



Thursday 14 to Sunday 31 January 2016

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## **Tis the Season (almost) for Celtic Connections**

With just over four weeks to go before the world's largest annual winter festival of folk, traditional and world music opens, the line-up for Celtic Connections 2016 continues to grow.

**Eddi Reader, Kris Drever** and **O'Hooley & Tidow** join the line-up of leading UK and Irish folk artists performing the live premiere of ***The Ballads of Child Migration*** in the **Main Auditorium** of **Glasgow Royal Concert Hall** on **Tuesday 19 January**. **John McCusker, Jez Lowe, Boo Hewerdine, Chris While** and **Julie Matthews** are among the artists previously confirmed. Originally commissioned as an album of new music to accompany a current **V & A exhibition**, the concert commemorates the historical enforced migration of unaccompanied children from Britain. **Barbara Dickson** will host the concert.

**Eska**, whose self-titled debut album was nominated for the **Mercury Prize Album of the Year 2015**, has been added to the bill at the **Glasgow Royal Concert Hall** concert on **Friday 22 January** headlined by world music superstar **Baaba Maal**. Zimbabwe-born, London-raised musician and songwriter Eska has worked with artists including **Grace Jones** and **Courtney Pine** while building her solo career.

Following James Robertson's reimagining of **Joni Mitchell's** 1976 album ***Hejira***, the second half of the **PILGRIMER** concert on **Saturday 16 January** in the **Main Auditorium** of **Glasgow Royal Concert Hall** will feature a glittering casts of musicians performing Joni Mitchell's greatest hits. Artists include **Karine Polwart, Rod Paterson**, SAY award winner **Kathryn Joseph, Annie Grace** and **Julie Fowlis**. **PILGRIMER's** musical directors are **Karine** and **Steven Polwart** with specially commissioned string arrangements from award winning composer **Pippa Murphy**.

One of the finest acoustic finger-style and slide guitar players in the world, **Martin Simpson** has also been added to the star studded list of performers for ***Bert Inspired***, on **Sunday 31**

**January at the Old Fruitmarket and Monday 1 February in the Main Auditorium of Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.**

**JR Green** – two brothers from Strontian, a remote Scottish village a few miles from the most westerly point on mainland Britain - bring their youthful, edgy style of traditional and folk music to Celtic Connections on **Saturday 30 January at King Tuts.**

A Scottish band formed through a shared love of Klezmer, Jazz and Latin music, **Moishe's Bagel** perform on **Friday 15 January at the Drygate.** Band members include **Greg Lawson**, who recently accepted the **Event of the Year Award** at the **BBC Alba Trad Music Awards 2015** for his orchestration of Martyn Bennett's masterpiece, **Grit** for the Celtic Connections 2015 opening concert, **Nae Regrets.** Moishe's Bagel replace Felix Pastorius who is now unable to perform at Celtic Connections due to unforeseen circumstances.

Celtic Connections audiences will also have the chance to see **JD & The Straight Shot** supporting **Gordie McKeeman** on **Saturday 30 January at Oran Mor.** The continued evolution of JD & The Straight Shot now sees singer-songwriter **Jim Dolan** fronting a four-person group as the band explores a stripped-down version of its sound, which is steeped in the quiet fire of Americana with distinctive elements of the blues and mystical, rustic New Orleans-flavoured roots music. In addition to Dolan, the group includes guitarist **Marc Copely** (who has also performed with Rosanne Cash, McCrary Sisters, Billy Squier); guitarist **Aidan Dolan**; Kentucky-born bassist **Byron House** (Robert Plant, Emmylou Harris) and violinist **Erin Slaver** (Rod Stewart, Trace Adkins, Martina McBride), all of whom also contribute to songwriting.

These exciting additions to Celtic Connections 2016 join artists including **Sturgill Simpson, Flavia Coehla, Cheikh Lô, Lau, The Unthanks, Teddy Thompson, The Chieftains, Robert Plant, Bernard Butler, Kris Kristofferson, Skipinnish, Anne Lorne Gillies, Gillebrìde MacMillan & Kyle Carey, and Blazin' Fiddles.**

In total **2,500 musicians** from around the world will gather in **Glasgow** for **18 days** of concerts, ceilidhs, talks, art exhibitions, workshops, free events, late night sessions and a host of special one-off musical collaborations when **Celtic Connections 2016** begins on **Thursday 14 January.**

**Ends**

**For further information, images, or to request an interview with any of the acts performing at Celtic Connections 2016, please contact:**

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