

## Edinburgh's Usher Hall puts Jazz and Folk music centre stage

- World class folk music from Scotland and abroad with First Aid Kit, The Staves and The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra
- Scottish National Jazz Orchestra celebrates jazz legends Count Basie and Duke Ellington
- Tickets available at [www.usherhall.co.uk](http://www.usherhall.co.uk)



(images from top-left clockwise: Scottish Fiddle Orchestra, Scottish National Jazz Orchestra, First Aid Kit, Simply Sinatra)

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**Edinburgh's Five Star Concert venue is set to host music from across the genre's this Autumn, including a strong jazz and folk line-up.**

The first of these is the Swedish folk duo **First Aid Kit** on their Rebel Heart tour. The band have enjoyed a meteoric rise through the ranks in recent years. Speaking about the tour Klara and Johanna said, "we're thrilled to announce our Rebel Heart Tour in the fall. We'll

be returning to our beloved UK for our biggest tour there to date". The Swedish sisters will be joined by UK sister trio **The Staves.**" With us on the road we'll have the incredible sister trio The Staves. We've been friends and mutual fans for years and finally we get to tour together. We can't wait to get your rebel hearts beating with us!"

The Staves were equally as thrilled, saying, "we met Johanna and Klara backstage at Glastonbury just before singing together with Mumford & Sons for their finale back in 2013, and since then we've met in many different dressing rooms in cities and countries across the world. Now we've finally managed to fulfil our dream of touring with another band of SISTERS! Gigging is always great, but when it's with a band you admire and people you love and folks you can harmonise with, it's the best. We can't wait to see you out there on the road."

As we move into November, spend a sensational evening of music, song and dance celebrating Ol' Blue Eyes himself in **Simply Sinatra.** Matt Ford & Victoria Hamilton-Barritt are joined by a fabulous 27-piece show band and ballroom champions Chris & Emma Burrell to perform all of your favourite Sinatra hits.

Rounding off the folk programme for 2018 is something a bit closer to home. **The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra** will help bring some traditional music to your winter festivities in their Hogmanay Celebration on 30 December. The Orchestra's Hogmanay Concert is now a firm fixture in the New Year season and brings together massed fiddlers, pipes, singers and dancers. This action-packed evening will be brimming with lively jigs, reels, strathspeys, beautiful slow airs and well-known songs. An event not to be missed!

It's time to swing again, as the **Scottish National Jazz Orchestra** celebrates jazz legends Count Basie and Duke Ellington.

Pivotal to the evolution of orchestral jazz, Basie and Ellington created music that defined an era and the SNJO have chosen to feature two of their landmark albums, *The Atomic Mr Basie* and Ellington's *Black, Brown & Being*.

Playing these suites in full for the first time in their 23year history, this fabulous SNJO programme will set feet tapping with infectious swing, or soothe with mellow melody. Tracks will include Basie's wonderful *Li'l Darlin'*, *Kid from Red Bank* and *Splanky* as well as Ellington's famous *Work Song* and *Come Sunday*. Once more, Scotland's National Jazz Orchestra offers audiences a wonderful evening of music not to be missed!

Great swing means everything in orchestral jazz and these repertoires of Count Basie and Duke Ellington have it in enormous bundles of unbridled joy.

Finishing off 2018 in full big band style is the fabulous **Glen Miller Orchestra.** The UK's most renowned big band swings you back in time playing Glenn Miller's own arrangements of favourite wartime chart toppers and hits from the forties directed by legendary band leader Ray McVay.

### **Listings information**

**First Aid Kit – The Rebel Heart Tour - SOLD OUT**

**Plus support from The Staves**

Friday 26 October, Doors 7:00pm

Tickets £31.35 inc. booking fee

**Simply Sinatra**

Saturday 10 November, 7:30pm

Tickets £19.50 - £37.50

**Scottish National Jazz Orchestra: The Count and the Duke – Basie and Ellington**

Thursday 6 December, 7:30pm

Tickets £24.00 - £25.50 inc. booking fee

**Glen Miller Orchestra**

Saturday 29 December, 3:00pm

Tickets £18.50 - £32.50

**Scottish Fiddle Orchestra – Hogmanay Celebration**

Sunday 30 December, 7:30pm

Tickets £12 - £25

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Tickets available at:

[www.usherhall.co.uk](http://www.usherhall.co.uk)

0131 228 1155

Box office: Usher Hall, Lothian Road, Edinburgh, EH1 2EA

\*\*Please note a £1.50 transaction fee applies on the overall booking when purchasing online or over the phone (non-refundable)\*\*

Additional charges and ticketing conditions may apply to each event. Please see [www.usherhall.com](http://www.usherhall.com) for further details.

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### **Media Enquiries:**

Susie Gray / [susie@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:susie@thecornershoppr.com) / 0131 202 6220 / 07834073795

Will Moss / [william@thecornershoppr.com/](mailto:william@thecornershoppr.com/) 0131 202 6220

### **USHER HALL**

The Usher Hall is Scotland's only five-star concert hall hosting a range of concerts from rock, pop, classical, jazz, world and folk music. The venue has hosted concerts and events since it opened way back in 1914! A beautiful Edwardian building with a modern twist, which is well loved by performers and audiences all over the world due to its magnificent acoustics.

It is said that Andrew Usher sparked the idea of a 'concert hall for Edinburgh' whilst chatting away over the counter of his jewellers in Rose Street. His 'desire and intention' was that this Hall 'should become and remain a centre and attraction to musical artistes and performers and to the citizens of Edinburgh and others who may desire to hear good music...'

On 23 June 1896 it was formally announced that Andrew Usher had gifted £100,000 to The City of Edinburgh. The purpose of the money was to provide a City Hall, to be used for concerts, recitals, or other entertainments or performances of a musical nature, and for civic functions, or such other performances as the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council saw fit. Above all it was to be about the music. Edinburgh was very much lacking a hall for such musical and civic purposes, as stated in the Scotsman the following day; 'The necessity for a great hall in Edinburgh under city management has been pressed upon the attention of the public for many years.' Sadly Andrew Usher died before his dream was realised.

### **Today**

Today, **the much-praised acoustics make it one of the best concert halls in Europe with many of the world's finest musicians performing here.** The Usher Hall is the city's key venue for visiting national and international orchestras and has been the main venue for the Edinburgh International Festival since 1947, hosting legendary artists such as composers Benjamin Britten and Dmitri Shostakovich, contralto singer Kathleen Ferrier and cellist Jacqueline Du Pre to name but a few.

The venue is a centre of excellence embracing the widest range of music and events, including rock, pop, jazz, world and blues. It is Edinburgh's go-to venue for today's mid-large scale rock and pop acts, with the likes of Queens of the Stone Age, The National, Radiohead's Thom Yorke, George Ezra and Echo & the Bunnymen having performed on its stage. Usher



Hall also hosts a broad spectrum of comedy, talks, school concerts, conferences, sponsorship events, ceremonies, lectures and recording sessions.