

**EDINBURGH
INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL**

**PLAIN TEXT
BROCHURE**

1 – 24 AUGUST 2025

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WELCOME

We hope you find this plain text version of the Edinburgh International Festival brochure useful. It has the key listings information about all of the shows and events included in the 2025 Festival.

You can find further access information, including information about Festival venues, in the Access Guide and other our website.

This brochure and the Access Guide is available in standard, large print, braille and plain text version.

CONTACT US

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HOW TO BOOK

Online: eif.co.uk

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**In Person: Edinburgh International Festival Box Office,
The Hub, Castlehill, Edinburgh, EH1 2NE**

Ticket prices are inclusive of fees, except for events at the Edinburgh Playhouse, where a £1.75 theatre restoration levy charge will be applied to each ticket. In line with our commitment to environmental sustainability, we encourage you to choose electronic tickets, however, if you choose to receive your tickets by post a £3 charge will be applied.

This fee will not apply to Access Pass members who require printed tickets as an access requirement.

CONCESSION PRICING

D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent people are eligible for a 50% concession on full-price tickets. Anyone who requires an Essential Companion can claim one free ticket with one paid ticket.

Guided by the Social Model of Disability, we recognise that D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent people experience increased barriers due to systemic inequalities in society. Some people may experience these barriers even if they do not identify as disabled. Our goal is to remove as many barriers as possible so that everyone can positively experience the Festival.

The DDN concession is not available for tickets purchased through a multi-buy offer.

TICKET EXCHANGES AND REFUNDS

No refunds will be given except in the event of cancellation of a performance. Tickets may be exchanged up to 48 hours before a performance, for another performance of the same show, subject to availability. A £1.50 fee per ticket exchanged will be charged. Ticket prices may vary from previously purchased prices.

TICKET PROTECTION

We have partnered with TicketPlan to offer optional ticket protection. This allows you to recoup 100% of the ticket price (including any fees) if you are unable to attend your event for any number of covered reasons, including illness, travel delays, adverse weather conditions and more. For more information, please visit ticketplangroup.com/eifrefundpromise

Refund Protection is an optional service offered by Edinburgh International Festival and administered by TicketPlan. It is not an insurance policy.

TELEPHONE BOOKING

20–26 March (Ambassadors and Friends only)

Monday to Friday 12noon – 4pm

Saturday and Sunday closed

27 March – 29 July

Monday to Friday 12noon – 4pm

Saturday and Sunday closed

30 July – 24 August

Monday to Sunday 10am – 8pm

IN-PERSON BOOKINGS AT THE HUB

14 March – 29 July

By appointment only, contact boxoffice@eif.co.uk or

+44 (0) 131 473 2056

30 July – 24 August

Monday to Sunday, 12noon – 5pm

(open until show start time on performance nights at The Hub)

The Edinburgh International Festival Box Office is based at
The Hub, Castlehill, Edinburgh EH1 2NE.

Please visit eif.co.uk for more information

BSL VIDEO BOOKINGS WITH SIGNLIVE

We are working with SignLive to enable audiences to book tickets via an online BSL interpreting service. Download the SignLive app and find us listed in the SignLive Community Directory. For more information visit signlive.co.uk

OPERA

ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE

Christoph Willibald Gluck / Opera Queensland / Circa
Scottish Chamber Orchestra / Scottish Opera
Laurence Cummings / Yaron Lifschitz / Opera Australia

- 13, 15 August at 8pm; 16 August 3pm
- Audio Described 16 Aug
- 1 hour 20 minutes approximately, no interval
- Edinburgh Playhouse
- From £24

Heartbroken Orpheus has the chance to rescue his wife Eurydice from the underworld. But there's one condition: he mustn't look at her during their long journey home. Can he resist the temptation to gaze into his true love's eyes?

Contains strobe lighting, depictions of mental illness, partial nudity, fake blood and violence

Supported by James and Morag Anderson. Additional support from Vivienne and Robin Menzies

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

BOOK OF MOUNTAINS AND SEAS

Huang Ruo / Basil Twist
Ars Nova Copenhagen / Beth Morrison Projects

- 14–16 August 8pm
- Post-show talk 15 August
- Audio Described 16 August
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Lyceum

- From £12

Huang Ruo, one of the most exciting figures of contemporary opera, reimagines ancient Chinese myths, first transcribed in the fourth century BC, through the lens of today's environmental challenges. This 21st-century adaptation explores our complex relationship with the natural world, blending music, puppetry and mythology to reflect on humanity's role as caretakers of the Earth.

Sung in Mandarin and fictional language with English and Chinese surtitles

MOZART'S LA CLEMENZA DI TITO

London Symphony Orchestra
Opera in Concert

- 9 August 6pm
- 3hrs approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £22.50

Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito* takes you into ancient Rome, where Vitellia seeks revenge on Emperor Tito. Manipulation and assassination plots lead to the ultimate test of mercy and forgiveness. Maxim Emelyanychev and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Chorus return following last year's outstanding *Così fan tutte*.

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

PUCCINI'S SUOR ANGELICA

London Symphony Orchestra

Opera in Concert

- 16 August 7pm
- 2hrs approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £27.50

Encounter the tragic tale of a nun with a secret. Set in a 17th-century Italian convent, Giacomo Puccini's opera follows the story of Sister Angelica, whose search for peace is troubled by her past. Soprano Mané Galoyan is our protagonist, performing with the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sir Antonio Pappano. This performance is part of the London Symphony Orchestra residency.

