

**EDINBURGH
INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL**

**PLAIN TEXT
BROCHURE**

7 – 30 AUGUST 2026

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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 2026 Festival.

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

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

CONTACT US

If you have any questions or feedback for our team, please don't hesitate to contact us:

access@eif.co.uk

convo.io

+44 (0) 131 473 2056 (textphone prefix **18001**)

Access Contact: **Callum Madge – Access Manager**

HOW TO BOOK

Online: **eif.co.uk**

Convo: **convo.io**

Phone: **+44 (0) 131 473 2056**

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 £2 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

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 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 for £2.00 per ticket. 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

Telephone +44 (0) 131 473 2000

Thu 19 – Wed 25 March (Members only)

Mon to Fri 12noon – 4pm

Sat and Sun closed

Thu 26 March – Thu 6 August

Mon to Fri 12noon – 4pm

Sat and Sun closed

Fri 7 August – Sun 30 August

Daily 10am – 8pm

IN-PERSON BOOKINGS AT THE HUB

The International Festival box office is open for in-person bookings throughout the Festival.

Access booking line **+44 (0) 131 473 2056**

19 March – 6 August

By appointment only, contact boxoffice@eif.co.uk or
+44 (0) 131 473 2056

7 – 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.

Box office services will be available at all venues at least one hour
prior to performance start times.

LIVE BSL INTERPRETATION WITH CONVO

We are partnered with Convo to provide a live BSL interpreting
service. Download the Convo app and find the Edinburgh
International Festival listed in the Convo Community Directory,
scan the Convo QR code in our box office, or visit
convo.io/uk/home

OPERA

THE GALLOPING CURE

MISSY MAZZOLI / ROYCE VAVREK

OPERA VENTURES PRODUCTIONS / SCOTTISH OPERA

STUART STRATFORD / TOM MORRIS

- 9, 11, 12 August at 7pm
- Audio Described 12 August
- Post-show talk Tue 11 August
- 2 hours 15mins approximately, one interval
- Festival Theatre
- From £23

A bold new opera for the opioid age.

Local doctor Theresa Hart works tirelessly for her community in a fading, forgotten corner of the world. When the charismatic Lucky Mack comes to town, her daughter Noy is captivated. A ride on his carousel – the first one always free – promises miraculous relief from all aches and pains, and soon the whole town is swept up in euphoria. But getting off the ride gets harder with every turn.

This world premiere from Opera Ventures Productions reunites Scottish Opera with the creative forces of Missy Mazzoli, Royce Vavrek and Tom Morris, following their International Festival hit *Breaking the Waves* (2019). Mazzoli weaves club beats into her richly textured score, brought to life by conductor Stuart Stratford and The Orchestra of Scottish Opera.

The Galloping Cure is a haunting allegory for a crisis that has become a worldwide epidemic. Visually stunning and emotionally

gripping, this contemporary fable evokes a darkly funny and devastating vision of a crumbling society.

Contains stylised violence, themes of addiction & medical malpractice.

Performed in English with surtitles.

VERDI'S A MASKED BALL

GIUSEPPE VERDI / ZURICH OPERA HOUSE /
GIANANDREA NOSEDA / ADELE THOMAS

- 26, 27, 29 August 7pm; 30 August 2pm
- Audio Described 30 August
- 2 hours 50 minutes approximately, one interval
- Festival Theatre
- From £30

Love and deception swirl at the centre of Giuseppe Verdi's tragicomic opera *A Masked Ball* (*Un ballo in maschera*) from Zurich Opera House, given a fresh twist by 'razor-sharp' (The Guardian) Welsh director Adele Thomas. Riccardo, the Governor of Boston, is in love with his best friend's wife. Caught between love and loyalty, Riccardo risks everything – his political standing and even his life.

Verdi's exquisite music comes to life with Gianandrea Nosedà conducting the Orchestra of the Zurich Opera House. Nosedà's passionate conducting style is perfectly suited for the high-stakes drama central to *A Masked Ball*. Two stellar casts alternate between performances, with ill-fated lovers Riccardo and Amelia played by Stephen Costello and Elena Stikhina (26 and 30 August), and Piero Pretti and Erika Grimaldi (27 and 29 August).

Originally inspired by the assassination of King Gustav III of Sweden, Verdi's subject matter proved too controversial, forcing him to relocate the opera's setting from Sweden to Boston. Now, Thomas's version transports us to the opulent American Gilded Age, where sinister rumours threaten to spin this ordered world into chaos.

Contains strobe lighting and a gunshot sound.

Performed in Italian with English surtitles.

MOZART'S DON GIOVANNI

SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

OPERA IN CONCERT

- 16 August 6.30pm
- 3 hours 10 minutes approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £27.50

Don Giovanni is notorious throughout Europe for his insatiable appetite for women. But his luck is running out. Mozart's great opera of seduction, trickery and retribution is an inspired mixture of sparkling ensembles, soulful solos and spine-chilling evocations of the supernatural. Maxim Emelyanychev conducts the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Chorus and a brilliant cast in the fourth of their acclaimed series of Mozart operas in concert at the Festival.

Sung in Italian with English surtitles.

STRAUSS'S ELEKTRA

BBC SCOTTISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

OPERA IN CONCERT

- 23 August 6.30pm
- 1 hours 50 minutes approximately, no interval
- Usher Hall
- From £27.50

Greek tragedy meets modern psychology in Richard Strauss's audacious opera. Elektra is determined to avenge the murder of her father Agamemnon by her mother Klytämnestra – but will Klytämnestra destroy her first? Strauss evokes his characters' larger-than-life emotions through massive orchestral forces and daring harmonies. Karina Canellakis – noted for her impressive 'command of large-scale musical architecture' (The Guardian) – conducts and soprano Iréne Theorin leads a starry cast in this thrilling exploration of obsession.

Sung in German with English surtitles.

THEATRE

A TRIAL – AFTER AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE

CHRISTIANE JATAHY / WAGNER MOURA

- 7–10 August 7.30pm; 8 August 3pm
- 2 hours 30 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Lyceum
- From £15

Visionary Brazilian director Christiane Jatahy returns to the Festival with a radical sequel to Henrik Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*, featuring Golden Globe-winning and Oscar-nominated actor Wagner Moura. In Ibsen's groundbreaking 1882 play, protagonist Thomas Stockmann faces shame and exile from his home town after attempting to expose a water pollution scandal.

Jatahy's sequel throws Stockmann, played by Moura (*Narcos*, *The Secret Agent*), into a modern-day public courtroom to determine his fate. Lawyers and judges are noticeably absent, and it's up to a jury of audience members to decide if he is innocent or whether he is indeed 'an enemy of the people'.

Transplanting Ibsen's themes to contemporary Brazil, *A Trial* offers a sharp look at authoritarianism, fake news and public judgement. Ever inventive and political, Jatahy combines audience participation and filmed footage, creating a one-of-a-kind performance each night where the line between reality and fiction is constantly blurred.

