programmes from Cottiers Theatre and City Halls.

Celtic Connections will feature on the BBC Scotland channel for the first time with two special programmes featuring some of the best of the festival recorded at Cottiers Theatre.

BBC Radio Scotland will be recording many of the station's popular music programmes at Cottier's Theatre during the week of 19 January.

Tickets for the Cottiers events will be free and available from early January on the BBC Shows and Tours website. Keep up to date with the latest information about these events by registering your interest at

www.bbc.co.uk/showsandtours/



CELTIC CONNECTIONS CEILIDH DANCES

MARYHILL COMMUNITY CENTRAL HALLS | 8:00PM

From £15.40 incl. booking fee* (standing)

Get ready to reel. With music performed by some Scotland's best dance bands, our Celtic Connections Ceilidhs are a fantastic way to enter into the festival spirit, accompanied by wonderful music. So take your partner and give it lalady on the dancefloor.

Saturday 18 January: Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band

Saturday 25 January: RSCDS Ceilidh with Martainn Skene Scottish Band

Saturday 1 February: Cask Strength Ceilidh Band

COME & TRY WORKSHOPS

BOOK ONLINE AT celticconnections.com

OR CALL GRCH Box Office: 0141 353 8000

ANY QUESTIONS please visit celticconnections.com/FAQ

The Celtic Connections programme of workshops is designed to inspire people of all ability levels to get involved in traditional music. Please book early to avoid disappointment as numbers are limited and workshops often sell out. Suitable for adults and children over the age of 12, unless otherwise stated.

The Rough Guide to Ability Levels:

Come&Try: if you have always wanted to have a go but have never had the chance or the confidence. Instruments will be provided.

Beginners: those who have just started learning an instrument and who know the basics.

Improvers/Players: if you have been playing for over a year and are ready for the next level. Please bring your instrument with you.

YOUNGER PARTICIPANTS

GRCH: City of Music Studio

Sunday 19 January, £8.80 incl. booking fee per ticket (child or adult)*

MOON DRAGON (Under 5's)

10.30am – 11.15am, 12.30pm – 1.15pm
& 3pm – 3.45pm

Bertie the Moon Dragon is having a terrible day! However, all is not yet lost, as with the help of the audience and some wonderful characters to help him, Bertie can ensure the night will be saved, and all can return just as it should be. This original preschool production, extended to incorporate some extra new characters since its 2019 Fringe sell-out run, is a must for under 5's this Festival. The audience interacts throughout the show with lights, dressing up and lots of percussion to add to the magic of the story. Something for the whole family to enjoy. An original story and music by Rachel Huggins and Corrina Hewat
www.dragonsongproductions.co.uk

MOON DRAGON (Under 1's)

11.30am – 12.15pm & 2pm – 2.45pm

This interactive show, written especially for babes in arms tells the story of Bertie the Moon Dragon who misses his cue to send the Moon up high into the night sky. With the help of our young audience, some very chatty owls, and the most magnificent unicorn ever to have been seen in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, can we all pull together to save the night? This show is extremely interactive with all our senses being explored. The audience will be playing a range of percussion, using sensory materials and celebrating their first live theatre experience. An original story and music by Rachel Huggins and Corrina Hewat

www.dragonsongproductions.co.uk

WEEKEND ONE Saturday 18 January

Coastal Waters Gaelic Song Workshop: 'Gaelic Song as an Introduction to Gaelic Language' *Scottish Music Centre*

10am – 1pm & 2pm – 4pm Sat 18 Jan & 10am – 1pm Sun 19 Jan £11.00 incl. booking fee*

Learn traditional Gaelic song in a two-day workshop led by leading exponents from the Uists; **Paul McCallum**, **Kathleen MacInnes**, **Gillebride MacMillan** and **Linda MacLeod**. Directed by **Allan Henderson**, this two-day workshop will also introduce you to the historical context for the repertoire and is brought to you by Lews Castle College UHI, deliverers of music and Gaelic Further and Higher Education courses in the Hebrides. This workshop is supported by the Gaelic Language Promotion Trust. Open to all.

One ticket covers Saturday 18th Jan 10-1pm & 2-4pm plus Sunday 19th Jan 10-1pm.