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

Supported by Edinburgh International Festival Endowment Fund

THEATRE

MAKE IT HAPPEN

National Theatre of Scotland / Dundee Rep Theatre

James Graham / Andrew Panton

- Previews 30–31 July 7.30pm
- 1–8 August 7.30pm (excl. 3 Aug); 2, 6, 9 August 2.30pm
- Post-show talk 4 August
- BSL 5 August
- Audio Described 6 August 2.30pm
- Captioned 8 Aug
- 2hrs 10 minutes approximately, one interval
- Festival Theatre
- From £24

Behold the rise, fall and fail of the biggest bank in the world – The Royal Bank of Scotland. At the helm is Fred 'The Shred' Goodwin, armed with an unshakeable belief in the wisdom of the 'founder of modern capitalism', Adam Smith. Set in Edinburgh, Make It Happen sees legendary actor Brian Cox return to the Scottish stage for the first time in a decade.

In association with Playful Productions and Neal Street Productions

Contains strong language

Supported by Sir Ewan and Lady Brown

WORKS AND DAYS

FC Bergman / Toneelhuis

- 7–9 August 8pm; 10 August 3pm
- Post-show talk 8 August
- Audio Described 10 August

- 1 hour 10 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Lyceum
- From £12

Birth, life and death converge at the heart of this visually spectacular performance, as theatre collective FC Bergman seeks the truth about our place in the wider world. Their latest wordless piece blends stunning imagery, movement and music to explore our connection with the land we inhabit.

Contains loud noise, theatrical smoke, nudity, sexual themes, depictions of violence and fake blood

Supported by Sir Ewan and Lady Brown

FAUSTUS IN AFRICA!

Handspring Puppet Company / William Kentridge

- 20–23 August 7.30pm
- Post-show talk 21 August
- Captioned 22 August; Audio Described 23 August
- 2hrs 20 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Lyceum
- From £12

Would you strike a reckless deal with the devil for power, pleasure or profit? Faustus in Africa! reimagines the timeless tale of Faust's downfall, reframing it to confront the catastrophic costs of colonialism and the climate emergency.

Contains sexual imagery, depictions of violence and a needle extracting blood

CUTTING THE TIGHTROPE

- 14–17 August 7.30pm
- Post-show talk after every performance

- BSL 16 Aug; Captioned and Audio Described 17 Aug
- 2hrs approximately, one interval
- Church Hill Theatre
- From £25

A collection of political plays, *Cutting the Tightrope* delves into the ever-tightening grip of censorship on artistic freedom. This is an audacious exploration of the role of the arts in today's global conflicts and political resistance.

Contains themes of violence, including war and genocide, sexual assault and racism.

AS YOU LIKE IT: A RADICAL RETELLING

Crow's Theatre / Cliff Cardinal

- 20–23 August 8pm
- 1 hour 30 minutes approximately, no interval
- Church Hill Theatre
- From £25

Although Shakespeare's title promises something for everyone, cultural provocateur Cliff Cardinal has reimagined *As You Like It* as a play strictly for the open-minded. Bold, unapologetic and unafraid to tackle the thorny truths of our times, this audacious adaptation balances black humour with raw emotion. This is Shakespeare as the Bard never imagined.

Contains themes of war, colonisation, sexual violence, mass murder, suicide and strong language.

DANCE

MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS

Scottish Ballet / Sophie Laplane / James Bonas

- 15–16 August 7.30pm; 16 August 2.30pm; 17 August 3pm
- Post-show talk 16 August 2.30pm
- Audio Described 17 August
- 1 hour 50 minutes approximately, one interval
- Festival Theatre
- From £18

As her death approaches, Elizabeth I of England is haunted by memories – both real and imagined – of her cousin and rival, Mary, Queen of Scots. From the exceptional Scottish Ballet, Mary and Elizabeth's relationship inspires a rich and resonant journey through memory, history and myth.

Supported by Flure Grossart.

FIGURES IN EXTINCTION

Nederlands Dans Theater / Complicité

Simon McBurney / Cristal Pite

- 22–23 August 8pm; 23 August 2pm; 24 August 3pm
- Post-show talk 23 August 8pm
- Captioned 23 August 8pm
- Audio Described 24 Aug
- 2hrs 30 minutes approximately, two intervals
- Festival Theatre
- From £21

Fusing contemporary dance with striking soundscapes and dialogue, Nederlands Dans Theater and Complicité's Figures in Extinction calls

for unity in a fractured world, finding a collective spark of hope in the darkness.

Contains nudity, depictions of substance abuse and death.

THE DAN DAW SHOW

Dan Daw Creative Projects

- 2–4 August 8pm
- POST SHOW TALK 3 Aug
- Captioned & Relaxed 2–4 Aug;
- BSL 3 Aug
- Audio Described 4 Aug
- 1 hour 30 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Lyceum
- From £12

His whole life, the Australian disabled dancer Dan Daw has been told that he's 'brave' or 'an inspiration'. Now, he's turning the spotlight inward, to find his own truth through a subject that holds the power to both challenge and liberate: kink.

Contains flashing lights, loud noises, depictions of kink experiences (including suffocation, humiliation and dominance), sexually explicit imagery and language, and descriptions of feeling othered.

DANCE PEOPLE

Cie Omar Rajeh & Maqamat / Omar Rajeh / Mia Habis

- 7–10 August 8.30pm
- 1 hour 30 minutes approximately, no interval
- Old College Quad
- £30

Across France, Lebanon and the Arab region, Rajeh is acclaimed for his politically charged works, which merge movement with political

activism. As the performance unfolds, spectators are drawn into its orbit, moving from observers to participants. This promenade production blurs the boundary between stage and reality, making room for unexpected encounters and bold new forms.