Audience Participation

For every performance, there will be the opportunity for 11 audience members to be part of the jury.

Performed in Portuguese and English with English surtitles.

Supported by Edinburgh International Festival Endowment Fund with additional support from the Consulate General of Brazil in Edinburgh and Instituto Guimarães Rosa.

ANGELS IN AMERICA

INTERNATIONAAL THEATER AMSTERDAM

TONY KUSHNER / IVO VAN HOVE

- 15–19 August 6pm (excl. 17 Aug); 20 August 1pm
- Captioned 16 August
- 4 hours 55 minutes approximately, one interval
- The interval lasts 45 mins, with grazing boxes available to pre-order
- King's Theatre
- From £20

Tony Kushner's *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes* is an epoch-defining work of American theatre. Set at the height of the AIDS crisis, yet enduringly relevant, we follow the story of two very different people grappling with their diagnoses – former drag queen Prior and vindictive lawyer Roy Cohn.

Kushner has credited this radical reworking from director Ivo van Hove and Internationaal Theater Amsterdam (ITA) as his favourite version of the play. Taking place on a minimal set accompanied by a David Bowie soundtrack, both parts of the play are combined into one epic performance.

Returning to the Festival after their innovative works *A Little Life* (2022) and *Penthesilea* (2024), ITA presents another pioneering production showcasing their signature wit, stagecraft and incisive storytelling. *Angels in America* is a gripping and darkly humorous work reminding us that while change and death are inevitable, the choice to love can be transformative.

Contains strong language, homophobic and racist language, nudity, sexual themes, depictions of mental and physical illness & death.

Performed in Dutch with English surtitles.

CLOWN SHOW

GEOFF SOBELLE

- 27–29 August 8pm; 29 August 2pm; 30 August 3pm
- Post-show talk 29 August 8pm
- BSL 29 August 8pm; Audio Described 30 August
- 1 hours 40 minutes approximately, no interval
- King's Theatre
- From £15

Roll up, roll up for theatre-maker Geoff Sobelle's contemporary portrait of America as a falling-apart circus. The acrobats and the jugglers have long since left, leaving the clowns to run the show. Sobelle returns to the International Festival following his immersive, surprising productions, *FOOD* (2023) and *HOME* (2018).

Part-clown, part-magician, Sobelle creates hilarious and poignant work, whose impact can be 'as disturbing as it is beautiful' (The Scotsman). This time, Sobelle is joined by an army of clowns

holding it together as best they can, performing the original score on questionable instruments.

Sobelle and his clowns have set up their 'beautiful big top' in the wreckage of America. They invite you into a crumbling empire to witness the greatest show on earth before it disappears completely. It may be the USA's 250th birthday this year, but Sobelle asks if the American Dream is better described as a deal with the devil.

Contains strong language, use of haze & loud noise.

Supported by Sir Ewan and Lady Brown.

INGOMA! A REVOLUTION IN RHYTHM

VOLCANO (CANADA)

WOMAN CULTURAL CENTRE (RWANDA)

ODILE GAKIRE 'KIKI' KATESE

- 14 & 15 August 7.30pm; 15 & 16 August 2.30pm
- Post-show talk 15 August 2.30pm
- Captioned 15 August 7.30pm
- 1 hour 40 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Lyceum
- From £15.50

In Rwanda, 'power' and 'drum' are the same word: *ingoma*. In 2004, a group of women, seeking to heal after a genocide, made a revolutionary choice. They broke a centuries-old taboo and formed Ingoma Nshya (New Power/ New Drum) – the first all-women drumming ensemble in Rwandan history.

This is their story – a joyous narrative concert featuring an electrifying collection of rhythms, songs and dances from both West and East Africa – some traditional, some brand new.

Following Katese’s inspirational *The Book of Life* (2022 International Festival), this performance delivers its message through music: that discrimination cannot stand in the face of joyful determination.

Performed in English with songs in Kinyarwanda.

Supported by Canada Council of Arts and Ontario Arts Council.

HANG TIME

THE FLEA THEATER

ZORA HOWARD

- 20 – 22 August 8pm; 22 & 23 August 3pm
- Post-show talk 21 August
- Audio Described 22 August 3pm
- Captioned 8 August 8pm
- 1 hr approximately, no interval
- The Lyceum
- From £20.50

Three Black men hang from an old, wide tree. Caught together in this liminal space, they shoot the breeze, sharing the great loves and bitter blues of their interrupted lives.

The directorial debut of Pulitzer Prize finalist Zora Howard, *HANG TIME* is a gut-wrenching, subversive perspective on the legacy of racialised violence in America. Sharply juxtaposing the romantic and the macabre, the ‘finely-tuned’ dialogue (The New York Times)

is peppered with heartbreaking missed opportunities and tinged with dark humour.

As the audience sits with the image of these men's demise, Howard asks us to hold the truth of this peculiar American violence alongside the vibrant interior worlds of the men themselves.

Contains strong language and implied violence.

TAVERNA MIREZIA

MARIO BANUSHI

- 26, 27, 29 August 8pm; 28 August 5pm & 8.30pm
- Post-show talk 27 August
- Audio Described 29 August
- 1 hr 10 minutes approximately, no interval
- Church Hill Theatre
- From £30

Step into the Taverna Miresia and discover a surreal tragedy with Mario Banushi, a formidable presence in Greek theatre. Banushi invites us into his family's Albanian restaurant, whose proprietor, his larger-than-life father, has recently passed away.

In Banushi's wordless, visually stunning performance, this domestic space takes on a dreamlike quality as he confronts the ghosts of his past. Surreal flashbacks are underscored by the haunting vocals of Greek singer, Savina Yannatou – from an Albanian lullaby to improvised laments.

This boundary-pushing production merges Greek tragedy with ancient Balkan rituals and a cinematic aesthetic. Banushi creates an unsettling yet sublime piece that allows him to transform his

anguish into a ritual of purification. Contains strong language and implied violence.

Contains haze, flashing lights, loud noise, nudity and themes of bullying.

Non-verbal performance.

AL-SIRAH AL-HILALIYYAH

KHASHABI THEATRE

BASHAR MURKUS / KHULOOD BASEL

- 26 – 29 August 7.30pm
- Audio Described 28 August
- 3 hours approximately, one interval
- The Lyceum
- From £20.50

The legendary poem *Al-Sirah Al-Hilaliyyah (The Epic of Bani Hilal)* has been passed down through generations since the 14th century, across the Arab world. Rejecting European theatrical norms, Bashar Murkus and Khulood Basel present an exhilarating retelling that combines physical theatre, music, puppetry and dance, mixing the aesthetics of their native Palestinian folklore with Arab performance styles.

Performed in Arabic with English surtitles.