Coastal Waters Stories with Heather Yule *Scottish Music Centre*

2pm – 3:30pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee*

Following last year's successful storytelling workshop, **Heather Yule** will explore themes of coastal landscape and discover the strange and magical creatures who make their home in these watery kingdoms. The coasts, lochs and rivers form a vital role in the traditional culture of Scotland and therefore can be found running throughout our rich legacy of stories, songs and music. Come along and learn to tell some of these amazing tales and gather some ideas of how to weave the stories with tunes and songs.

Come & Try Bodhran with Cormac Byrne *City Halls: Studio One*

2pm – 3:30pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee*

By popular demand, **Cormac Byrne** is back, happy to lead you through the basics of the bodhran demonstrating the techniques to get you started. Have you wanted to try but never had the time, the courage or the instrument? There will be bodhrans available for all ticket holders, but please book early as there are limited places.

Big Slow Session 'Tunes of the Sea' with Nigel Gatherer *City Halls: Recital Room*

4:30pm – 6pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee*

Nigel Gatherer will lead you through possibly one of the biggest slow sessions you'll ever attend! If you've been playing your instrument for at least a year and would like to join in with others, then this workshop is for you. All instruments are warmly encouraged: fiddles, mandolins, whistles, accordions, harps, ukuleles, et al. Come and learn some fine ocean-related tunes to set you right for the evening!

Bodhran for Improvers/Players with Cormac Byrne *City Halls: Studio One*

4:30pm – 6pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee*

One of the regular tutors at the world famous 'Craiceann' International Bodhrán festival in Ireland, **Cormac Byrne** will spend time strengthening your technique and style to ensure you have a good foundation for your development. This workshop is for those of you who have done a workshop before, or have a few rhythms, but would like to learn more in a relaxed, fun environment.

Come & Try Ukulele with Finlay Allison *City Halls: Studio Two*

4:30pm – 6pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee*

Try making music on the neatest wee instrument that's taking the world by storm! **Finlay Allison** from Glasgow Folk-music Workshop will teach you to play the ukulele in one sitting - and you don't even need a ukulele! Come with no experience at all and you'll go out as a player! There's no easier way to get started. Hurry though! These fun and motivational workshops have sold out every year. No previous musical experience required (Bring your own or ukuleles supplied.)

Sunday 19 January

Coastal Waters Gaelic Song Workshop: 'Gaelic Song as an Introduction to Gaelic Language' *Scottish Music Centre*

10am – 1pm, continuation of Sat 18 workshop.

Come & Try Fiddle with Daniel Thorpe *GRCH: Exhibition Hall*

10:30am – 12pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee*

Come and have a go on a fiddle with Young Trad Musician finalist **Daniel Thorpe** of the Glasgow Fiddle Workshop guiding you through the basics of the instrument in a slow and methodical manner. Daniel has plenty of experience (and thankfully lots of patience!) and fiddles already tuned will be provided so you are sure to enjoy the experience.

Come & Try Whistle with Kim Richards *GRCH: Lomond Foyer*

10:30am – 12pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee*

An opportunity to be taken through the basics of this versatile, portable and user-friendly instrument with tutor **Kim Richards**. You will be given the chance to learn a simple Scottish tune or two, in a welcoming, friendly and supportive environment. You never know, this could be the start of a wonderful whistle playing journey! Whistles will be provided.

Come & Try Clarsach with Heather Yule *City Halls: Recital Room*

11am – 12:30pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee*

From the Clarsach Society, **Heather Yule** will show you simple techniques to enable you to play something beautiful on the harp in this fun workshop. Come and learn how wonderful the harp is! Harps will be provided (please bring your own if you have one) but make sure to book early as this workshop sells out extremely fast.

Women's Samba with Big Groove *City Halls: Studio One*

11am – 12:30pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee*

This workshop for women returns with the skillful **Helen Carmichael** from **Big Groove Promotions**, who will turn a group of wannabe drummers into a samba band in 90 minutes. Would you like a chance to be in a samba band and hit big bass surdos, tom-tom drums, melodic cow and agogo bells and thwack snappy tambourims? All drums provided!