BREAKING BACH

Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment / Kim Brandstrup

- 20 August 7.30pm
- 1 hour 10 minutes approximately, no interval
- Usher Hall
- From £30

Discover Johann Sebastian Bach from a fresh perspective in this world premiere where classical music meets hip hop and contemporary dance. The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, performing on 18th-century period instruments, is joined by a troupe of dancers whose new choreography brings Bach's music to life.

This performance will be filmed.

MUSIC AT USHER HALL

OPENING CONCERT: THE VEIL OF THE TEMPLE

Royal Scottish National Orchestra / Edinburgh Festival Chorus
Monteverdi Choir / National Youth Choir of Scotland

- 2 August 2.30pm
- 8hrs approximately, with intervals
- Usher Hall
- £30

Experience a day-to-night concert as Usher Hall transforms into a sanctuary for John Tavener's magnum opus, The Veil of the Temple. Written just over 20 years ago, it isn't only for religious listeners – Tavener composed it to unlock everyone's spiritual side.

Both beanbags & traditional seating are available for this concert.

Sung in English, Aramaic, Church Slavonic, Greek & Sanskrit with English surtitles.

Supported by James and Morag Anderson.

PROKOFIEV'S FIFTH SYMPHONY

NYO2 Residency

- 3 August 7.30pm
- 2hrs approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £12.50

The outstanding young American instrumentalists of NYO2, led by Venezuelan conductor Rafael Payare, present a thrilling programme. American cellist Alisa Weilerstein shines in Dmitri Shostakovich's gripping First Cello Concerto, followed by the triumphant optimism of Sergei Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony, composed in 1944 reflecting the turning tide of the Second World War.

FAMILY CONCERT

NY02 Residency

- 4 August 2pm
- BSL and CAP
- 1 hour approximately, no interval
- Usher Hall
- £10

Back due to popular demand, this special interactive introduction to classical music is perfect for children and their grown-ups. Worlds collide in this transatlantic musical journey, contrasting Scottish musical traditions with the sounds of America, performed by the inspirational young musicians of NY02.

Recommended for age 7–11 but suitable for all ages. All adults must be accompanied by a responsible child!

Supported by Dunard Fund.

BEST OF MONTEVERDI CHOIR

Monteverdi Choir / English Baroque Soloists

- 4 August 7.30pm
- 2hrs approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £22.50

The Monteverdi Choir and the English Baroque Soloists have been at the cutting edge of historically informed performance since their foundation over 60 years ago. With esteemed Baroque conductor Jonathan Sells, the Monteverdi Choir showcases enthralling works from their repertoire, featuring George Frideric Handel's Dixit Dominus, which imbues a sacred text with vivid emotional intensity.

Sung in English, German and Latin with English surtitles.

Supported by Dunard Fund.

HOLST'S THE PLANETS

London Philharmonic Orchestra

- 5 August 7.30pm
- 2hrs approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £22.50

Under principal conductor Edward Gardner, the London Philharmonic Orchestra returns to the Festival for the first time in a decade. The concert opens with Judith Weir's *Forest*, an enchanting work with a fairy-tale quality. Then, the prodigiously gifted pianist Beatrice Rana performs Sergei Rachmaninoff's inspired *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. Ending with a big bang, Gustav Holst's *The Planets*.

Supported by Dunard Fund and Edinburgh Napier University.

BRUCE LIU PLAYS RAVEL

NCPA Orchestra

- 6 August 7.30pm
- 2hrs 5 minutes approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £22.50

Myung-Whun Chung conducts the resident orchestra of the National Centre for the Performing Arts, Beijing along with Bruce Liu, winner of the 2021 Chopin International Piano Competition. The concert kicks off with Chinese-French composer Qigang Chen's *Wu Xing* – a mesmerising exploration of nature's five elements. We then go back in time to visit two staples of the French symphonic and concerto repertoire.

BACH & BARTÓK

Budapest Festival Orchestra

- 8 August 7.30pm
- 1 hour 40 minutes approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £22.50

The extraordinary Budapest Festival Orchestra and polymath founder-conductor Iván Fischer return to Edinburgh. This programme celebrates their Hungarian heritage and pulses with the vibrant contrasts of dance – from the elegance of Baroque to the raw energy of modern ballet. Johann Sebastian Bach's irresistible Fourth Orchestral Suite and Iván Fischer's own tribute to the German composer contrast with the complete score to Béla Bartók's ballet The Miraculous Mandarin, which caused a scandal in 1926 and remains just as potent today.

Supported by James and Morag Anderson.

BIZET'S CARMEN SUITE

NFM Leopoldinum Orchestra Residency / Focus on Poland

- 10 August 7.30pm
- 2hrs approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £22.50

This diverse programme melds emotional depth with playful invention, opening with Grażyna Bacewicz's Concerto for String Orchestra, which ranges from intensely rhythmic to sublimely lyrical. Richard Strauss's Metamorphosen, born from despair, powerfully reflects the devastations of WWII. In contrast, Wojciech Kilar's symphonic work inspired by the river Orawa which runs through the

Polish mountains to the Slovakian border. Finally, Rodion Shchedrin's imaginative arrangement of Georges Bizet's Carmen transforms the opera into a vibrant ballet suite, scored for strings and percussion.