[SEAGULL]

TONEELHUIS / OLYMPIQUE DRAMATIQUE

AFTER ANTON CHEKHOV

- Preview 7 August 4pm

- 8 – 11 August 7.30pm
- Captioned 7-11 August
- 2 hours 30 minutes approximately, no interval
- Studio Theatre
- From £35
- Preview £30

Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull* takes on new meaning in a Flemish Sign Language reimagining. Over a weekend in a country estate, Arkadina, a celebrated actress, and her playwright son, Konstantin, pursue their artistic and romantic ambitions amidst a complex web of melodramatic characters, generational differences and fatal misunderstandings.

Belgian company Olympique Dramatique brings together a cast of Deaf and hearing actors to reimagine the story; some have signed since birth, while others are beginners. Their struggle to communicate across this language barrier reveals new depths to this iconic tragicomedy and deftly challenges preconceived ideas about language.

Contains references to suicide.

Performed in Flemish Sign Language with creative captions in English.

FOUR WALLS AND A ROOF

LINA MAJDALANIE / RABIH MROUÉ

- 14 – 17 August 7.30pm
- Post-show talk 16 August
- Audio Described and Captioned 16 August
- BSL 17 August
- 1 hours 40 minutes approximately, no interval

- Studio Theatre
- £30

In 1933, German playwright Bertolt Brecht fled Berlin, eventually settling in the United States, where he would be tried by the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) for communist affiliations. Ten years ago, artist duo Lina Majdalanie and Rabih Mroué emigrated from Beirut to Berlin. Their new play weaves these two stories together, exploring the repression of free speech and questioning how free our liberal democracies really are.

Contains haze.

Performed in English, with German songs with English surtitles

HARIBO KIMCHI

JAHA KOO / CAMPO

- 20 - 24 August 8pm; 22 August 2pm
- Post-show talk 23 August 2pm
- 1 hours 10 minutes approximately, no interval
- Studio Theatre
- £30

Sit at Jaha Koo's pojangmacha, a late-night Korean snack bar. Serving his customers – a robotic eel, a snail and a gummy bear – Koo discusses culinary delights and his deep longing for his home country. Food and culture are endlessly intertwined in this absurd and powerful production zigzagging between cultural appreciation and alienation.

Performed in English and Korean.

HOSTILE

A WORK FOR FAMILIES

BAKÉLITE

- 8 – 11 August 2pm; 9 - 10 August 6pm
- 50 minutes approximately, no interval
- Church Hill Theatre
- From £15

A cowboy is stuck in the desert. He needs water, shade from the sun and a chance to escape from those pesky snakes and vultures. Olivier Rannou stars as a Spaghetti Western cowboy in this family-friendly production from French company Bakélite. As everyday objects transform all around him, the cowboy tries to escape the desert, strolling into saloons and coming across bandits along the way.

Non-verbal performance.

Recommended for ages 8+.

Supported by Flure Grossart.

DANCE

IHSANE

BALLET DU GRAND THÉÂTRE DE GENÈVE / EASTMAN

SIDI LARBI CHERKAOUI

- 18–20 August 7.30pm
- Captioned and Audio Described 20 August
- 1 hour 40 minutes approximately, no interval
- Festival Theatre
- From £18

Double Olivier Award-winning choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's latest work explores how the world changes in a never-ending cycle of destruction and rebirth. *Ihsane* swells with anger, lingers in sorrow, and joyfully celebrates the rich cultures of North Africa and the Middle East.

Live music, composed and led by Tunisian viola d'amore player Jasser Haj Youssef, follows each step of the dancers from Cherkaoui's two companies – Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève and Eastman. Draped in earth-toned costumes and surrounded by Persian rugs, they pay homage to both contemporary dance and cultural traditions.

Paying tribute to a gay Moroccan man murdered in Belgium, *Ihsane* confronts cycles of violence and persecution, calling for connection despite unimaginable grief.

Contains references to genocide, homophobia, violence, animal cruelty and fake blood

Supported by Flure Grossart.

MERE MORTALS

SAN FRANCISCO BALLET / ROYAL SCOTTISH NATIONAL ORCHESTRA

ASZURE BARTON / FLOATING POINTS

- 28 – 30 August 8pm; 29 August 3pm
- Audio Described 30 August
- 1 hour 10 minutes approximately, no intervals
- Edinburgh Playhouse
- From £24.50

Open Pandora's Box and come face to face with the perils of our tech-obsessed age. San Francisco Ballet takes on eternal questions about the quest for knowledge through the contemporary lens of artificial intelligence.

Returning to the International Festival for the first time in over 20 years, this forward-looking company brings its 'unmatched creative ambition' (The Washington Post) to the Edinburgh Playhouse stage. San Francisco Ballet's bold approach is a perfect fit for visionary choreographer Aszure Barton, whose works 'offer an entire world' (The New York Times).

Composer and electronic musician Floating Points (Sam Shepherd) performs his original score live with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. With cutting-edge visuals, the full power of the orchestra in the pit and 40 of the world's best dancers commanding the stage, this European premiere is a breathtaking spectacle.

Supported by Dunard Fund.

EXXY

DAN DAW CREATIVE PROJECTS

- 23 August 7.30 pm
- Audio Described, BSL, Captioned, Relaxed
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- King's Theatre
- From £12

How do you continue to value yourself when society doesn't value you? *EXXY* (Australian slang for, 'that's expensive, mate') takes us back to where queer, disabled artist Dan Daw began – working class, with very little.

Dan returns to the Festival after last year's *The Dan Daw Show*, this time joined by three extraordinary performers who move like him. With raw honesty and scorching stagecraft, they explore what it costs to stay at the top of your game when you've always been made to feel on the outside.

Included in your ticket is an afterparty across all floors of the newly refurbished King's Theatre – dance and mingle with the company in a joyful and inclusive party atmosphere.

Contains loud noise, flashing lights, haze, a sudden blackout, strong language, descriptions of being othered, sexual experiences & depictions of being in pain.

Performed in English with creative captions.

The Festival's return to the King's Theatre is supported by Sir Ewan and Lady Brown.

WHEN PROPHECY FAILS

GROUPWORK

- 27, 28, 29 August 7.30pm; 29 August 2.30pm; 30 August 5.30pm
- Captioned 27 – 30 August
- Audio Described 29 August 2.30pm
- BSL 30 August
- 1 hour 10 minutes approximately, no interval
- Studio Theatre
- £30

In a small town in the American Midwest, the disciples of a suburban housewife are convinced that the world is ending. Discover the true story of the world's first UFO doomsday cult, which led to a groundbreaking 1950s study into the concept of cognitive dissonance. Award-winning Scottish ensemble Groupwork combines astonishing visuals with hypnotic movement to create a timely performance investigating what happens when cold, hard facts meet the chaotic power of belief.

Visual performance with voiceover.

As part of our Discover Theatre programme, there will also be a dedicated schools performance.

