

EMBARGOED TILL 5/11/18 at midday

THE QUEEN'S HALL – LIFE BEGINS AT 40

1979-2019: Former church celebrates 40 years of welcoming music worshippers through its doors



Southside of the Tracks 12.01.19



Steven Osborne & Alban Gerhardt 06.07.19

The Queen's Hall enters its fortieth year in 2019 with a packed and varied programme of **high quality** events which reflect the wealth of entertainment it has provided audiences over the years, whilst also **looking forward to a bright future**.

The celebrations start on **12 January** with a who's who of singer-songwriters brought together on the same stage for the first time by Scotland's foremost fiddle player, **John McCusker**. Renowned for his skill at transcending musical boundaries, John has shared stages with Paul Weller, Paolo Nutini and Teenage Fanclub and has been a member of Mark Knopfler's house band since 2008. In **Southside of the Tracks: 40 years of traditional music at The Queen's Hall** he will perform with his chosen house band of James Mackintosh, Ian Carr, Ewen Vernal, Michael McGoldrick and Louis Abbott (Admiral Fallow) with special guests, so far, Roddy Woomble (Idlewild), Kathleen MacInnes, Phil Cunningham, Adam Holmes, Daoiri Farrell, Heidi Talbot and Rachel Sermanni. More guests are to be announced.

Nigel Griffiths, Chair of The Queen's Hall Board of Trustees says, *"We're starting our fortieth year as we mean to go on and have a bold and ambitious programme which reflects the calibre of artists performing on our stage. In the face of developing competition it is so important for Edinburgh, as the capital city, to keep this beloved institution on the map and I believe we're now poised to enter a truly dynamic era in The Queen's Hall's history."*

To commemorate the concert on **6 July 1979** when The Queen's Hall was officially opened by HM Queen Elizabeth II, we have multi-award-winning Scottish pianist **Steven Osborne** with one of the world's finest cellists **Alban Gerhardt** performing a programme of **Schumann, Brahms, Debussy and Ravel**.

Further classical highlights include a dedicated anniversary concert by the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO)** on **24 October** (details to be announced in early 2019) and a return for the popular festival of chamber music, **Winterplay** on **16 February**, directed by **Susan Tomes**.

The SCO have called The Queen's Hall home since 1979 and were instrumental, along with the Scottish Baroque Ensemble (now the Scottish Ensemble) and the Scottish Philharmonic Singers in helping to raise £850k in 1977 to turn the Church of Newington and St Leonard's into the established venue it is today.

Throughout 2019 we will present **QH@40 – a series of adventures in music** with curated performances in four strands (jazz, folk, pop/indie and experimental) in partnership with guest curators. The first of these to be announced is **Jazz**, curated by **Tommy Smith** and supported by **Creative Scotland**. For the first time in many years, Tommy will be showcasing one of his most acclaimed pieces **Beasts of Scotland (18 April)** with his Sextet, narration by **Tam Dean Burn** and support from Square One. On **13 June** he reunites with pianist **Brian Kellock** and Gaelic singer **Kathleen MacInnes**, with support from the Fergus McCreadie Trio. Details of other events in the jazz and other strands will be announced in early 2019.

Evan Henderson, Chief Executive of The Queen's Hall says, *"We're really pleased that Creative Scotland understands what we are trying to achieve by introducing these new strands to our programme, as we embark on the journey that will take The Queen's Hall's into the next stage of its life. We're committed to developing ambitious events which push the boundaries of music genres, partnering with musicians and artists who are the best in their field who wouldn't be able to take artistic risks without Creative Scotland's support."*

Alan Morrison, Head of Music at Creative Scotland, commented: *"Next year The Queen's Hall will be in a great position to look back on everything it has achieved across the 40 years but also to look ahead to a dynamic new position at the heart of Edinburgh's live music scene. Alongside the major refurbishment of the building, the anniversary programme has the potential to open up this much loved venue to new audiences. Creative Scotland is delighted to support an artistic vision that will breathe life into and broaden horizons of the capital's music calendar."*

For jazz fans we also have the **BBC Big Band featuring Claire Martin OBE** on **30 March** with a programme comprising standards made famous by Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holliday and other female jazz legends.

The Queen's Hall is a registered charity (SC012294) with limited funding from the City of Edinburgh Council, and relies on donations from private individuals, trusts, foundations and corporate sponsors to boost ticket and bar income. This allows us to bring world-class musicians to our stage and carry out a year-round programme of **community and engagement work**.