BENEDETTI & SITKOVETSKY'S TRIBUTE TO MENUHIN

NFM Leopoldinum Orchestra Residency / Focus on Poland

- 11 August 7.30pm
- 1 hour 45 minutes approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £22.50

Yehudi Menuhin, one of the foremost violinists of the 20th century, is celebrated in a tribute conceived by two of his former pupils: our Festival Director, violinist Nicola Benedetti and fellow virtuoso Alexander Sitkovetsky. Benedetti joins the orchestra for the Elgar and Bartók, and Sitkovetsky plays solo violin for the Panufnik. They come together as soloists in Bach's Concerto. In a moving and very personal programme, the soloists and ensemble will be supported by the original cohort of early-career musicians from our Rising Stars mentorship scheme.

BEETHOVEN & SHOSTAKOVICH

London Symphony Orchestra Residency

- 12 August 7.30pm
- Captioned
- 2hrs approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £22.50

Nicola Benedetti and Sir Antonio Pappano co-present this concert, introducing two monumental symphonies by composers reckoning with mortality and the world around them. Ludwig van Beethoven's

Fifth Symphony opens with its iconic four-note motif, one of the most instantly recognisable musical refrains in history: the sound of fate knocking at the door. Dmitri Shostakovich's Tenth Symphony follows, which premiered shortly after Joseph Stalin's death. Through its powerful portrayal of savagery and, ultimately, liberation, it grapples with the pursuit of truth under oppression.

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS'S A SEA SYMPHONY

London Symphony Orchestra Residency

- 14 August 7.30pm
- 2hrs 5 minutes approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £22.50

Three striking visions of the 20th century come together in this London Symphony Orchestra concert. Elizabeth Maconchy's dreamlike Nocturne for Orchestra evokes the stillness of night, while Erich Korngold's Violin Concerto finds inspiration from melodies of 1930s Hollywood. Virtuoso violinist Vilde Frang, hailed by The Arts Desk as the 'reigning queen of [the] concerto' performs the solo. To conclude, Ralph Vaughan Williams's majestic A Sea Symphony brings the evening to a powerful close, with the Edinburgh Festival Chorus and celebrated soloists Masabane Cecilia Rangwanasha and Will Liverman.

Sung in English with surtitles.

Supported by Geoff and Mary Ball.

SHOSTAKOVICH INSIDE OUT

Aurora Orchestra

- 18 August 2pm
- Captioned
- 1 hour 20 minutes approximately, no interval

- Usher Hall
- £30

Discover Dmitri Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony as you've never experienced it before. We invite you to listen to the symphony from the inside out, with a conversational presentation in the round. Founder-conductor Nicholas Collon leads the performance, pausing along the way to offer insights, and illuminate the work's urgent sense of mortality and peril.

Both beanbags & traditional seating are available for this concert.

SHOSTAKOVICH'S FIFTH SYMPHONY

Aurora Orchestra

- 18 August 7.30pm
- 1 hour 40 minutes approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £22.50

Dmitri Shostakovich wrote his Fifth Symphony to save his life, after his compositions were slammed in Joseph Stalin's Russia. From the militaristic energy of the outer movements to the heartfelt anguish of the Largo, the work is as emotionally layered as it is musically dynamic. From the vantage point of your beanbag, immerse yourself as Aurora Orchestra, led by Nicholas Collon, performs this sensational work from memory. Alongside it, experience Abel Selaocoe's Four Spirits, a work designed to create a powerful sense of connection with its listeners.

Both beanbags & traditional seating are available for this concert.

BERNSTEIN & STRAVINSKY

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

- 21 August 7.30pm

- 1 hour 40 minutes approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £22.50

One of the most in-demand conductors of her generation, Karina Canellakis returns after making her Festival debut in the 2023 Closing Concert. She leads this monumental programme with the Edinburgh Festival Chorus, characterised by thrilling sounds and ideas of love, divine or human. Olivier Messiaen's moving *Les Offrandes oubliées* and Igor Stravinsky's orchestral reworking of his hit ballet *Petrushka* bookend the beauty of Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*.

Sung in Hebrew with English surtitles.

PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

- 22 August 7.30pm
- 1 hour 40 minutes approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £22.50

Take a whistlestop round-the-world trip with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, led by Jaime Martín. Begin in sun-drenched Italy with Edward Elgar's *In the South*, before experiencing the evocative sounds of the didgeridoo in a world premiere by Indigenous Australian composer Deborah Cheetham Fraillon. The journey concludes at the 'Great Gate of Kyiv', the majestic finale to Modest Mussorgsky's vivid *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

CLOSING CONCERT: MENDELSSOHN'S ELIJAH

Royal Scottish National Orchestra

- 24 August 7.30pm
- 2hrs 45 minutes approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall

- From £22.50

Felix Mendelssohn's triumphant oratorio tells the story of the miracle-working prophet Elijah's life, death and ascension. With a blend of Baroque grandeur and lush Romantic orchestration, Elijah features thrilling choruses and powerful solos, including the dramatic aria 'Is not his word like a fire?' and the pensive 'It is enough.' The Edinburgh Festival Chorus and Royal Scottish National Orchestra join forces to infuse Mendelssohn's most famous work with fresh energy.

Sung in English with surtitles.

MUSIC AT THE QUEEN'S HALL

COLIN CURRIE & THE KING'S SINGERS

- 2 August 11am
- 1 hour 30 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Award-winning ensemble The King's Singers team up with one of the UK's leading percussionists, Colin Currie, for a dazzling performance of contemporary music. Steve Martland's Street Songs mingle with music from all over the world – from South Africa to Japan to the US. Plus, there's the thrilling prospect of a James MacMillan premiere.

Sung in Japanese, Zulu and English with English surtitles.

In Memory of Peter Diamand.