MUSIC FOR FAMILIES

ART OF LISTENING WORKSHOPS

- 15, 22 & 29 August 10.30am & 1.30pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately
- Lunch 12noon – 1pm
- Space @ The Broomhouse Hub
- All tickets £5

Classical music is all around us in movies, TV and advertising. This interactive workshop is designed to unlock the meaning and power of listening deeply for adults and children through a shared experience. Led by an opera singer, pianist and facilitator, *Art of Listening* brings generations together to learn fresh ways to listen, share and connect.

Hosted in our Community Hub, all tickets include a free lunch before or after the workshop, provided by Coorie Catering. Free tickets are available to local residents in EH11 postcodes. For more information email connect@eif.co.uk

Suitable for children aged 7–11.

This workshop is designed for adults & children to enjoy together. Single tickets for adults or unsupervised children are not available.

MUSIC AT USHER HALL

OPENING CONCERT: ALL RISE

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTRE ORCHESTRA RESIDENCY WITH
WYNTON MARSALIS

- 8 August 6.30pm
- 2 hours 40 minutes approximately, two intervals
- Usher Hall
- £22.50

Wynton Marsalis's magnificent work, *All Rise*, is the inspiration behind this year's Festival theme. This massive jazz symphony in 12 movements, a tribute to the 12-bar blues, blends musical influences from around the world in a full-blooded expression of the human condition.

It traces a journey from birth, play and self-discovery, through pain and sacrifice, to maturity and joy. Teeming with the multiplicity, contradiction and surprise which life brings us, the music swings from juba to blues, via a New Orleans funeral and the rhythms of a train, to classical and jazz, in an exhilarating conversation.

Marsalis and his Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra join forces with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Edinburgh Festival Chorus and Jason Max Ferdinand Singers – all under the baton of the renowned James Gaffigan. With over 200 performers on stage, this glorious 'thunder' of a work is a monumental opening to our Usher Hall series.

Arrive early to enjoy pop-up performances and refreshments.

Sung in English with surtitles.

Supported by Sheila Colvin.

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTRE ORCHESTRA RESIDENCY: WITH WYNTON MARSALIS

JLCO PLAYS DUKE ELLINGTON

- 11 August 7.30pm
- 2 hours approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £22.50

Duke Ellington's Black, Brown and Beige is an extraordinary musical and political statement. A powerful account of Black life in America, Ellington's symphony exquisitely blends jazz, blues and spirituals. The orchestra is joined by emerging stars of the American jazz scene, who will curate a surprise programme to complement Ellington's masterpiece.

Sung in English with surtitles.

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTRE ORCHESTRA RESIDENCY: WITH WYNTON MARSALIS

JLCO WITH YUJA WANG

- 12 August 6pm & 9pm
- 1 hour 10 minutes approximately, no interval
- Usher Hall
- From £27.50

An Edinburgh International Festival commission and world exclusive, this is a unique opportunity to experience classical

superstar pianist Yuja Wang performing with these titans of jazz. Discover a programme of pieces selected by Wang and Wynton Marsalis, specially arranged for Wang's charismatic artistry to combine with the jazz orchestra's infectious spontaneity and flair.

GERSHWIN & BARTÓK

NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

Join 'some of the best young orchestral players in America' (The New York Times), in the second year of our collaboration with Carnegie Hall. The exceptional National Youth Orchestra of America performs with Festival regular, conductor Karina Canellakis. Samuel Barber's effervescent *Overture to The School for Scandal* is followed by George Gershwin's jazz-infused Piano Concerto with virtuoso soloist Kirill Gerstein. Béla Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra, written while living in exile in the US, is a nostalgic, exuberant tribute to his native Hungary.

Supported by Dunard Fund.

LA PHIL RESIDENCY: BEETHOVEN 7 & ORTIZ

- 14 August 7.30pm
- 1 hour 45 minutes approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £30

Join the LA Phil and singers from the Los Angeles Master Chorale for a feast of sonic beauty. Ludwig van Beethoven's Seventh Symphony bursts with elemental forces and kinetic energy. It's paired with the UK premiere of Gabriela Ortiz's Grammy Award-winning ballet score *Revolución diamantina (Glitter Revolution)*, a powerful and celebratory exploration of contemporary Mexican feminism.

*Sung in Spanish with English surtitles.

Supported by Edinburgh Napier University

LA PHIL RESIDENCY: BEETHOVEN 6 & ADÉS

- 15 August 7pm
- 1 hour 50 minutes approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £30

Beethoven's radiant 'Pastoral' symphony is a tribute to the solace he found in the Austrian countryside, complete with babbling brooks and birdsong. From there, we leap into fathoming the nine circles of hell in Thomas Adès's alternately comic and terrifying *Inferno* – an LA Phil-commissioned tribute to Dante's great narrative poem *The Divine Comedy*.

LA PHIL RESIDENCY: FAMILY CONCERT

YOLA / BIG NOISE

- 16 August 1pm
- BSL, Captioned, Relaxed
- 1 hour approximately, no interval
- Usher Hall

- All tickets £10

A perfect introduction to the excitement of the concert hall, our Family Concert welcomes children and their grown ups to hear not one, but two orchestras playing together. The LA Phil's youth orchestra, YOLA, joins with Scotland's Big Noise and superstar conductor Gustavo Dudamel for a selection of high-spirited classical pieces. You'll be welcomed to the concert and introduced to the musicians, bringing you closer to the magic of live music.

Recommended for ages 7–11 but suitable for all ages.

Supported by Dunard Fund.

ORCHESTRE SYMPHONIQUE DE MONTRÉAL

COLERIDGE-TAYLOR'S THE SONG OF HIAWATHA

- 19 August 7pm
- Captioned
- 3 hours approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £22.50

A chance to see Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's monumental 1899 cantata trilogy *The Song of Hiawatha* performed in full for the first time at the Festival. This spectacular choral work was inspired by American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem about an Ojibwe warrior. Three superb soloists, including Scottish tenor Nicky Spence, perform with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, conductor Rafael Payare and the Edinburgh Festival

Chorus for this masterpiece. Uchenna Ngwe, a specialist in Black British classical music, introduces its fascinating history.

Supported by The Québec Government Office in London.

ORCHESTRE SYMPHONIQUE DE MONTRÉAL

VOICES OF CANADA

- 20 August 7.30pm
- 2 hours approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £22.50

This concert opens with two new vocal works paying tribute to Canada's Indigenous peoples. Grammy-winning composer Gabriela Ortiz, also featured in the LA Phil's programme, evokes the mysterious beauty of Mexico's subterranean rivers and caves in her cello concerto Dzonot, written for soloist Alisa Weilerstein. Finally, Richard Strauss offers a vivid autobiography in Ein Heldenleben (A Hero's Life).

Supported by Léan Scully Endowed Fund with additional support from The Québec Government Office in London.

BACH TO BACH: ALISA WEILERSTEIN PLAYS THE CELLO SUITES

- 22 August 3.30pm
- 2 hours 30 minutes approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £22.50

Alisa Weilerstein rises to the feat of performing all six of Bach's dance-inspired Cello Suites, in what she describes as 'a shared spiritual experience'. Her playing reveals the suites' contrasting characters and why they are considered among the greatest works for the instrument.