Bodhran for Ensemble with Cormac Byrne *City Halls: Studio Two*

11am – 12:30pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee*

With lots of world rhythms mixed with traditional rhythms, the award-winning bodhran player **Cormac Byrne** has agreed to take his popular group-playing workshop to Celtic Connections for another year. This creates a mighty sound you'll love being involved with! He caters for all levels of player/non-player in this group, so don't be shy – come and join in. A limited number of bodhrans will be provided but be sure to book early.

Come & Try Djembe with Allan Hughes *City Halls: Club Room*

11am – 12:30pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee*

The Djembe originates from West Africa and has risen in popularity with musicians all over the world. **Allan Hughes** will show you how to get the most out of the drum, with basic solid patterns to develop hand coordination and rhythmic improvement. A limited number of drums will be provided but please bring your own if you have one. And early booking is recommended to ensure you get a drum.

Fiddle for Beginners with Daniel Thorpe *GRCH: Exhibition Hall*

1:30pm – 3pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee*

If you have started the fiddle, maybe recently or you haven't picked it up for years, then this is the workshop for you. Let **Daniel Thorpe** lead you through the basics again, teaching you a simple tune or two and restoring the magic of your musical journey. If you have your own instrument please bring it, although instruments will be provided. All tunes will be taught by ear.

Whistle for Beginners with Kim Richards
1:30pm – 3pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee*
GRCH: Lomond Foyer

If you have started learning the whistle and want a chance to learn some more then this is the workshop for you. The tutor **Kim Richards** will take you through the fundamentals of the instrument concentrating on some Scottish tunes in a welcoming, friendly and supportive environment. Whistles are provided to use in the workshop if you don't have your own.

Kids Come & Try Samba Drumming (4-7 years) with Big Groove City Halls: Studio One
1:30pm – 2:10pm, £4.00, no booking fee*
Bang on a drum, strike a cowbell or thwack a tambourim - all good noisy fun! Why don't you join this lively, popular workshop with Helen Carmichael from **Big Groove** Promotions as she introduces some simple rhythms and grooves? (Parents must remain with the children but only children need a ticket.) Please note this is a 40-minute workshop.

Clarsach for Beginners with Heather Yule
City Halls: Recital Room
1:30pm – 3pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee*
From the Clarsach Society, **Heather Yule** will develop your technical skill from the very basics. In this relaxed and fun workshop, you will learn how wonderful the harp can be! Harps will be provided but please bring your own if you have one. Please book early as numbers are limited and demand is high.

Spoons for All with Cormac Byrne City Halls: Studio Two
1:30pm – 3pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee*
The rhythm wizard **Cormac Byrne** will have you exploring a variety of techniques with the spoons in this ever-popular workshop. Regardless of what level of learning you feel you're at, or that you may have never tried them before, the joy of playing alongside Cormac in a supportive group with household implements, cannot be bettered. Spoons will be provided if you forget to raid the kitchen before you come along.

Djembe for Beginners with Allan Hughes
City Halls: Club Room
1:30pm – 3pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee*
Allan Hughes will show you how to get the most out of the drum, demonstrating solid patterns to continue your development of hand coordination and rhythm on this powerful instrument. A limited number of drums will be provided but please bring your own if you have one. Come and enjoy playing in a group situation with other djembe players for a joyous 90 minutes.

Kids Come & Try Samba Drumming (8-12 years) with Big Groove City Halls: Studio One
2:30pm – 3:10pm, £4.00, no booking fee*
Helen Carmichael from **Big Groove** Promotions will lead you through the samba groove. There will be the opportunity to try out two different percussion instruments during the session and we will have a complete samba tune by the end of the workshop. Bang on a drum, strike a cowbell or thwack a tambourim - all good noisy fun! (Parents must remain with the children but only children need a ticket). Please note this is a 40-minute workshop.

All Age Samba Band (ages 8 - adult) with Big Groove City Halls: Studio One
3:30pm – 5pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee*
Join Helen Carmichael from **Big Groove** Promotions as she turns a group of wannabe drummers into a samba band in 90 minutes. Provided for you: big bass surdos, tom-tom drums, melodic cow and agogo bells and thwack tambourims. Players will get the opportunity to try different pieces of percussion. By the end we'll be beating out a funky samba tune. Come and join the noise! (Note: this is not suitable for children aged under 8 and parents must remain with any children aged under 13).