MARÍA DUEÑAS & ALEXANDER MALOFEEV

- 4 August 11am
- 1 hour 30 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

A passionate early sonata by Karol Szymanowski contrasts with a subversive late work from Claude Debussy. The recital ends with one of the most beloved works in the violin and piano repertoire, César Franck's Violin Sonata, written in 1886 to celebrate its first performer's wedding. This full-blooded programme is brought together by the vivacious partnership of María Dueñas and Alexander Malofeev.

PAVEL KOLESNIKOV & SAMSON TSOY

- 5 August 11am

- 2hrs approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Creative collaborators Pavel Kolesnikov and Samson Tsoy have been lauded for the 'electrifying intimacy' of their recitals (The Guardian). They perform a deeply spiritual programme of piano works, including a set of exquisite miniatures by Johann Sebastian Bach and the intoxicating and sumptuous Visions de l'Amen by Olivier Messiaen.

MARK SIMPSON & RICHARD UTTLEY

- 6 August 11am
- 1 hour 30 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Multi-gifted virtuoso clarinettist and composer Mark Simpson joins forces with Richard Uttley, Piano Professor at the Royal College of Music. Their programme brings together two cornerstones of the clarinet repertoire by Johannes Brahms with composers from across the UK, including works written for Simpson – by Gavin Higgins and Mark-Anthony Turnage – and by Simpson himself.

HUGH CUTTING & GEORGE IRELAND

- 7 August 11am
- 1 hour 40 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Countertenor Hugh Cutting, winner of the Kathleen Ferrier Award in 2021, is joined by celebrated pianist George Ireland for a thrillingly eclectic recital. Alongside ancient and modern operatic arias, the programme embraces German Lieder, French melodies and some extraordinary contemporary pieces, including Piers Connor Kennedy's Rough Rhymes, written for Cutting himself.

LEONARD ELSCHENBROICH & ALEXEI GRYNYUK

- 8 August 11am
- 1 hour 40 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Discover music steeped in romance from three passionate composers. Clara Schumann's aptly titled Romances were written in the same year she and husband Robert met the 20-year-old Johannes Brahms, whose unrequited love for Clara would shape his artistic voice.

Supported by Tanya and David Parker.

FIBONACCI QUARTET

- 9 August 11am
- 1 hour 40 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Helen Grime's intimate and meditative First Quartet joins two autobiographical works by Leoš Janáček and Bedřich Smetana, both infused with love and anguish. The 'friendly circle' of the string quartet, as Smetana put it, is the perfect space to explore the breadth of human experience. The award-winning Fibonacci Quartet brings this very personal programme to vivid life.

Supported by Niall and Carol Lothian.

PIOTR ANDERSZEWSKI

- 11 August 11am
- 2hrs approximately, one interval

- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Polish pianist Piotr Anderszewski performs an exquisite recital of small-but-perfectly formed works. Johannes Brahms's graceful late works demonstrate stylistic freedom, expressive of a personal world. Béla Bartók's Bagatelles reveal an astonishing range of moods despite their pithiness; Anderszewski is capable of drawing 'meaning out of every wisp' from the collection (Financial Times).

Supported by Focus on Poland partners.

SITKOVETSKY TRIO

- 12 August 11am
- 2hrs approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

The 'glittering' (BBC Music Magazine) Sitkovetsky Trio showcases the expressive range and emotional depth of piano trio repertoire. Their captivating programme spans haunting works by Ludwig van Beethoven and Dmitri Shostakovich, the rediscovered brilliance of 19th-century composer Cécile Chaminade, and a bold, evocative UK premiere by Iranian composer Mahdis Golzar Kashani, rich in modern influences.

BOSTRIDGE, PAPPANO & MEMBERS OF THE LSO

- 13 August 11am
- 1 hour 45 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Benjamin Britten's songs celebrating the tenor voice are paired with Ralph Vaughan Williams's exquisite cycle *On Wenlock Edge*, which infuses the composer's 'English' style with a noticeable French

shimmer. Edward Elgar's Piano Quintet – one of his late works – is both elegy and statement of defiance, composed at the end of World War I.

Sung in Italian and English with English surtitles.

Supported by Susie Thomson.

BOMSORI KIM & THOMAS HOPPE

- 14 August 11am
- 1 hour 45 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Award-winning violinist Bomsori Kim is joined by the eminent collaborative pianist Thomas Hoppe for a stunning programme of Polish music. Karol Szymanowski's Nocturne and Tarantella, infused with Spanish colour, is sultry and fiendish by turn. Henryk Wieniawski brings a touch of romance to the programme, alongside the fiercely individual style of Grażyna Bacewicz.

Supported by Focus on Poland partners.

FLORIAN BOESCH & MALCOLM MARTINEAU

- 15 August 11am
- 2hrs approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Baritone Florian Boesch and accompanist Malcolm Martineau's collaborative performances strike a perfect balance of depth and sensitivity. Their programme of German Lieder zooms in on Johannes Brahms and his mentor, Robert Schumann, culminating in Dichterliebe ('A Poet's Love'), Schumann's song cycle drawn from Heinrich Heine's poetry.

Sung in German with English surtitles.

WROCŁAW BAROQUE ENSEMBLE

- 16 August 11am
- 1 hour 40 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

The prize-winning Wrocław Baroque Ensemble specialises in music of the Polish Renaissance and Baroque eras. Under the baton of Andrzej Kosendiak, one of the most active organisers of musical life in Poland, they perform a stunning 17th-century choral work, Mikołaj Zieleński's substantial *Offertoria et communiones totius anni* – a work that ranges from celebratory to solemn.

Sung in Latin with English surtitles.

Supported by Focus on Poland partners.