Supported by Scobie Dickinson Ward.

BACH TO BACH: VÍKINGUR ÓLAFSSON PLAYS BACH & BEETHOVEN

- 22 August 9pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- Usher Hall
- From £22.50

Grammy Award-winning pianist Víkingur Ólafsson has selected Bach keyboard works to pair with music by Beethoven and Schubert. Highlights include Bach's expansive dance-inspired Partita BWV 830 and Beethoven's sublime Sonata Op.109, with Ólafsson's recent recording described as 'one of the most purely beautiful accounts on record' (The Guardian).

Supported by Scobie Dickinson Ward.

BRASS FANFARE

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN WALLACE

- 13 August 5pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- Usher Hall
- From £17.50

- Beanbag concert

Brass players from three of Scotland's top orchestras join forces with leading brass ensemble The Wallace Collection in a fond tribute to its late founder, inspirational Scottish trumpeter John Wallace. The programme includes movements from Wallace's *Symphony* from Brass Band, inspired by his native Fife, and Elgar Howarth's arrangement of Modest Mussorgsky's atmospheric *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

Supported by Brenda Rennie.

THIS SHINING NIGHT

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL CHORUS

- 13 August 9pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- Usher Hall
- From £17.50
- Beanbag concert

The Edinburgh Festival Chorus joins with a group of our Rising Stars for a programme of American music from the 20th and 21st centuries. Hymns and love songs by Samuel Barber and Aaron Copland mingle with works by outstanding contemporary composers, under the baton of conductor Sofi Jeannin. Joel Thompson's heartbreaking and hard-hitting *Seven Last Words of the Unarmed* stands as the programme's powerful centrepiece.

Sung in English and Latin with English surtitles.

THE GOLDEN AGE OF HOLLYWOOD

SINFONIA OF LONDON

- 24 August 8pm
- Captioned and beanbags 25 August 11am
- 2 hours 15 minutes approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- Mon 24 Aug From £22.50
- Tue 25 Aug From £17.50

The allure of 1930s Hollywood enticed artists and audiences with the promise of glamour, optimism, and escape. At its glittering heart, MGM musicals shaped the sound of American popular culture until its music library was destroyed in 1969. John Wilson has devoted over 30 years to restoring the original orchestrations and now, with his Sinfonia of London, the iconic music of George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Irving Berlin shines anew.

Whether you come in your finery and enjoy a glass of fizz for the lavish evening concert, or relax in the more informal atmosphere of our beanbag arrangement the following morning, this will be a treat.

JORDI SAVALL: A SEA OF MUSIC

HESPÈRION XXI

- 25 August 8pm
- Captioned and beanbag concert
- 2 hours approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £22.50

Jordi Savall has dedicated decades to the rediscovery and appreciation of early music. His recent receipt of the 2026 Ernst von Siemens Music Prize recognises a lifetime of outstanding contributions.

Savall's versatile Hespèrion XXI ensemble brings its 'mercurial virtuosity' (The Guardian) to this concert, connecting musical influences across Europe, Africa and the Americas. The 'sea of music' honours the millions of victims of the global slave trade and speaks to the cultural legacy of migration and diaspora that shapes our world today. Connect to the music from the comfort of a beanbag.

MAHLER'S DAS KLAGENDE LIED

BBC SCOTTISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

- 27 August 7.30pm
- 2 hours approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £22.50
- Beanbag concert

Seize a rare chance to hear Mahler's epic cantata *Das klagende Lied* (*The Song of Lamentation*). The Edinburgh Festival Chorus perform with a team of first-rate soloists and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Donald Runnicles, the orchestra's former Chief Conductor who presided over 'one of Scotland's proudest periods in orchestra history' (The Guardian). Mahler's chilling account of fratricide and ghostly revenge foreshadows his great symphonies in its rich orchestration and lyrical, folk-inspired melodies.

*Sung in German with English surtitles.

Supported by Pirie Rankin Endowed Fund.

COLIN CURRIE GROUP PLAYS STEVE REICH

- 28 August 7pm
- 2 hours approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £22.50
- Beanbag concert

Pioneer of minimalism, Steve Reich is a living legend in contemporary classical music. We have invited Colin Currie, ‘the world’s finest and most daring percussionist’ (Spectator), to return to the Festival, with his hand-picked ensemble for this celebration of more than half a century of Reich’s work. Acclaimed for their

‘technically impeccable and musically overwhelming’ (The Guardian) performances of Reich’s music, the group’s programme encompasses the iconic early *Clapping Music* and the large-scale Pulitzer Prize-winning *Double Sextet*, as well as the world premiere of Festival co-commission *In All Your Ways*.

BERLINER PHILHARMONIKER RESIDENCY

ELGAR & TCHAIKOVSKY

- Limited Availability
- 29 August 7pm
- 1 hour 45 minutes approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £30

Experience two greats of the orchestral repertoire. Edward Elgar's much-loved 'Enigma Variations' brought him overnight success, while Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's thrilling Fourth Symphony marks the moment his full musical voice emerged.

Supported by Goethe-Institut Glasgow.

BERLINER PHILHARMONIKER RESIDENCY

CLOSING CONCERT

- Limited Availability
- 30 August 7.30pm
- 2 hours approximately, one interval
- Usher Hall
- From £30

Celebrated violinist Augustin Hadelich performs Ludwig van Beethoven's one and only Violin Concerto. The blazing finale of Alexander Scriabin's Third Symphony brings the Festival to a triumphant close.

Supported by the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Edinburgh.

Supported by Goethe-Institut Glasgow.

MUSIC AT THE QUEEN'S HALL

DUNEDIN CONSORT

- 8 August 11am
- 1 hour 20 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Drawing on non-canonical gospels, ancient texts and poetry by Ruth Fainlight, this fascinating new work by Tansy Davies brings a fresh perspective to historically repressed voices. Passion of Mary Magdalene recasts Mary as a complex spiritual leader, with the title role sung by award-winning soprano Anna Dennis. Baroque specialist John Butt leads Dunedin Consort, a firm festival favourite known for 'ebullient flourishes of melody and technique' (The Times).

Co-commissioned by Edinburgh International Festival, Barbican Centre & Dunedin Consort.

JASON MAX FERDINAND SINGERS

- 10 August 11am
- 1 hour 50 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Conductor and composer Jason Max Ferdinand formed his choir to champion Black excellence through an eclectic range of choral

literature. Their exciting programme ranges from stirring choruses by Ludwig van Beethoven and Richard Wagner to soulful contemporary works. Following their Festival debut in *All Rise*, this more intimate performance is filled with inventive arrangements of spirituals, folk songs and well-known hymns.

Supported by Geoff and Mary Ball.