WEEKEND TWO Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 January

Trad Strings Masterclass with Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Hass GRCH: Exhibition Hall
10am – 3:30pm (doors open 9.45am)
£75.00 incl. booking fee* (one ticket gains entry to both days) For players of violin, viola, cello and string bass.
Alasdair Fraser and **Natalie Haas** have a tradition now of holding their two-day Trad Music Workshop / Masterclass for intermediate to advanced string players in Celtic Connections. Based on the fiddle music of Scotland and beyond, the Trad Strings Weekend Masterclass is for players of violin, viola, cello and string bass. Although the weekend is aimed at adult players, teenagers are most welcome.
The goal is to explore playing traditional music in a group with emphasis on arrangement ideas and the techniques that give traditional music its particular flavour. Using elements of language and dance, fiddle tunes and arrangement ideas work together to form a larger medley. All music will be taught by ear but music will be provided to take away. Daniel Thorpe (fiddle) and Trish Strain (cello) will be assistant tutors, on hand to make sure that all ability levels are covered.
If you need more information about the Trad Strings event, or are unsure about your ability level, please visit celticconnections.com/workshopFAQ

Ukulele School with Finlay Allison
GRCH: City of Music Studio, 10am – 3:30pm
£65.00 incl. booking fee* (one ticket gains entry to both days)
Celtic Connections Ukulele School streaks into 2020 with a programme of skills, techniques and songs to take your ukulele learning to a higher level! This two-day school, for players who can strum a handful of chords, will transform your playing, consolidating what you half-know and inspiring you to new heights.
Finlay Allison, one of Scotland's top ukulele tutors, will take you through two days of fun, music and laughter. Scottish, Pop, Rockabilly, Jazz, Rock, Country and Blues will be the flavours you'll taste in this popular ukulele weekend. There's no end to the potential waiting to be revealed as you improve your skills and confidence. You'll be shocked at how good you are becoming!
If you need more information about the Ukulele School or are unsure of your ability level, please visit celticconnections.com/workshopFAQ or email **Finlay** at finlay60@me.com

There will be a mass play of all the strings and participants on the main staircase inside the Concert Hall at the end of Sunday 26th from 4-4.30pm approx. A fun way to end the weekend! You are welcome to invite your friends and family along to hear what you have achieved.

WEEKEND THREE CELTIC CONNECTIONS SONG SCHOOL – Saturday 1 February

Sunday 2nd Feb will finish with each of the afternoon's groups sharing a song in a mass group sing on the main staircase inside the Concert Hall at 3.30-4pm approx. You are welcome to invite your friends and family along to hear what you have achieved.

Bluegrass Masterclass with Sierra Hull GRCH: Exhibition Hall
10:30am – 12pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee*
Three-time winner of the IBMA Mandolin Player of the Year Award and co-founder of the First Ladies of Bluegrass, **Sierra Hull** will dig deep into the essential techniques needed to play any form of acoustic music on the mandolin. This workshop will explore the repertoire of traditional Bluegrass, Folk and American music while later diving into the world of creating original compositions.

Sangs o' Place with Christine Kydd**GRCH: Clyde Foyer****10:30am – 12pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee***

In this workshop you'll get a wee flavour of the diversity of Scotland, songs in Scots from various points on the map, taught by Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame member **Christine Kydd**, whose workshops are always fun and interesting.

Come & Try Puirt with Joy Dunlop**GRCH: Lomond Foyer****10:30am – 12pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee***

Have you always wanted to try Gaelic singing? If so, here's your chance to come and learn some Gaelic puirt à beul (mouth music) with Mòd Gold Medalist and multi-prize-winning Gaelic singer **Joy Dunlop**. No previous experience of Gaelic or singing necessary - just a 'have a go' attitude! Participants will receive paper copies of all material covered but feel free to take a small recording device/dictaphone along with you as it always helps to remember the rhythm of the words after the workshop is over!