RYAN WANG

- 18 August 11am
- 2hrs approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Crowned BBC Young Musician of the Year 2024, the exceptional pianist Ryan Wang plays an all-Chopin programme. From the bold energy of a Polonaise to the tender lyricism of a Ballade and the grandeur of a Sonata – plus all 24 Preludes – this recital showcases Frédéric Chopin's remarkable range of expression and mastery of the piano.

Supported by Focus on Poland partners, Sheila Colvin and an anonymous donor.

RISING STARS OF VOICE

- 19 August 11am
- 1 hour 45 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Emerging vocalists, selected through auditions, perform Johannes Brahms's Liebeslieder Waltzes. With a professional mentor by their side, the up-and-coming singers perform this romantic and intricate cycle, capturing both its elegance and intimacy. This concert promises a glimpse of the next generation of vocal talent, guided by mentorship, at the International Festival.

Sung in German with English surtitles.

Part of the Rising Stars multibuy offer.

Supported by David and Brenda Lamb and Finlay and Lynn Williamson.

DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY CONCERT

Scottish Chamber Orchestra

- 19 August 3pm
- Relaxed
- 1 hour approximately, no interval
- The Queen's Hall
- £10, including hot drinks and sweet treats
- Companion tickets are free

New to the International Festival this year, a concert designed especially for people living with dementia, their caregivers, family and friends. This relaxed performance by musicians from Scottish Chamber Orchestra enables those who have dementia to enjoy familiar repertoire in a relaxing and flexible environment. Designed to be engaging and enjoyable, audience members will have the chance to move around the auditorium, arrive early and take breaks to accommodate their needs.

BELCEA QUARTET

- 20 August 11am
- 1 hour 40 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Belcea Quartet brings its electrifying energy to a programme that spans Ludwig van Beethoven's late works, Felix Mendelssohn's youthful and autumnal moods and Mozart's 'Dissonance' Quartet, so-called because of the unusual opening harmonies. With precision and passion, this exceptional ensemble transforms chamber music from the 18th and 19th centuries, offering a provocative experience that will leave you rethinking these familiar works.

Supported by David Millar and Romanian Cultural Institute in London.

DUNEDIN CONSORT & JOHN BUTT

- 21 August 11am
- 1 hour 45 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Clori, Tirsi e Fileno is the pastoral tale of an indecisive shepherdess who can't choose between two lovers. Little is known about the genesis of this comic cantata by George Frideric Handel, but the score was mined for a number of hits in later operas such as *Acis and Galatea*. Who better to bring this once neglected comedy to fizzing life than Dunedin Consort, their Music Director, John Butt, and a cast of astonishing soloists.

Sung in Italian with English surtitles.

EMILY D'ANGELO & SOPHIA MUÑOZ

- 22 August 11am
- 1 hour 30 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Mezzo soprano Emily D'Angelo and pianist Sophia Muñoz present a diverse programme anchored in the natural world. This is a concert of epic scope, from Béla Bartók's mountains to Jeanine Tesori's desert. Each song explores the relationship between nature and human experiences, brought together through a striking musical collaboration.

Sung in English, German and Hungarian with English surtitles.

Supported by Brenda Rennie.

LEONIDAS KAVAKOS & THE APOLLON ENSEMBLE

- 23 August 11am
- 1 hour 40 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Greek violinist Leonidas Kavakos has called Johann Sebastian Bach's compositions 'the most perfect music ever written'. Renowned worldwide for his vibrant and intuitive interpretations, Kavakos is joined by The Apollon Ensemble in this concert, their one-per-part precision illuminating the intricacies of Bach's music. Together, they perform Bach's violin concertos, with their usual 'rigour and flair' (Gramophone Magazine).

Supported by Sheila Colvin.

MUSIC AT THE HUB

PREVIEW NIGHT: KINNARIS QUINTET

- 30 July 8pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £15

This Glasgow-based group combines fiddles, mandolin and guitar to create their inventive approach to traditional music. Their 2021 International Festival debut was described as bursting 'with energy and ideas' (The Scotsman) and 'a true string highlight' (The Strad). Drawing on influences from bluegrass to classical, the quintet performs evocative arrangements in their typical joyous style.

FIRST NIGHT AT THE HUB

- 4 August 10pm
- 1 hour 30 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £40

Kick off the Festival in style with a concert hosted and curated by Festival Director Nicola Benedetti. Set to be an exhilarating evening, this mixed bill of outstanding artists will be revealed on the night. A celebration of artistry and anticipation, it's the perfect introduction to the Festival programme, setting the stage for a vibrant cultural journey ahead.

ROBY LAKATOS & ENSEMBLE

- 5 August 8pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £25

Roby Lakatos and his ensemble create a musical storm. Famed for his improvisations and fast-paced violin flair, Lakatos effortlessly switches genres – from classical to Hungarian folk and klezmer. Descended from a long line of Romani violinists, Lakatos combines his family's musical tradition with his own unique style.

HANNI LIANG: DREAMS

- 7 August 8pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £25

What do you dream about? Dreams offer a glimpse into the subconscious truths hidden within us. Pianist Hanni Liang is redefining the way we experience classical music. Inspired by Claude Debussy's lulling *Rêverie*, she has created a concert rooted in personal truths. Through drawing or writing, share your dreams for all to see and Liang will transform them into a living, musical extension of *Rêverie*.

RISING STARS OF WOODWIND

- 8 August 7pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £25

Rising Stars gives the world's most promising young musicians a chance to shine on an international stage. In this edition of our Rising Stars concerts, catch a glimpse into the future of woodwind music. Clarinettist Mark Simpson, described by the Evening Standard as having 'bucketloads of panache', mentors the wind players before they perform together at The Hub.