BETH TAYLOR & HAMISH BROWN

- 11 August 11am
- 1 hour 50 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Mezzo soprano Beth Taylor, praised by the Telegraph for her 'tender and magnificent' tone, makes her Festival debut with pianist Hamish Brown for a carefully curated recital whose themes include the sea and iconic female figures from myth. Enlivened by Taylor's spectacular voice, hear evocative musical depictions of the Lorelei, Cassandra, Medusa and more in a programme rich with female composers and new works.

LAWRENCE BROWNLEE & IAIN BURNSIDE

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

Discover an imaginative recital of Italian and American songs. Highlights include lyrical numbers by Gaetano Donizetti and Dominick Argento; Franz Liszt's impassioned *Tre sonetti di*

Petrarca (Three Petrarch Sonnets); and songs from Lawrence Brownlee's Rising project, in which he has commissioned leading Black American composers to set poetry from the Harlem Renaissance.

Supported by **Richard Parry**

SEAN SHIBE

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

Scottish guitarist Sean Shibe presents his debut Festival recital: a brilliantly eclectic programme spanning five centuries, bringing together music from Spain and Britain. In a conversation between past and present, graceful fantasias and preludes from the Renaissance period mingle with the boundary-breaking music of contemporary Spanish composer Francisco Coll, and Thomas Adès's rippling, restless dances.

Supported by Margaret Duffy and Peter Williamson.

VENICE BAROQUE ORCHESTRA

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

The Venice Baroque Orchestra and its founder-director Andrea Marcon are known for the 'fiery intensity' of their performances (Gramophone). The ensemble performs several of Antonio Vivaldi's

celebrated concertos, including the soulful Concerto for Two Cellos and the flamboyant Flute Concerto. Also on the programme are works by contemporaries Francesco Geminiani and George Frideric Handel.

DEATH OF GESUALDO

- 15 August 11am
- Audio Described
- 1 hour 20 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

The 16th-century composer Carlo Gesualdo is infamous for murdering his wife and her lover, while also being remembered for his dissonant musical language. Director Bill Barclay and The

Gesualdo Six vocal ensemble present a multi-faceted portrait of the composer in *The Death of Gesualdo*, illustrated by Renaissance iconography, dance, puppetry, and sinister *tableaux vivants*.

According to a recent five-star review, 'the staging, the singing and acting are sublime' (The Times).

RISING STARS OF VOICE WITH LOUISE ALDER

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

Our Rising Stars programme invites exceptional up-and-coming performers to The Queen's Hall stage for a concert which includes Johannes Brahms's dramatic *Neue Liebeslieder (New Love Songs)*. The Rising Stars perform with their internationally

acclaimed mentors, soprano Louise Alder and pianist James Baillieu. Don't miss this chance to discover classical music's future luminaries.

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

STEVEN OSBORNE

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

Steven Osborne performs works by Brendel's beloved Schubert: the dramatic Sonata in C minor, the luminous Four Impromptus and songs from *Schwanengesang*. The programme also features contemporary gems from Scottish composers James MacMillan and Judith Weir.

Supported by an anonymous donor.

Tribute to Alfred Brendel.

PAUL LEWIS

- 20 August 11am
- 1 hour 50 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Paul Lewis has described working with Brendel as 'a transformational experience'. Now, he pays tribute with a programme Brendel would have appreciated: two Mozart sonatas

alongside Chopin's heartfelt Nocturnes and impassioned Polonaise, and a little-known masterpiece by the early Romantic Carl Maria von Weber.

Tribute to Alfred Brendel.

PIERRE-LAURENT AIMARD

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

Pierre-Laurent Aimard honours his regular musical partner with a characteristically imaginative programme. Miniatures by Aimard's long-term collaborators György Ligeti and György Kurtág complement short lyrical works by Beethoven and Schubert – the composers with whom Brendel was most closely associated.

Tribute to Alfred Brendel.

KLEIO QUARTET & SHEKU KANNEH-MASON

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

The Kleio Quartet – BBC New Generation Artists and winners of the 2023 Carl Nielsen International Chamber Music Competition – made an ecstatically received Festival debut in 2024. Now they join forces with star cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason and genre-defying pianist Makoto Ozone to perform Franz Schubert's sublime String

Quintet in C and Béla Bartók's luscious late-Romantic Piano Quintet.

Supported by Niall and Carol Lothian.

MAXIM EMELYANYCHEV & SCO WIND SOLOISTS

- 21 August 11am
- 1 hour 50 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Enjoy a programme of French chamber music from the 20th century. Maxim Emelyanychev, pianist and conductor of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, duets with SCO wind soloists in Francis Poulenc's elegiac late sonatas, while the full ensemble gathers for Poulenc's effervescent early sextet. In between are Maurice Ravel's dazzling piano piece *Jeux d'eau*, and the delicious 'brasserie' music of Jean Françaix.

VILDE FRANG & FRIENDS

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

Join these first-class musicians led by dynamic violinist Vilde Frang, celebrating music from Johannes Brahms and Béla Bartók. Bartók's joyful and highly inventive First Violin Sonata is accompanied by a selection of his Folk Dances. They are complemented in turn by Brahms's Hungarian Dances: late-Romantic favourites based on traditional folk melodies.

Supported by Donald and Louise MacDonald.

GRINGOLTS QUARTET

- 24 August 11am
- 1 hour 50 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Acclaimed for their 'beautifully integrated sound' (The Herald), the musicians of the Gringolts Quartet create a lively dialogue between compositions from different eras. In this recital they celebrate György Kurtág's centenary by pairing some of his exquisitely crafted miniatures – including his tribute to his compatriot, fellow composer Endre Szervánszky – with the epic final quartet of one of Kurtág's heroes, Franz Schubert.

JULIE ROSET & SUSAN MANOFF

- 27 August 11am
- 1 hour 25 minutes approximately, one interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Experience an inspired selection of songs from the French Belle Époque and beyond, sung by one of today's most vibrant sopranos. Julie Roset and pianist Susan Manoff perform *mélodies* (art songs) by Claude Debussy, Reynaldo Hahn and Francis Poulenc alongside pieces from George Enescu, Mel Bonis and contemporary composer Isabelle Aboulker. Roset's sparkling voice is showcased brilliantly by this sumptuous repertoire.

PAVEL HAAS QUARTET

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

Europe meets the US in a celebration of the string quartet. The Czech Pavel Haas Quartet brings characteristic joie de vivre to the music of Bohuslav Martinů, Antonín Dvořák, and Erich Korngold, three composers who reached across the Atlantic to explore new musical avenues. Korngold composed his Second String Quartet shortly before leaving his native Austria for a Hollywood career, while Dvořák's 'American' quartet is infused with folk melodies from his three-year stay in the United States.

Supported by Tanya and David Parker.

MEMBERS OF THE BERLINER PHILHARMONIKER

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

Players from the Berliner Philharmoniker perform an elegant and intimate programme of 19th- and 20th-century chamber works as part of their International Festival residency. Piano, strings, clarinet and horn join forces in delicate Zdeněk Fibich, autumnal Johannes Brahms, and a deliciously playful sextet from Ernst von Dohnányi. Celebrate the close of The Queen's Hall series with these world-renowned musicians.

