

Celtic CONNECTIONS 2012

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****CELTIC CONNECTIONS PROGRAMME UPDATE****

Celtic Connections heads to Chicago to showcase at the Ryder Cup!

- New Artists Announced
- New Supports Announced
- Change in Floating Palace Line-up
- Discounts for under 26s

The Celtic Connections team are delighted to be showcasing Scottish talent at the Ryder Cup in Chicago next September as part of the Year of Creative Scotland.

Donald Shaw, Celtic Connections Artistic Director, commented: *"We're really excited that Creative Scotland has given us this fantastic opportunity to bring a taste of Celtic Connections to Chicago and promote Scottish music on an international level. The Ryder Cup is the ideal platform for the festival's first overseas performance and this presents an unrivalled opportunity for new audiences to experience the best of Scotland's musical talent."*

Celtic Connections Heads to The Ryder Cup in Chicago

As part of the Year of Creative Scotland **Celtic Connections** will head to **Chicago** in **September 2012**, as the **Ryder Cup** takes place at the nearby Medinah Country Club. The trip will be an opportunity to **showcase the best of Scottish music** and attract international visitors to Celtic Connections 2013 as part of a wider Scottish presence in Chicago.

New artists announced for the Average White Band concert

The Scottish band **Hue and Cry** along with Scottish jazz singer –songwriter **Niki King** and **Michael Marra** will be special guests of the **Average White Band** at **Glasgow Royal Concert**

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Hall on **Friday 3 February**. **Hue and Cry** have enjoyed a number of UK chart hits in their long and distinguished career including *Labour of Love* which reached number six.

New artist announced for Bring It All Home – Gerry Rafferty Remembered

Ireland's tirelessly creative **Paul Brady** joins this very special line-up to commemorate the passing of the incredibly talented Gerry Rafferty at **Glasgow Royal Concert Hall** on **Sunday 22 January** and **Monday 23 January**.

New artist announced for Song For Ireland

Flying in especially from Nashville to perform at the **Song For Ireland** concert at **Glasgow Royal Concert Hall** on **Friday 27 January** will be Celtic Connections favourite, American singer/songwriter **Mindy Smith**.

Change in Line-Up of Floating Palace Concert

Due to circumstances out with the festival's control **Abigail Washburn** has had to withdraw from the **Floating Palace** concert at **O2 ABC** on **Sunday 5 February**. We are, however, delighted to announce that **Krystle Warren** will be performing instead. Kansas City's **Krystal** has been described as having a voice that is a mix between Jeff Buckley's and Nina Simone's.

New artist announced for An Evening with Béla Fleck and The Flecktones

We are delighted to announce that the boundary-busting US singer and banjo doyenne **Abigail Washburn** will be a guest of **Béla Fleck** and **The Flecktones** at the opening concert of Celtic Connections 2012 on **Thursday 19 January** at **Glasgow Royal Concert Hall**.

Support announced for Bonnie Prince Billy Concert

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Susanna Wallumrød is supporting **Bonnie Prince Billy** at the **Old Fruitmarket** on **Sunday 29 January**. The Norwegian singer has been described as having one of the most incredible voices you will ever hear.

Additional Support announced for C.W Stoneking & His Primitive Horn Orchestra

Tiny Ruins will be supporting **C.W Stoneking & His Primitive Horn Orchestra** alongside **New Country Rehab** at **Òran Mór** on **Thursday 26 January**. The New Zealand band **Tiny Ruins** has attracted attention for their soul-stirring and intimate performances and their hypnotic songs.

New artist announced for Blues of the World concert

Keith B. Brown will also be performing at the **Blues of the World** concert at the **O2 ABC** on **Thursday 2 February**. This Memphis born singer-songwriter's mastery and knowledge of Delta Blues Styles has put him at the forefront of a small but important new generation of African-american country-blues artists. His music represents a homogenous coexistence of traditional blues and more contemporary compositions.

January Sales for the Under 26s

For Celtic Connections 2012 the team have decided to offer an **exclusive discount** to selected concerts for attendees **under the age of 26**. Log on to **www.celticconnections.com** from early January to find out more about the brilliant discounts available.

- **ENDS** -

For further information, images or to request an interview with any of the acts performing at Celtic Connections 2012, please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Celtic Connections 2012 runs from Thursday 19th January – Sunday 5th February and comprises 300 concerts, ceilidhs, talks, workshops, free events and late night sessions taking place over 18 days in 20 venues across Glasgow.

The focal point of Celtic Connections is the **Glasgow Royal Concert Hall**, where every available space is utilised during the festival, from workshops in the foyers to performances by worldclass artists in the Main Auditorium. Elsewhere in Glasgow, venues such as **O₂ ABC, The Tron, Òran Mór, The Arches, The Mitchell Theatre, City Halls** and festival fans' favourite the **Old Fruitmarket** will all play host to Celtic Connections events, whilst the legendary **Celtic Connections Festival Club** will move to a new home of **Apollo 23** (formerly Jongleurs Comedy Club) on Renfrew Street. **Brel** will host jazz and acoustic sessions as part of the festival.

The **economic impact** of Celtic Connections remained high in the midst of the global economic downturn in 2011, a market research study carried out by **Culture Sparks** has revealed. The festival generated an economic impact of **£7.6m** for Glasgow and **£3.1m** for Scotland. Celtic Connections enjoyed an extremely successful 18th festival in 2011, with over **£1m ticket sales** and attendances topping **100,000**.

The festival boosts the local economy and tourism industry in the normally quiet postfestive period. Celtic Connections saw an increase in visitors from outwith Scotland, with **6%** of the audience visiting from the rest of the UK and **10%** coming from overseas, with **26%** of festival fans accompanying their visit to Celtic Connections with an overnight stay. An impressive **85%** of visitors stated that attending Celtic Connections was their sole or main reason for visiting Glasgow, and **83%** said that they would like to come back in 2012. Celtic Connections 2011 generated a direct economic impact of £4,655,156.85 for Glasgow and £1,240,450.76 for Scotland. When standard industry multipliers are applied, Celtic Connections generated £7,587,905.67 of new output to Glasgow and £3,117,881.15 for Scotland. This has resulted in 98.92 new jobs for one year in Glasgow and 56.06 new jobs for Scotland.

Festival fans attended an average of **3.5** events, and respondents to the survey were overwhelmingly positive about the variety and quality of both music and venues.

Tickets can be booked:

Online www.celticconnections.com

By phone 0141 353 8000

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In person Glasgow Royal Concert Hall
 2 Sauchiehall Street
 Glasgow, G2 3NY

 City Halls and Old Fruitmarket
 Candleriggs
 Glasgow, G1 1NQ

To apply for Media Accreditation for Celtic Connections 2012, visit
www.celticconnections.com/pressaccreditation

ScottishPower became Principal Sponsor of Celtic Connections in 2007. Through the sponsorship, the company encourages its staff and the communities it works within to experience and enjoy the arts. ScottishPower's partnerships reflect the company's belief in the importance of enabling culture to be accessible for all. For background on ScottishPower log onto www.scottishpower.com

Celtic Connections is promoted by Glasgow Life. Glasgow Life and its service brands (found at www.glasgowlife.org.uk) are operating names of Culture and Sport Glasgow (CSG). CSG is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland with company number SC313851 and having its registered office at 20 Trongate Glasgow G1 5ES. CSG is registered as a charity with the office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (No SCO37844).

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