



15 Jan – 1 Feb 2026

Media release

Tuesday 6 January 2026

Everything You Need to Know About Celtic Connections 2026

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The renowned festival which every year transforms Glasgow in January into a must-visit destination for music lovers is now just over a week away.

Celtic Connections – Scotland’s premier winter festival of its kind – attracts thousands of fans and performers to the city from all corners of the world, offering unforgettable moments, groundbreaking collaborations, and a unique energy and love for music that only Glasgow can provide.

Celtic Connections Creative Producer, Donald Shaw, said: “Celtic Connections is big, bold and inspiring – it’s a festival that isn’t afraid to take risks, champions artistic expression and believes in collaboration, and having fun.

“There’s a special kind of magic that fills Glasgow every January during Celtic Connections. Come and join us to experience unforgettable shows, world-class artists, and surprises around every corner. We can’t wait to share these moments with everyone who loves music as much as we do!”

This year’s festival, delivered by **Glasgow Life** in partnership with **Innis & Gunn**, promises inspiration, discovery and the warmest of welcomes – here’s everything you need to know.

When is it?

The countdown is on! Celtic Connections 2026 runs from Thursday 15 January to Sunday 1 February 2026. Over 300 events will take place at 25+ venues across the city, with audiences of more than 110,000 expected to experience Glasgow’s biggest winter celebration of music and culture.

Who’s performing?

Prepare for an astonishing lineup of over 1,200 artists, blending global icons with homegrown heroes and breakthrough names.

Headliners in 2026 include country music royalty **Emmylou Harris**, legendary Cuban collective **Buena Vista All Stars**, Americana powerhouse **Lucinda Williams**, Scottish folk-rock



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pioneers **Skerryvore**, Grammy-winning banjo virtuoso **Béla Fleck**, Senegalese orchestral sensation **Baobab**, acclaimed indie duo **Watchhouse** and **Mon Rovâa**, who tells his incredible refugee story through the healing sound of Afro-Appalachian folk.

Québec's vibrant music scene contributes acts like **Le Vent du Nord** and **Bon Débarras**, highlighting the festival's commitment to international cultural exchange.

Don't miss the stunning **Opening Concert** at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, entitled **World Connections**, and a range of unmissable one-off collaborations featured throughout the programme.

Festival favourites return, including **Roaming Roots Revue (Icons Vol. 2)**, **Transatlantic Sessions**, and the **Danny Kyle Open Stage** that showcases emerging talent.

Is it for young people?

Absolutely! Celtic Connections is dedicated to making world-class music accessible to everyone, including the next generation. The popular Under 26 Festival Pass is back, providing discounted entry for those aged 18 - 25 to a curated selection of events – perfect for students, young professionals, and anyone discovering new sounds.

Additionally, the acclaimed Education Programme returns, with thousands of local schoolchildren invited to special concerts and workshops, planting the seeds for a lifelong love of music.

What type of music can you hear?

Celtic Connections is famed for its adventurous spirit – audiences will enjoy traditional folk, roots, indie, and world music; blues, jazz, orchestral, Americana, and even electronic influences.

Experience Gaelic song and Scottish ballads, orchestral world premieres, like The Ayoub Sisters' Arabic Symphony, roots collaborations linking Scotland with Brazil, Mexico, and beyond, and captivating new commissions.

Whether you crave the pulse of a late-night ceilidh or the intimacy of story-driven folk, the festival showcases music in all its diversity.

What's new for 2026?

Once again ambitious collaborations and boundary-pushing debuts take centre stage:

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- For the first time, the Emirates Arena will host two back to back shows: an incredible farewell show from Emmylou Harris and its largest folk-rock party yet with Skerryvore
- Citizens Theatre becomes an official festival venue for the first time, welcoming the likes of Glasgow's own spellbinding Alice Faye and Óran Ùr, a night celebrating 25 years of new Gaelic songs
- Cross-cultural projects bring together musicians from Scotland, Sweden, Ireland, Mexico, Brazil and Iraq
- Innovative shows like *Tràigh Mhòr* will bring Brazilian and Scottish roots together, and the world premiere of *Delusions* blends music, spoken word, and multimedia art, while the **Maclean Brothers'** night will celebrate extraordinary stories of endurance and global connection
- A new multi-year partnership with the Edinburgh International Book Festival sees groundbreaking collaborations between Scotland's celebrated writers and musicians including *The Golden Road* featuring William Dalrymple, India Alba and renowned artists.

How do I get tickets?

Tickets for the festival are available now at www.celticconnections.com. Organisers are advising people to get in early to secure their place at the party.

Ends

For further information, images, or to request an interview:

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Media accreditation is open now and [you can apply here](#).

Follow the conversation at @ccfest.

Notes to Editors

Celtic Connections began in 1994, when it offered 66 events at one venue. It has since grown more diverse, adventurous and experimental each year, offering hundreds of events in locations across Glasgow.



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Renowned internationally, and Europe's biggest winter music festival, it has an unwavering ambition to showcase the very best traditional folk, roots, Americana, jazz, soul, indie and world music and nurture unique local, national and international cultural partnerships.

Celtic Connections is delivered with funding from Glasgow City Council through Glasgow Life. Creative Scotland and The Scottish Government Festivals Expo Fund continue to provide invaluable support to Celtic Connections.

Glasgow Life is a charity working for the benefit of the people of Glasgow. We believe everyone deserves a great Glasgow life and we find innovative ways to make this happen across the city's diverse communities.

Our programmes, experiences and events range from grassroots community activities to large-scale cultural, artistic and sporting events which present Glasgow on an international stage.

Our work is designed to promote inclusion, happiness and health, as well as support the city's visitor economy, in order to enhance Glasgow's mental, physical and economic wellbeing.

For more information, see www.glasgowlife.org.uk.

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports culture and creativity across all parts of Scotland, distributing funding provided by the Scottish Government and The National Lottery. Further information at creativescotland.com. Follow Creative Scotland on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).

Innis & Gunn, since its establishment in 2003, has been determined to do things differently in the world of brewing. Starting with innovative oak cask maturation for award-winning flagship beer 'The Original', Innis & Gunn has gone on to create a whole line up of boundary-pushing beers, including distinctive, limited edition and rare beers, and the Innis & Gunn Lager Beer which recently won gold at the World Beer Awards for the second year running.

Innis & Gunn is now one of the UK's most successful beer brewers. Still pioneering, still innovating and still doing things differently, to excite and intrigue beer lovers all over the world. Innis & Gunn is the official beer sponsor of many iconic events including The Edinburgh Fringe, Royal Highland Show, Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Celtic Connections and Belladrum Music Festival.

Follow Innis & Gunn on Instagram: @innisandgunn and www.innisandgunn.com