In Memory of Peter Diamand.

SCOTTISH ENSEMBLE & BRÌGHDE CHAIMBEUL

- 23 August 8pm
- 1 hour 10 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Queen's Hall
- From £15.50

Brìghde Chaimbeul has set the world of Celtic music alight, pairing mastery of the Scottish smallpipes with a creative approach to the Scottish Gaelic music tradition. Chaimbeul joins forces with Scottish Ensemble and filmmaker Jonny Ashworth to explore Celtic mythology and storytelling. Together, they blend new and traditional tunes, electronic sound and bewitching footage of Scottish landscapes.

Co-commissioned by Edinburgh International Festival & Eden Court.

DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY CONCERTS

- 30 August 11am & 2.30pm
- 1 hour approximately, no interval
- The Queen's Hall
- All tickets £10
- Companion tickets are free

Experience a relaxed atmosphere and lively music at two dementia-friendly concerts. Join our Scottish Rising Stars of Jazz and presenter Lucy Drever, to revisit some well-known jazz standards and explore new sounds, coupled with conversation, tea and cake. These relaxed performances are designed especially for

people living with dementia and their caregivers, family and friends to enjoy familiar music in a comfortable environment. Audience members are welcome to move around the auditorium, arrive early and take breaks.

Supported by Elizabeth Lornie's Charitable Trust.

MUSIC AT THE HUB

GOSPEL WORKSHOPS WITH JASON MAX FERDINAND SINGERS

- 11 August 3.30pm & 5.30pm
- 1 hour approximately
- The Hub
- £10
- Register in advance at eif.co.uk/workshop

The Maryland-based 'uber-talented choir' (Rolling Stone), led by Jason Max Ferdinand, invite you to join a gospel singing workshop. The workshops are ideal for enthusiastic singers – perhaps you already sing in a choir or can read music. You can also experience their talents in our *Opening Concert: All Rise*, as well as at The Queen's Hall.

PREVIEW: DÀNA WITH ELLIE BEATON

- 7 August 2pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £12
- Price includes a welcome drink

Dàna is an emerging all-female band based in Glasgow, whose recent accolades include winning a Scots Trad Music Award in 2025. Their name, meaning 'bold' or 'audacious' in Gaelic, perfectly captures their vibrant sound and performance style. The band is joined by another award-winning up-and-coming artist, Scottish singer Ellie Beaton.

FIRST NIGHT AT THE HUB

- 10 August 10pm
- 1 hour 30 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £20
- Price includes a welcome drink

Join violinist and Festival Director Nicola Benedetti and musicians from across the Festival in a late-night performance that has become a staple in our calendar. With a surprise musical lineup this eclectic evening gives you a taste of world-class talent, up close.

UP LATE: JAZZ JAM

- 11 August 10pm
- 2 hours approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £20
- Price includes a welcome drink

Experience the energetic atmosphere of our late-night jazz jam, led by returning pianist Joe Webb and drummer Domo Branch and featuring our Rising Stars of Jazz. With jazz standards at the heart of the session, the musicians create fresh, dynamic takes on timeless classics. Witness exciting improvisation and raw creativity in action.

Supported by Ian Jackson and Sally Cross.

MARK & MAGGIE O'CONNOR

- 13 August 8pm
- 1 hour 30 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £20
- Price includes a welcome drink

Join Mark O'Connor, 'one of the most talented and imaginative artists working in music today' (The Los Angeles Times) and the

sensational Maggie O'Connor in an evening of dazzling fiddle tunes and duets that celebrate the depth and beauty of American genres, from classical to jazz to bluegrass. The combination of Mark, an award-winning multi-instrumentalist and composer, and Maggie, a celebrated violinist and talented singer, makes for an irresistible evening of strings and song.

SOUNDS OF IHSANE

- 14 August 7pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £20
- Price includes a welcome drink

Immerse yourself in the musical world of one of our major dance productions, *Ihsane*. Viola d'amore player and composer Jasser Haj Youssef is joined by the rest of the on-stage musicians from *Ihsane* to dive deeper into Middle Eastern and North African music. Youssef, described as 'an extremely skilful and versatile player' (The Scotsman) leads the group through mesmerising melodies.

UP LATE WITH GNOSS

- 14 August 10pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £20
- Price includes a welcome drink

Livewire instrumental skills, evocative songwriting and the joyful warmth of their live shows have made Gness one of Scotland's fastest-rising contemporary folk bands. Their sound is a rich tapestry of guitar, fiddle, flute, bodhrán and vocals, 'mixing outstanding musicianship with captivating original songs' (Irish News). As their skyrocketing reputation takes them increasingly further afield, this is a great opportunity to catch them close to home.

Supported by Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

UP LATE WITH MARK O'CONNOR & GUSTAVO DUDAMEL

- 16 August 10pm
- 1 hour 30 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £20
- Price includes a welcome drink

Join multi-Grammy Award-winning string virtuoso Mark O'Connor, special guest classical superstar Gustavo Dudamel and a surprise lineup of musicians from across the International Festival programme. Expect an evening of world-class performances of music from North and South America.

Supported by Dunard Fund.

CORTO.ALTO

- 18 August 8pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £20
- Price includes a welcome drink

Translating as '*short.tall*' in Spanish, corto.alto is a nod to Glasgow artist Liam Shortall's Irish-Spanish heritage. corto.alto's debut album *Bad With Names* fizzed with experiments in jazz, electronic music and club culture, earning it a 2024 Mercury Prize nomination. Praised for introducing jazz to Gen Z audiences, the prolific multi-instrumentalist and bandleader tours America before bringing his blistering live show to Edinburgh.

CLASSICAL JAM WITH NICOLA BENEDETTI

- 17 August 8pm
- 2 hours approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £20
- Price includes a welcome drink

The innovative *Classical Jam* returns to The Hub. Joined by Nicola Benedetti, this year's Rising Stars of Strings put the choice of repertoire in the hands of the audience. Discover the passion and spontaneity of this concert, where the connection between audience and musicians is at the very heart of the performance.

SIMON THOUMIRE: SCOTS FIDDLE & CLARSACH

- 24 August 8pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £20
- Price includes a welcome drink

Simon Thoumire's inventive compositions take Scottish folk tunes on a thrilling ride. Thoumire presents this concert of his work, performed by an exceptional ensemble of string and clarsach players. Discover Thoumire's distinctive voice across fiddle, string quartet, strathspey and reels, plus the world premiere of his clarsach concerto.

Supported by Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

CAMILLA GEORGE

- 26 August 8pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £20
- Price includes a welcome drink

A firm fixture on the British jazz scene for over a decade, alto saxophonist Camilla George creates an unmissable sound by combining hip hop and Afrofuturism with jazz. Exploring the legacy of the slave trade and Nigerian history and culture, she firmly roots her music in storytelling. Accompanied by her band, George creates a night full of deep groove and fearless improvisation.