Rounds and Rounds with Corrina Hewat**GRCH: City of Music Studio****10:30am – 12pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee***

Come and join **Corrina Hewat** in singing through a choice selection of rounds, tongue-twisters, silly songs, fun and quick to learn. With her work with the vocal trios; Shine, Chantan and GHP, she has 20 years of honing her practice and can deftly craft harmony and rhythm in to have everyone singing confidently together.

Beginning to Beatbox with Bigg Taj**GRCH: Exhibition Hall****1:30pm – 3pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee***

Bigg Taj is the original Indian Beatboxer, at the forefront of the Asian hip hop movement. In this workshop he will take you through the basics of beatboxing. Through demonstration he will run through all the sounds he produces with his mouth and give you a chance to try out your beatboxing skills. With the help of a loop station, you'll collectively have a jam!

Lullabies with Christina Stewart**GRCH: Clyde Foyer****1:30pm – 3pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee***

Captivating sleepsongs for singers, parents, carers and insomniacs from Scotland's varied tradition and folk heritage. **Christina Stewart** will lead songs in Scottish dialect and English, with some very accessible songs in Gaelic, too, entirely suitable for non-Gaelic-speakers. While this is a workshop for singers, participants are welcome to bring a baby.

Gaelic Songs for All with Joy Dunlop**GRCH: Lomond Foyer****1:30pm – 3pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee***

Have you always wanted to try Gaelic singing? If so, why not come and learn some of Mòd Gold Medalist, **Joy Dunlop's** favourite Gaelic songs from her home in Argyll. No previous experience of Gaelic or singing is necessary - Joy will ensure the group goes at an easy pace to ensure everyone gets as much out of it as possible. Words will be available to take away but feel free to take a small recording device along with you.

Chorus Songs with Corrina Hewat**GRCH: City of Music Studio****1:30pm – 3pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee***

Come and sing some chorus songs in a few different ways with **Corrina Hewat**. Working within a variety of vocal groups and larger choirs has given Corrina a good grounding in vocal practice and arrangement skills. Let's sing some good solid Scottish songs, with a range of subject matter and melodies and a wide variety of harmony choice allowing ourselves some time to enjoy voices coming together in a rousing chorus or two.

Sunday 2 February

Sing Gospel with Chris Judge**GRCH: Exhibition Hall****10:30am – 12pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee***

Chris Judge, founder and director of Soul Nation Choir www.soulnationchoir.com, will lead this workshop of Gospel song. It will be focussed on a fun warm up, harmonies and confidence building performance tips. His ease with vocal blending helps the relaxed atmosphere, inviting you to do as little or as much as you want. His work on tv/radio has helped his effortless way in enabling large groups to sing to their very best.

Blues and Improvisation Workshop with Sophie Bancroft**GRCH: Clyde Foyer****10:30am – 12pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee***

Be prepared to let yourself go a little, as you come and learn some jazz blues, even some scatting and trading 4's. Much fun, laughter and dwee-bopping to be had in this very inclusive, comfortable musical space which is created by jazz vocalist, songwriter and vocal educator **Sophie Bancroft**.

Scots Sangs o' Land & Sea with Amy Lord**GRCH: Lomond Foyer****10:30am – 12pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee***

Learn and sing together a broad selection of Scots' songs about this country's beautiful lands and tumultuous seas. Songs will cover both work and play within this subject and will include simple harmony lines. The workshop will be taught by ear, with lyrics and Scots translations available too. The workshop is led by **Amy Lord**, who works with choirs, community groups and schools all over Scotland, teaching Scots song and language.

Songwriting Masterclass with Sierra Hull**GRCH: City of Music Studio****10:30am – 12pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee***

In this workshop, **Sierra Hull** will discuss her creative process, breaking down the techniques used when composing original music including lyrics, melody, form, harmony and rhythm. Her 2016 album *Weighted Mind* - featured guest turns by Krauss, Béla Fleck, Rhiannon Giddens and Abigail Washburn.