As part of this work, we are delighted to announce **Homecoming 2: The Return of Mackay's Memoirs** on **4 March**. In 1999, **Martyn Bennett** was commissioned to write a special piece of music commemorating the centenary of Broughton High School to be performed by students at the City of Edinburgh Music School (CEMS). The piece was performed at the opening of the Scottish Parliament and a recording of it was completed the day Martyn died. Four of the original musicians – Maeve Gilchrist (clarsach), Ben Duncan (pipes), Adam Clifford (percussion) and Dave Lloyd (beats and loops) – return to perform the piece in this very special concert with CEMS Chamber Orchestra.

Each March, The Queen's Hall partners with the **City of Edinburgh Council Instrumental Music Service** on the **Resonate** series of concerts in which secondary school pupils perform on our professional stage. This year we go one step further by giving the **Edinburgh Schools Jazz Orchestra** a once in a lifetime opportunity to open for **Naturally 7**, America's foremost a cappella group who have shared a stage with Michael Bublé and Coldplay (**14 March**).

Looking towards the **Edinburgh Fringe**, we're very happy to welcome back **Henning Wehn** for another extended run (1-4, 8-11, 15-18, 22-25 August) with his show **Get On With It**.

This is Caledonian Soul presented by Blue Rose Code also makes a welcome return. With the help of a 14-piece band and some very special guests, Ross Wilson (aka Blue Rose Code) will offer his unique take on generations of cult, iconic and classic Scots song in what is bound to be the hot ticket of the Fringe (**19 August**).

The Queen's Hall has seen many great artists grace its stage over the last forty years including Nina Simone, Dame Evelyn Glennie, Nick Cave, Adele, Coldplay, David Byrne, John Martyn, Sparks, Nigel Kennedy, Jack Bruce, Lenny Henry, Bill Hicks and Johnny Vegas. The 40th Anniversary programme aims to add current and future stars to this line-up and continue our close association with the promoters and organisations who have been regular visitors here over the years including: CMP, DF Concerts, Dunedin Consort, East Neuk Festival, Edinburgh Highland Reel & Strathspey Society, Edinburgh Light Orchestra, Edinburgh Quartet, Fallen Angels, Fane Productions, Gig Cartel, Kevock Choir, Lonesome Highway, Live Nation, McFarlane Productions, Mick Perrin, Mr McFall's Chamber, New Town Concerts, Phil Macintyre, Regular Music, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Scottish Ensemble, Scottish National Jazz Orchestra, SJM, Synergy and Triple A Entertainment.

A more comprehensive list of shows during our 40th anniversary year follows below and can be viewed on our website at www.thequeenshall.net. Further announcements will be made in early 2019.

For further information, logos and hi-res images:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/iewzwx79k4yez7/AAB5T8U8NfQ7pw8veNMR9x0Ra?dl=0>

Contact: Jacquie Ewens, Marketing Officer: 0131 622 7386 | jacquiee@queenshalledinburgh.org

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Event Listings:

Unless it states 'details to be confirmed' tickets are currently available for all the following shows from The Queen's Hall: www.queenshall.net / 0131 668 2019.

Southside of the Tracks: 40 years of traditional music at The Queen's Hall, Sat 12 Jan

Curated by Scotland's foremost fiddle player, John McCusker and featuring a stellar line-up of singer-songwriters, including Roddy Woomble (Idlewild), Kathleen MacInnes, Heidi Talbot, Phil Cunningham, Rachel Sermanni, Adam Holmes, Daoiri Farrell and more. Supported by Ettrick Trust.

<http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/southside-tracks>

Neil & Liam Finn, Fri 18 Jan

The Crowded House front man and son perform their new album *Lightsleeper*.

<http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/neil-liam-finn>

Arod Quartet, Mon 21 Jan

First New Town Concert of 2019. Other concerts during the year include a conclusion to Paul Lewis's two-year recital programme.

<http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/arod-quartet>

Christian Zacharias, Thu 24 Jan

Acclaimed pianist performs in support of the East Neuk Festival Endowment Fund.

<http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/christian-zacharias>

Apollo & Daphne, Tue 5 Feb

The first Dunedin Consort concert of 2019 with other concerts throughout the year including the Matthew Passion. <http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/apollo-daphne>

Jazz Scotland: Belgian Jazz, Thu 7 Feb

Details to be confirmed.

Jimeoin, Sat 9 Feb

Brilliantly observed, ever-evolving and hilarious comedy from the Irish-Australian.