DERYA TÜRKAN & FRIENDS

AGA KHAN MUSIC PROGRAMME

- 20 August 8pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £20
- Price includes a welcome drink

Come on a musical journey to 17th-century Constantinople. There you will encounter two extraordinary men, Ali Ufkî and Dimitrie Cantemir, who each collected and composed hundreds of pieces of Turkish music. Fresh from his 2025 Aga Khan Music Awards win, Derya Türkan, master of the kemençe (a three-stringed fiddle), takes the stage with luminous vocalist Dilek Türkan and Aga Khan Master Musicians Yurdal Tokcan, Basel Rajoub and Feras Charestan to explore this music.

BEYOND TRADITION

AGA KHAN MUSIC PROGRAMME

- 21 August 7pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £20
- Price includes a welcome drink

An electrifying, all-female supergroup brings together Yasamin Shahhosseini on oud, Farah Kaddour on buzuq, and kora player Senny Camara. They join forces in a rare collaboration where strings cross borders, rhythms answer one another, and centuries-old lineages are reimagined in real time. Expect intimacy, fire, and

moments of breathtaking exchange as three distinct musical worlds collide and resonate as one.

SENNY CAMARA ENSEMBLE

AGA KHAN MUSIC PROGRAMME

- 21 August 10pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £20
- Price includes a welcome drink

'I firmly believe that the kora harmonises our souls, giving us the feeling that we understand each other without borders or judgements,' says Senny Camara. Camara's mastery of the traditional West African kora beautifully accompanies her evocative songs of gender equality, environmental and social justice. With the gentle grace of her performances, she has conquered the hearts of fans throughout West Africa and around the world.

ROUTES TO ROOTS

- 27 August 8pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £20
- Price includes a welcome drink

Catriona Price sold out The Hub in 2023 with a performance of her album *Hert*. She's back to present Routes to Roots, a new organisation that she leads with Argentinian musicians El Guapo, bringing together artists from different cultures in genre-defying collaborations. The Routes to Roots team are joined by musicians

from Scotland and Latin America to perform a selection of brand-new pieces and arrangements.

Supported by Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

ORCHESTRA BAOBAB

- 28 August 7pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £20
- Price includes a welcome drink

Orchestra Baobab began as a house band at Dakar's Baobab Club in 1970 and went on to become Senegal's most popular band. Their irresistible blend of Cuban and African grooves has enjoyed a comeback since the band reunited in 2001. This year sees the release of new album *Made in Senegal*, a love letter to home from West Africa's legendary dance band.

RÓIS

- 28 August 10pm
- 1 hour 15 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £20
- Price includes a welcome drink

RÓIS (pronounced RAW-sh) is an experimental Irish folk composer, vocalist and electronic artist. Her 2024 album *Mo Léan* explored death, life and grieving. From winning Album of the Year and Live Act of The Year at last year's Northern Irish Music Prize to the RTÉ Folk Awards naming her Best Emerging Artist, RÓIS is a rapidly rising force to watch.

UP LATE WITH DONALD SHAW

- 30 August 10pm
- 1 hour 30 minutes approximately, no interval
- The Hub
- From £20
- Price including welcome drink

Let your hair down with the award-winning Donald Shaw, founder of trailblazing modern Scottish folk band Capercaillie, joined by an elite troupe of folk musicians. Whistle and pipes join bouzouki, bodhrán and accordion to bring a wealth of Scottish folk music to life. Expect a toe-tapping, barnstorming Festival finale.

Supported by Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

OTHER EVENTS

TOGETHER WE RISE

- 9 August
- Princes Street Gardens
- FREE, drop in
- For full details, visit eif.co.uk/together

This year we celebrate the power of collaboration, perfectly exemplified by this joyful, community-led celebration at the heart of the city. We invite you to stroll through the gardens and delight in pop-up performances showcasing music and dance from across Scotland and the USA, inspired by our Festival theme. We gather together for the culmination – a heart-expanding, jaw-dropping moment of collective expression inspired by the final, soulful movement of Wynton Marsalis’s All Rise.

In collaboration with Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival.

THE GLOBAL IDEAS STAGE

TALK

- 11 August 4pm
- BSL & Captioned
- 2 hours approximately, no interval
- King’s Theatre
- £30
- Price includes tea or coffee

Edinburgh has long been a crucible for ideas. Two and a half centuries ago, pioneering thinkers like Adam Smith and David

Hume mingled in coffeehouses, openly debated theories, and envisioned leaps forward in how we understand society.

Today, the world faces challenges that demand the same combination of insight and imagination. In collaboration with Panmure House, the home of Adam Smith, we are proud to present a bold new form of public discourse.

Curated and hosted by Harvard University professor Sarah Lewis and Festival Director Nicola Benedetti, extraordinary global thinkers and cultural leaders join on stage at the newly refurbished King's Theatre for an unconventional, dramatic, inquisitive and convivial conversation.

Supported by James and Morag Anderson.

Additional support for the Festival's return to the King's Theatre is provided by Sir Ewan and Lady Brown.

THE LEGACY OF SLAVERY

EXHIBITION

- 8 –30 August, 10am – 5pm
- Playfair library
- FREE, ticketed

Discover a comprehensive history of the legacy of slavery and racial injustice in the first international exhibition from one of America's premier cultural institutions, The Legacy Museum based in Montgomery, Alabama. Tracking the tragic history of millions of enslaved Africans who were abducted and trafficked across the Atlantic to the Americas by European powers, this exhibition explores the myth of racial hierarchy that enabled slavery, lynching and segregation. This legacy continues to the racial injustices

today. Created by the Equal Justice Initiative, The Legacy Sites demonstrate that the power of history is in telling the truth.

ANNE HARDY

EXHIBITION

- 27 June - 27 September
- Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 5pm
- Monday – Sunday during Festival dates
- Talbot Rice Gallery
- FREE, unticketed

British sculptor Anne Hardy transforms Talbot Rice Gallery into a single immersive space. With sculptures made from cast elements, found materials and earth drawings, she explores landscapes that are both human and post-human by animating the gallery with light, sound, data and scenography. Grafting seemingly incompatible contexts one into the other – a colossal monument into an interior gallery; an archaeological dig into an historic building – she studies how our bodies respond to space and sensory stimuli, creating an atmosphere that will cast spells over the room.

Talbot Rice Gallery is the public art gallery of Edinburgh College of Art / The University of Edinburgh.

Please note that the venue does not currently have level access due to major refurbishment of the lift. Entrance via Old College Quad.

COME AND SING BACH CHORALES

- 22 August 2.30pm

- Usher Hall
- FREE WORKSHOP
- Register in advance at eif.co.uk/sing

Join us for a day of shared music-making, where you'll learn and perform chorales from Johann Sebastian Bach's *St Matthew* and *St John Passions* with Edinburgh Festival Chorus Director James Grossmith.