Gospel Soul with Chris Judge**GRCH: Exhibition Hall****1:30pm – 3pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee***

Let **Chris Judge** demonstrate the versatility and fun that can be had when singing in a large choir and show you the ways of the Soul Nation Choir. He'll be teaching one of their favourite songs to you all with the aim of performing this on the Main Staircase informal concert at the end of the workshop. Come and share your voice in this uplifting mass choir to end the afternoon in style!

Songs with Jazz Harmony with Sophie Bancroft**GRCH: Clyde Foyer****1:30pm – 3pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee***

A fun and inspiring workshop that combines simple songs learnt by ear with the lush harmonies and rhythms found in jazz. Led by jazz vocalist, songwriter and vocal educator **Sophie Bancroft** you'll be surprised at how versatile your voice can be. Enjoy an hour and a half of jazz harmony under the careful guidance of a masterful, well-loved teacher.

Scots Sangs o' Luve - In Harmony with Amy Lord**GRCH: Lomond Foyer****1:30pm – 3pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee***

Come and sing harmonies to a selection of beautiful Scottish love songs, covering both the exhilarating highs, dark lows and glowing warmth that love can bring, through the lyrics of some of Scotland's best traditional song writers. Taught by **Amy Lord**, this fun, inclusive workshop will draw on Scotland's rich sphere of traditional Scots-language song. Songs and harmonies will be taught by ear with lyrics available.

Oor Story with Christine Kydd**GRCH: City of Music Studio****1:30pm – 3pm, £11.00 incl. booking fee***

Oor Story- Sangs o work, play an co-operation. The Peoples' Sangs - on the land, the sea, in the mills, come and learn and sing o the struggles and joys o workin fowk. Sangster **Christine Kydd** presents a variety o sangs from the tradition, as well as contemporary sources.

DANNY KYLE'S OPEN STAGE

THE TALENT OF TOMORROW, TODAY!

GRCH: EXHIBITION HALL,

STARTS SUNDAY 19 JANUARY | DAILY, 5PM

The Danny Kyle Open Stage is a series of concerts held over the course of the festival that allows emerging musical talent to take part in Celtic Connections. From all the performers on the Open Stage, six will be chosen to display their talents in a showcase concert on the final night (Sunday 2 February), and receive the opportunity to perform in support slots at next year's festival.

Danny Kyle was a passionate supporter of Scottish traditional music, and campaigned tirelessly for its revival in Scotland. His close friend **Liz Clark** comperes the concerts in his memory, and the concerts have a reputation for drawing attention to acts that are now household names, including Karine Polwart and RURA. Check celticconnections.com for more information and details on how to enter. All of the Danny Kyle Open Stage concerts throughout the festival are absolutely free!

CELTIC CONNECTIONS SHOWCASE SCOTLAND

WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY – SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY

Showcase Scotland is established as the country's leading international music industry gathering. Alongside an extensive range of shows by Scottish musicians, for 2020 we have partnered with Finland to showcase their unique musical landscape. In many ways, Finland is like Scotland: a small Northern country with a big musical heart. Open-minded crossings of musical borders, courageous experimentation with styles, and a rich cultural history have all contributed to the soundscape of Finnish folk music today.

"Partnership with Showcase Scotland at the 2020 anniversary edition is a great honour. In Glasgow, we are proud to present a wide spectrum of Finnish musical traditions from West, East and North, from the unique vocal tradition of the indigenous Sami people to virtuoso fiddling, and from the crisp sound of kantele to exuberant accordion tones. We invite you to discover it all with your own ears – 'tervetuloa', as we say in Finnish."

Henna Salo - Export Manager, Music Finland

MERCHANT CITY TRAD TRAIL

The vibrant history of Glasgow's folk scene can be traced through the city's streets, bars and musical venues, and the hugely popular Merchant City Trad Trail offers the chance to explore some of those landmarks. Organised by Glasgow City Music Tours, these two-hour walks are specially designed for Celtic Connections and take in historic pubs where legendary sessions took place, as well as the hang-outs of contemporary headliners.

In the company of expert guides, you'll hear tales of the songwriters and storytellers who shaped Glasgow's folk and roots tradition. The tour will explore time-worn streets, but also include plenty of indoor stops, and the chance to warm up with a cup of coffee (or something stronger).