Part of the Rising Stars multibuy offer.

UP LATE WITH ALABASTER DEPLUME

- 8 August 10pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £25

Jazz musician, spoken word poet and activist Alabaster DePlume combines his atmospheric saxophone melodies with his personal politics. A musical maverick, DePlume's last two albums were created on the premise of giving his fellow musicians little time to practice, encouraging true improvisation and a raw, eclectic sound. Expect the unexpected as DePlume's saxophone riffs create a distinctive, warm atmosphere, where spontaneity and creativity lead the way.

VOŁOSI

- 9 August 7pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £25

This string quintet from Poland's Beskid Mountains blends folk with classical traditions. Rooted in their heritage and driven by improvisation, their music shifts from haunting melodies to unrestrained energy. With over 900 global concerts, VOŁOSI's performances are rich in emotion, transcending musical boundaries and captivating audiences worldwide.

Supported by Focus on Poland partners.

UP LATE: EVERYTHING IS RECORDED

- 9 August 10pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub

- From £25

Famed record producer Richard Russell has collaborated with music legends like Bobby Womack, Peter Gabriel and Ibeyi. In 2018, he channelled his vast expertise into his debut album, Everything is Recorded. Resulting in work that is rich, collaborative and warm, Russell demonstrates his encyclopaedic knowledge of the genre and invites you to be surrounded in dub, soul and garage.

TRIPTIC

- 11 August 8pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £25

Three award-winning musicians from Glasgow's freewheeling music scene come together for a new project. Greg Lawson, Phil Alexander and Mario Caribé (formerly of fusion band Moishe's Bagel) explore their shared love of global folk music, combining folk-infused originals with jazz and Latin grooves. Embark on an aural journey from Armenia to Brazil – with many melodic stops along the way.

THE SIDIKI DEMBELE ENSEMBLE

- 12 August 8pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £25

Following his spiritually charged 2024 Festival appearance, Sidiki Dembele returns to The Hub – this time, with his ensemble. A virtuoso of the djembe, a West African goblet drum with a remarkable range of pitches, Dembele hails from a family of griots who preserve oral traditions. Rooted in the djembe's power to unite, this concert explores West African rhythms and sounds, honouring the community-driven essence of his heritage.

ÍMAR

- 14 August 8pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £25

Named after a ninth-century Viking leader, Celtic supergroup Ímar blends the musical traditions of Scotland, Ireland and the Isle of Man into a vibrant celebration of shared heritage. With award-winning members from groups like Mànran and Talisk, their latest album, *Awakening* (2023), delivers infectious energy through instruments like the bouzouki and bodhrán, bound to captivate you from the first note.

Supported by Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

RISING STARS: CLASSICAL JAM

- 15 August 7pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £25

Inspired by the spirit of jazz, emerging musicians play side-by-side with professionals. Blending the precision of the composed score with the relaxed atmosphere of friends playing together, this unrehearsed performance harnesses the power of instinct and spontaneity. And the repertoire? You get to choose.

Part of the Rising Stars multibuy offer.

UP LATE: JAZZ JAM

- 15 August 10pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub

- From £25

Indulge in the vibrant energy of a jazz jam at The Hub, where emerging talent improvise alongside seasoned professionals. With jazz standards at the heart of the session, the musicians will create fresh, dynamic takes on timeless classics. Don't miss this chance to witness exciting improvisation and raw creativity in action.

ØSTERLIDE

- 16 August 7pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £25

Norwegian trio Østerlide breathes new life into traditional folk melodies. Liv Ulvik's soaring, crystal-clear vocals are shrouded in a meditative soundscape crafted by string player Andreas Haddeland and percussionist Ulrik Ibsen Thorsrud. Østerlide creates atmospheric music that shifts the boundaries of Nordic folk.

Supported by Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

UP LATE WITH KAITLYN AURELIA SMITH

- 16 August 10pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £25

Electronic artist Kaitlyn Aurelia Smith transforms synth-driven soundscapes into otherworldly experiences. Known for her ethereal vocals and futuristic electronic elements, Smith creates music that feels both mystical and deeply human. With each album release, she challenges the conventions of electronica, blurring the lines between ambient, experimental and dance music.

CATRIN FINCH & AOIFE NÍ BHRIAIN

- 18 August 8pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £25

Soak up the captivating artistry of Irish fiddle player Aoife Ní Bhriain and Welsh harpist Catrin Finch. The duo is known for their 'ingenious blend of myriad influences' (The Arts Desk), with their debut album *Double You* mixing classical compositions from the likes of Johann Sebastian Bach, Felix Mendelssohn and Pietro Locatelli with the rich musical traditions of Ireland and Wales.

Supported by Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

YAHYA HUSSEIN ABDALLAH & JASSER HAJ YOUSSEF

- 19 August 8pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £25

Tanzanian singer and composer Yahya Hussein Abdallah, winner of the 2022 Aga Khan Music Award, invites you to a captivating recital of Sufi poetry and Eastern literature exploring faith, belief and spirituality. Yahya's soulful voice is enhanced by Tunisian-born Jasser Haj Youssef on viola d'amore. Together, they weave a rich tapestry of meditative music and poetry.

Part of the Aga Khan Music Programme series.

CANVAS OF SOUND WITH TAZEEN QAYYUM

- 21 August 8pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval

- The Hub
- From £25

Watch as visual artist Tazeen Qayyum creates an intricate calligraphic drawing in real-time, inspired by the expressive power of Urdu, Arabic and Farsi. With music blending Middle Eastern rhythms and jazz by Basel Rajoub (saxophone, duclar and percussion) and qanun player Feras Charestan, this contemplative performance – which acts as a counterforce to the tragedies of our times – invites you to slow down, observe and reflect to find a state of harmony and mindfulness.