<http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/jimeoin>

Winterplay, Sat 16 Feb

An all-day festival of beautiful chamber music directed by Susan Tomes (piano) with Erich Höbarth (violin), Philip Higham (cello), Janice Galloway (spoken word), Robert Philip (talk) and Monica Wilkinson (children's workshop). Featuring Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Suk and Schubert. Supported by Harriet's Trust.

<http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/winterplay-2019-seasons-music-and-words>

Dolly Alderton (Everything I Know About Love), Sat 23 Feb

The award-winning journalist and podcast host launches the paperback copy of her bestselling book.

<http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/dolly-alderton-everything-i-know-about-love-live>

Collabro, Fri 1 Mar

Popular vocal quartet stop off en route to the Royal Albert Hall.

<http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/collabro>

The Edinburgh Highland Reel & Strathspey Society annual concert, Sat 2 Mar

A varied programme of traditional Scottish fiddle music.

<http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/edinburgh-highland-reel-strathspey-society-annual-concert>

Homecoming 2: The Return of Mackay's Memoirs, Mon 4 Mar

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of Martyn Bennett's commemorative piece, four of the original musicians (Maeve Gilchrist, Ben Duncan, Adam Clifford and Dave Lloyd) will perform the stunning

composition alongside pupils from the City of Edinburgh Music School.

<http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/homecoming-2-return-mackays-memoirs>

Midge Ure, Sun 10 Mar

'Songs and Stories'. Midge will play with Cole Stacey and Joe O'Keefe (India Electric Company) and answer audience questions. <http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/midge-ure>

Naturally 7 with Edinburgh Schools Jazz Orchestra, Thu 14 Mar

As part of the Resonate series of concerts in conjunction with the City of Edinburgh Instrumental Music Service, the ESJO get a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to support America's foremost a cappella group who have shared a stage with Michael Bubl  and Coldplay. In partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council Instrumental Music Service.

<http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/naturally-7>

Scottish National Jazz Orchestra presents Norse Myths with Arild Andersen and Paolo Vinaccia, Sat 23 Mar

Details to be confirmed.

UFO Final tour, Fri 29 Mar

50th anniversary and final tour for the hard rock band.

<http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/ufo-last-orders-50th-anniversary-tour>

BBC Big Band feat Claire Martin OBE, Sat 30 Mar

Multi award-winning jazz vocalist and radio presenter, Claire Martin OBE, joins the internationally acclaimed BBC Big Band for a unique celebration of the legendary ladies of jazz including Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Judy Garland and their contemporaries. Supported by Sam Breadon (a member of The Queen's Hall).

<http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/bbc-big-band-featuring-claire-martin-obe>

Hairy Bikers, Fri 5 Apr

An epic night of cooking and conversation from Si King and Dave Myers.

<http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/evening-hairy-bikers>

Jenna Reid & Harris Playfair with Mr McFall's Chamber, Sun 7 Apr

One of Shetland's finest and most accomplished modern-day fiddlers, Jenna Reid, is joined by long-time accompanist Harris Playfair and the genre-defying string ensemble Mr McFall's Chamber in a sumptuous double-bill of musical mastery.

<http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/jenna-reid-and-harris-playfair-mr-mcfalls-chamber>

Julian Clary's Born to Mince tour, Wed 10 Apr

In this outrageously camp new show, Clary bares his soul as never before in the interest of light entertainment. <http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/julian-clarys-born-mince-tour>

Wilko Johnson with Glenn Tilbrook, Fri 12 Apr

The original Dr Feelgood guitarist and founding member of Squeeze share the bill.

<http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/wilko-johnson-special-guest-glenn-tilbrook>

Tommy Smith Sextet: Beasts of Scotland with Square One, Thu 18 Apr

Beasts of Scotland is inspired by the late Edwin Morgan's poetry created to describe the characteristics of Scottish wildlife. Smith revisits one of his most successful and compelling pieces for the first time in many years, a suite of musical portraits which crackles with jazz spontaneity with narration by Tam Dean Burn. Supported by the National Lottery through Creative Scotland and Medici Advisors. <http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/tommy-smith-sextet-beasts-scotland>

Lake Street Dive, Sun 21 Apr

The multi-genre band from Boston, Massachusetts showcase their new album. <http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/lake-street-dive>

Tim Garland: Weather Walker, Fri 10 May

Three world-class virtuosi (Garland, Jason Rebello and Yuri Goloubev) at the height of their creative powers perform material born from Tim's love of the natural world. The music uses folk song and some unconventional atmospheric devices. <http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/tim-garland-weather-walker>

Neu! Reekie!, Sat 11 May

Details to be confirmed.