- Please note, this tour has one venue which is not wheelchair accessible.
- All tours start from Scottish Music Centre, Candleriggs, G1 1NQ
- Tours last approx. 2 hours
- Max. 28 tickets on sale per tour

From £19.80 incl. booking fee*

Friday 17 January: 2pm

Saturday 18 January: 11am & 2pm

Sunday 19 January: 2pm

Friday 24 January: 11am & 2pm

Saturday 25 January: 11am & 2pm

Sunday 26 January: 2pm

Friday 31 January: 11am & 2pm

Saturday 1 February: 11am & 2pm

Contact: info@glasgowmusiccitytours.com

Tel: 07803 204 563

BUY TICKETS
CELTICCONNECTIONS.COM

HOW TO BOOK

online

celticconnections.com

phone

0141 353 8000

in person

Glasgow Royal Concert Hall
2 Sauchiehall Street
Glasgow G2 3NY

Some concerts are seated and some are standing, this will be indicated beside the price on the relevant page. Ask our box office team about the chance to buy Premium Seats for concerts in the Main Auditorium.

City Halls & Old Fruitmarket
Candleriggs
Glasgow G1 1NQ

Opening Times

online

24 hours, 7 days a week

phone lines

Monday – Saturday: 10am–6pm
Sunday: opening times vary

box office counter

Monday – Saturday: 10am–6pm
Sunday: opening times vary
(longer opening hours apply on concert evenings)

For the 2020 festival, our Box Office will apply a 10% booking fee per ticket (for tickets above £5) to cover the costs incurred in the booking, payment processing, and printing of tickets. A transaction charge of £2.75 applies to all phone bookings and £2.50 to all online bookings. No transaction fee applies to tickets booked in person. Additional fees may apply if tickets are booked via a third party.

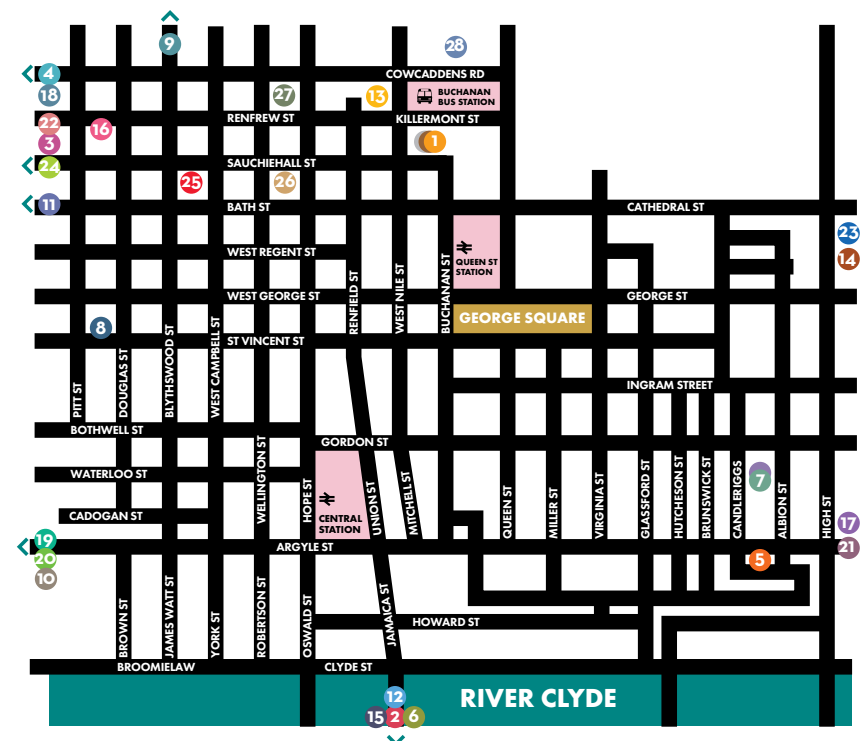
Please note that all under 14s are to be accompanied by an adult in Glasgow Life venues (Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, City Halls, Old Fruitmarket, Mitchell Theatre, Tramway, Kelvingrove Museum), as well as O2 Academy, Tron Theatre, CCA, the National Piping Centre, The Mackintosh Church, Platform, RCS, Waterstones, Langside Church and Mackintosh at the Willow.