Part of the Aga Khan Music Programme series.

MASTER MUSICIANS WITH PEIRANI AND SEGAL

- 22 August 7pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £25

Ancient traditions meet musical innovation as the Aga Khan Master Musicians join forces with two European musical visionaries, accordionist and vocalist Vincent Peirani and cellist Vincent Segal. Also among the line-up is pipa player Wu Man, an International Festival favourite. The six musicians from Asia, Europe and the Middle East together create new music that connects distant eras and diverse cultures.

Part of the Aga Khan Music Programme series.

UP LATE WITH SISSOKO, SEGAL, PARISIEN & PEIRANI

- 22 August 10pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub

- From £25

Experience true fusion music, combining neoclassical, jazz and West African influences. Malian kora star Ballaké Sissoko returns to the International Festival with versatile French musicians Vincent Segal, Émile Parisien and Vincent Peirani on the cello, soprano saxophone and accordion respectively.

WILLIAM BARTON

- 23 August 7pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £25

Indigenous Australian composer and multi-instrumentalist William Barton was hypnotised by the didgeridoo's earthy sound in childhood. His lifelong fascination with the instrument has led him to perform with the likes of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Hear the didgeridoo virtuoso perform experimental compositions that stem from Barton's Kalkadunga heritage and a musical upbringing of Elvis Presley, AC/DC and Antonio Vivaldi.

UP LATE WITH JOEP BEVING & MAARTEN VOS

- 23 August 10pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £25

Joep Beving, celebrated for his emotive piano work that melds minimalist and modern influences, joins forces with Maarten Vos, a Berlin-based composer and electronic innovator. Together, they craft a mesmerising performance, blending classical piano, experimental electronics and avant-garde textures in fresh, unexpected ways.

UP LATE WITH ENDEA OWENS

- 24 August 10pm
- 1 hour 30 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £40

Endea Owens returns to bring the Festival to an exhilarating finale. The irresistibly charismatic Grammy and Emmy Award-winning bassist and composer is once again joined by her sextet The Cookout. Their original renditions of jazz standards and Owen's own compositions create the ideal party atmosphere for this last night at The Hub.

OTHER EVENTS

ART OF LISTENING FOR FAMILIES

- 4 August 10am
- 5–9 August 10am, 1pm & 3pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately
- CHURCH HILL THEATRE STUDIO
- £10

Do you have a life-long passion for classical music you would love to share with a young family member? Or perhaps it's a world you're keen to discover together? This interactive family workshop led by an opera singer, pianist and facilitator celebrates the power of listening deeply, together. Dive into the stories hidden within classical music, tap into its ability to stir your imagination and uncover its power to soothe and relax you. Come together across the generations to learn fresh ways to listen, share and connect. Suitable for children aged 7–11, accompanied by adults of all ages.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. This workshop is designed for adults and children to participate together.

THE UNSEEN TRUTH: SARAH LEWIS

Keynote Talk

- 18 August 2pm
- BSL & Captioned
- Length to be confirmed
- The Hub
- £15

Sarah Lewis is an art and cultural historian and founder of the civic initiative Vision & Justice. Her research focuses on the intersection of visual representation, racial justice and democracy in the United States from the 19th century to the present day. She is the John L.

Loeb Associate Professor of the Humanities and Associate Professor of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. Her recent book *The Unseen Truth* exposes the lies used to shore up America's racial divide.

THE TRUTH WE SEEK: SIMON FANSHAWE OBE

Keynote Talk

- Date and time to be announced
- BSL & Captioned
- The Hub
- £15

Listen to Simon Fanshawe – broadcaster, author and University of Edinburgh Rector – explore *The Truth We Seek* through artistic and academic freedoms, in discussion with a panel of special guests. A leading voice in work on equality, diversity and inclusion in the UK, Fanshawe was one of the six co-founders of the LGBTQ+ charity Stonewall. No stranger to our sister festivals, he appeared at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe for ten years and won the Perrier Award for Comedy in 1989.

COME AND SING ELIJAH

- 23 August 10am – 5pm
- Usher Hall
- Free Workshop - Register in advance at eif.co.uk
- All voice types welcome
- Not suitable for under 18s

Curious about choral singing? This is your chance to take part in one of the most dramatic pieces ever written for choir: Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. In the morning workshop, join Edinburgh Festival Chorus Director James Grossmith as he guides you through the score, which you'll receive in advance. In the afternoon, you'll join the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, conducted by Thomas

Søndergård, to perform the full work, filling the hall with the sound of your collective voices.

Wael Shawky

Exhibition

- 28 June – 28 September, 10am – 5pm Tuesday – Saturday
- Monday – Sunday throughout August
- Talbot Rice Gallery
- Free, unticketed

Wael Shawky's solo exhibition transforms Talbot Rice Gallery's spaces, featuring Drama 1882, his operatic film on the 1882 Urabi revolution. This gripping work interrogates colonial histories with striking visuals and live performances, building on Shawky's Cabaret Crusades, an epic video trilogy. Alongside his films, sculptures and drawings, the exhibition honours the Byzantine and Islamic Art Historian who gave the gallery its name 50 years ago – David Talbot Rice. It marks a bold new chapter for the gallery, sparking global conversations on art, politics and the histories that continue to shape our world.

This exhibition is part of Edinburgh Art Festival 2025. Talbot Rice Gallery is the public art gallery of Edinburgh College of Art / The University of Edinburgh.