

Celtic CONNECTIONS 2012

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

Less than one week to go until Celtic Connections

Celtic Connections 2012 kicks off in **less than one week**, with over **2100** musicians set to descend upon Glasgow between **Thursday 19th – Sunday 5th February** as the annual folk, roots, indie and world music festival celebrates its **19th birthday**. The **18 day event** features approximately **300** concerts, ceilidhs, art exhibitions, workshops and free events taking place in **20** venues across the city. The festival is fast approaching so **if you are planning on covering Celtic Connections in any way and have not yet applied for media accreditation or contacted the Press Office please do so as soon as possible.**

For interview requests please contact Material_UK

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John Hartson as special guest at the Lochaber Gold concert

Former Celtic footballer **John Hartson** will be making a guest appearance at **Lochaber Gold** at the **Old Fruitmarket** on **Friday 20th January**. While John was recovering from cancer he spent a lot of time recuperating in the Highlands of Scotland with his wife Sarah who is a local to Spean Bridge in Lochaber. In 2010 John climbed Ben Nevis to raise money for his charity the John Hartson Foundation and so he will talk about his experiences of the Lochaber area and what it means to him.

Nanci Griffith special guest of Cherish the Ladies

From across the pond the much loved and iconic country-folk star **Nanci Griffith** will be performing alongside **Cherish the Ladies** in their Nashville influenced show at **Glasgow Royal Concert Hall** on **Friday 20th January**. Limited number of tickets still available.

Eddi Reader to join The Allan Kelly Gang at the Òran Mór and Cathy

Jordan at the Tron

Glasgow's favourite songstress **Eddi Reader** will be joining **Cathy Jordan** at **The Tron Theatre** on **Friday 20th January**. She will be also be guesting with her long time accordion accompanist **Alan Kelly** at the **Òran Mór** on **Saturday 4th February**.

James Grant to join line up for UCS 40th Anniversary Celebrations

Glasgow singer-songwriter **James Grant** and frontman of Love and Money, has been added to a host of great Glasgow singers and songwriters for the celebration of the **UCS 40th Anniversary** at the **Old Fruitmarket** on **Sunday 5th February**. A full exhibition of the work-in will be on display in the **Island Bar** at the **Glasgow Royal Concert Hall** for the duration of the festival.

Alison Brown & Rob Ickes to perform in intimate Recital Room at City Halls

The contemporary grammy award winning banjo pioneer **Alison Brown** and the dobro demon and Blue Highway co-founder **Rob Ickes** will be performing a special set alongside **Nuala Kennedy: Enthralled** in the **Recital Room** in **City Halls** on **Saturday 21st January**.

Dirk Powell to perform alongside Cahalen Morrison & Eli West

Dirk Powell will be performing with **Cahalen Morrison & Eli West** in the **Recital Room, City Halls** on **Tuesday 24th January**. Cold Mountain star **Dirk Powell** will grace this concert with his vocal and multi-instrumental prowess. He has been described as being one of the preeminent traditional American musicians of his generation and has recorded and performed with artists such as Loretta Lynn, Van Lear Rose, Sting, Jack White, Levon Helm, Jewel, T-Bone Burnett, Ralph Stanley and Linda Ronstadt to name a few.

Hue and Cry to perform with the Average White Band

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 Hall** on **Friday 3rd 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.

Isla St Clair to join line up for The Singing Land

One of Scotland's foremost traditional singers **Isla St Clair** will join the bill for **The Singing Land** at the **Old Fruitmarket** on **Wednesday 1st February**. Isla has been described as having the ability to bring music to life. She has also won several awards throughout her career including being voted as 'Best Female Folk Singer' by the New Musical Express.

Julie Feeney to join Song For Ireland line up

Singer **Julie Feeney**, winner of the Choice Music Prize for 'Irish Album of the Year', will be demonstrating her one-of-a kind sound when she joins the fantastic line-up at **Song For Ireland** at the **Glasgow Royal Concert Hall** on **Friday 27th January**.

Elbow Jane to perform alongside The Alan Kelly Gang

Hailing from Merseyside **Elbow Jane** will be performing at **The Alan Kelly Gang** concert at the **Òran Mòr** on **Saturday 4th February**. The band's unique blend of bouzouki, mandolin, guitar, keyboards and percussion alongside the expressive vocals make for an original performance.

Rae Morris to perform in Communion Records night

Eighteen year old singer-songwriter **Rae Morris** will also be performing at **Communion Records night** at the **Mitchell Theatre** on **Friday 20th January**.

Support announced for The Sweetback Sisters

The Irish five-piece **I Draw Slow** will be supporting **The Sweetback Sisters** at **The Arches** on **Saturday 28th January**. Lead singer Louise Holden's vocals have been described as having an endearing quality and their songs are steeped in tradition but rendered fresh and colourful.

Support announced for Tom Russell

Dean Owens will be supporting **Tom Russell** at the **Tron Theatre** on **Sunday 22nd January**. Dean is one of Scotland's most acclaimed and established singer-songwriters. He will be performing songs from his forthcoming album *New York Hummingbird*.

Support announced for Vieux Farka Touré

Edinburgh based **Bwani Junction** will supporting **Vieux Farka Touré** at **The Arches** on **Sunday 5th February**. With their striking use of reggae, Afro beat and indie-pop **Bwani Junction** have been tipped as one of Scotland's hottest bands for 2012.

Support announced for Laura Veirs

Hailing from Bridgetown, Western Australia, the compelling songwriter **Emily Barker & the Red Clay Halo** will be supporting **Laura Veirs** at **The Arches** on **Friday 3rd February**. *Nostalgia*, from Emily's second album *Despite The Snow*, is the Bafta-winning theme tune to BBC1's **Wallander**, starring Kenneth Branagh.

Change of line up in Woody at 100

Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances completely out with the festival's control Yim Yames has had to pull out of the **Woody at 100** concert in **Glasgow Royal Concert Hall** on **Wednesday 25th January**.

- **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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For the Celtic Connections Press Office, media accreditation, review tickets and photo requests please contact:

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Celtic Connections 2012 runs from Thursday 19th January – Sunday 5th February and comprises 300 concerts, ceilidhs, 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

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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