Saint Luke's, Barrowland Ballroom and Òran Mór are all over 14s only and under 16s should be accompanied by an adult.

Drygate Brewery are over 14s only and under 18s should be accompanied by an adult over 18.

SWG3, The Hug and Pint, The Blue Arrow, King Tut's Wah Wah Hut, Broadcast, Maryhill Community Central Halls and The Glad Café are all over 18s only.

The Festival Club, Ceilidhs and Late Night Sessions are for over 18s only. Limited Door sales at each venue on the night, subject to availability. All details were correct at time of printing, but may be subject to change.



1 Glasgow Royal Concert Hall
(Main Auditorium, Strathclyde Suite & New Auditorium)
2 Sauchiehall Street, G2 3NY
0141 353 8000
www.glasgowconcert halls.com

2 O2 Academy
121 Eglinton St, G5 9NT
0141 418 3000
www.academymusicgroup.com/
o2academyglasgow/

3 CCA
350 Sauchiehall Street, G2 3JD
0141 352 4900
www.cca-glasgow.com

4 Òran Mór
Byres Road, G12 8QX
0141 357 6200
www.oran-mor.co.uk

5 Tron Theatre
63 Trongate, G1 5HB
0141 552 3748
www.tron.co.uk

6 Tramway
25 Albert Drive, G41 2PE
0845 330 3501
www.tramway.org

7 City Halls & Old Fruitmarket
(City Halls, Old Fruitmarket, Recital Room)
Candleriggs, G1 1NQ
0141 353 8000
www.glasgowconcert halls.com

8 King Tut's Wah Wah Hut
272A St Vincent St, G2 5RL
0141 221 5279
www.kingtuts.co.uk

9 The Mackintosh Church
870 Garscube Road, G20 7EL
0141 946 6600
www.mackintoshchurch.com

10 Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum
Argyle Street, G3 8AG
0141 276 9599
www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums/
venues/kelvingrove-art-gallery-and-museum

11 The Mitchell Theatre
3 Granville Street, G3 7EE
0141 287 2999
www.glasgowlife.org.uk

12 Langside Church
167 Ledard Rd, G42 9QU
0141 632 7520
www.higlasgow.co.uk

13 Holiday Inn
Glasgow Theatreland
161 West Nile Street, G1 2RL
0141 352 8300
www.higlasgow.com

14 Drygate Brewery
85 Drygate, G4 OUT
0141 212 8815
www.drygate.com

15 The Glad Café
1006a Pollokshaws Road,
G41 2HG
0141 636 6119
www.thegladcafe.co.uk

16 The Art School
20 Scott Street, G3 6PE
0141 552 8378
www.theartschool.co.uk

17 Saint Luke's
17 Bain Street, G40 2JZ
0141 552 8378
www.stlukesglasgow.com

18 The Hug and Pint
171 Great Western Rd, G4 9AW
0141 353 8000
www.thehugandpint.com

19 Maryhill Community Central Halls
292-316 Maryhill Rd, G20 7YE
0141 357 5399

20 SWG3
100 Eastvale Pl, G3 8QG
www.swg3.tv

21 The Barrowland Ballroom
244 Gallowgate, G4 OTT
0141 552 4601
www.glasgow-barrowland.com

22 The Blue Arrow Club
323 Sauchiehall St, G2 3HW
0141 353 8000
www.thebluearrow.co.uk

23 Platform
1000 Westerhouse Rd, G34 9JW
0141 276 9696
www.platform-online.co.uk

24 Broadcast
427 Sauchiehall St, G2 3LG
0141 332 7304
www.broadcastglasgow.com

25 Mackintosh at the Willow
217 Sauchiehall Street, G2 3EX
141 204 1903
www.mackintoshatthewillow.com

26 Waterstones
153-157 Sauchiehall St, G2 3EW
0141 332 9105
www.waterstones.com

27 Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
100 Renfrew St, G2 3DB
0141 332 4101
www.rcs.ac.uk

28 Glasgow Caledonian University
Students Association Building, 70
Cowcaddens Road, G4 0BA
0141 331 3000
www.gcu.ac.uk



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