Tommy Smith, Brian Kellock & Kathleen MacInnes plus Fergus McCreadie Trio, Thu 13 Jun

Tommy's enduring partnership with pianist Brian Kellock has produced outstanding albums and enthralled audiences on both sides of the Atlantic. They're joined for part of this concert by Kathleen MacInnes, one of the great voices in Gaelic singing. Supported by the National Lottery through Creative Scotland and Medici Advisors. <http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/tommy-smith-brian-kellock-kathleen-macinnnes>

40th Anniversary Concert: Steven Osborne & Alban Gerhardt, Sat 6 Jul

To celebrate the opening of The Queen's Hall by HM Queen Elizabeth II on 6 July 1979, multi-award-winning Scottish pianist Steven Osborne and one of the world's finest cellists, Alban Gerhardt, will perform a one-off concert with a programme of Schumann, Brahms, De Falla, Debussy and Ravel. <http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/steven-osborne-and-alban-gerhardt>

Henning Wehn: Get On With It, 1-4, 8-11, 15-18, 22-25 Aug

With his lack of transferable skills and belief in practice makes perfect, the German Comedy Ambassador has bosched out yet another show. Following on from his sold-out success in 2015 and 2017 we're delighted to welcome him back to The Queen's Hall for the 2019 Edinburgh Fringe. <http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/henning-wehn-get-it>

This is Caledonian Soul presented by Blue Rose Code, Mon 19 Aug

Ross Wilson (aka Blue Rose Code) with the help of a 14-piece band and some very special guests, attempts to answer the question, 'What is Caledonian Soul?' by offering his unique take on generations of cult, iconic and classic Scots song. <http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/caledonian-soul>

Ben Elton, Fri 4 Oct

Details to be confirmed.

Scottish Chamber Orchestra Anniversary Concert, Thu 24 Oct

Details to be confirmed.

Edinburgh Light Orchestra Annual Concert, Sat 9 Nov

Details to be confirmed.

Ardal O’Hanlon – The Showing Off Must Go On, Fri 15 Nov

Acclaimed stand-up from the star of Death in Paradise, Father Ted and My Hero (BBC).

<http://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/ardal-ohanlon-showing-must-go>

The Queen’s Hall (Scottish Charity No SC012294) was originally the Church of Newington and St Leonard’s (founded 1823). The church closed in 1976, which coincided with a search by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Scottish Baroque Ensemble (now the Scottish Ensemble) and the Scottish Philharmonic Singers for performance and rehearsal space. An £850k appeal was launched in 1977 to fund the conversion of the building into a concert hall and The Queen’s Hall was officially opened by HM Queen Elizabeth II on 6 July 1979. It is Edinburgh’s foremost mid-sized live music venue playing host to an extraordinary range of world-class artists from all musical fields: classical, jazz, folk and roots, rock and pop and Americana. The perfectly-proportioned, intimate auditorium, flawless acoustics and adaptability make it a unique and valuable resource in Edinburgh’s cultural life. The Queen’s Hall has provided facilities for the International, Fringe, Jazz, Film, Fiddle and Science Festivals and for many local amateur and professional groups, as well as being a key venue for music, comedy and spoken-word acts touring (inter)nationally. Annual audiences total around 90,000 and the venue works with up to 3,000 artists and support staff as well as partnering on year-round music learning and community engagement projects with the City of Edinburgh Council, The City of Edinburgh Music School, Drake Music Scotland and other schools and education providers. These initiatives offer young performers and disabled musicians a professional development and performance platform they cannot get elsewhere. The Queen’s Hall has recently completed vital external maintenance work, made possible by a grant from the Scottish Government and Historic Environment Scotland. Internally, the gallery has been laid with new carpets and the bar has undergone major cosmetic refurbishment with a new lighting rig and PA system due in early 2019. Other work is planned subject to donations raised.

www.thequeenshall.net

Tommy Smith is a leading light in European jazz, as one of the finest saxophonists of his generation and as the founder and current director of The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra (SNJO) and The Tommy Smith Youth Jazz Orchestra. A multi-award-winning international recording artist, composer and educator he is also current Artistic Director of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland’s first ever full-time jazz course. <http://tommysmith.scot/>

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. They enable people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. They distribute funding from the Scottish Government and The National Lottery. <https://www.creativescotland.com/>

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