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Morcheeba, Newton Faulkner, Peat & Diesel and Elephant Sessions bring musical might to Dumfries for Big Burns Supper 2020

- **The 9th Big Burns Supper, the world's biggest contemporary Burns celebration, takes place from 23 January – 2 February 2020**
- **Dumfries, one of Scotland's friendliest towns flings open its doors for 114 events across 11 days of top-class music, comedy, dance and cabaret**
- **Critically acclaimed Band of Burns bring their unique take on the Bard's works plus original songs inspired by his values for Burns Night Live**
- **Scottish and UK musicians including Newton Faulkner, Morcheeba, Elephant Sessions and Turin Brakes to get Dumfries dancing**
- **International artists Keb Mo and Felice Brothers, and Kingdom Choir**
- **Local community will join forces with artists to create a farewell poem to Europe in the face of Brexit**
- **Tickets on sale from 11th November via www.bigburnssupper.com or by calling 01381 271 820**

The world's biggest contemporary Burns celebration, **Big Burns Supper**, kicks off on 23 January 2020 in its home of **Dumfries for its 9th edition**. The festival will run across 11 jam-packed days, **from 23 January to 2 February**, with world class musicians and performers raising a wee dram to Scotland's national bard, in the town he called home.

With community at the festival's core and writ large across every aspect of the festival, Dumfries will once again provide a warm welcome to all those who wish to

come and celebrate culture in a spirit of togetherness, as championed by Rabbie himself as the short days and cold nights of winter take hold. Events will take place in a beautiful mirrored Spiegeltent right on the banks of the River Nith, along with the ever-popular Festival Hub tent next door where audiences can catch free live performance from the finest local talent, a pint and a bite to eat.

Musical Might

Big Burns Supper prides itself on bringing the very best genre-spanning musical talent to Dumfries, from folk, trad, rock, blues and just about everything in-between showcased across the festival programme.

On 25 January, a Burns party like no other gets festival revellers dancing in **Burns Night Live**. Multi award-winning Scots folk band **Rura**, Dumfries' own metal heads **Turbyne** and party starter **Kate Kyle** will all raise the roof of the tent in a big Burnsian bash to be remembered. The critically acclaimed **Band of Burns** bring their unique take on the Bard's works plus original songs inspired by his values. Audiences will also witness a unique collaboration with members from Band of Burns, Afro Celt Sound System, The Langan Band and The Breath who all turn their hand to some of Robert Burns' most powerful songs. Headlining the night will folk pop troubadour **Newton Faulkner** performing his smash hit singles from across his 12-year career.

Noughties rockers **Turin Breaks** will also make an appearance, playing tracks from across their 8-album discography and 1 million worldwide record sales including Top 5 UK hit single '*Painkiller (Summer Rain)*'.

Electronic specialists **Morcheeba** bring their unique blend of trip hop and rock to Dumfries audiences, performing work from an impressive and much-loved back catalogue of 9 studio albums across the last 2 and half decades.

Following their show stopping performance of Stand By Me at the Royal Wedding on 19 May 2018, led by one of the UK's most respected gospel tutors and choir conductors Karen Gibson, **The Kingdom Choir** bring their powerful united sound, warm energy and enthusiastic performance to festival audiences for the first time in 2020.

There's multiple homegrown folk and trad artists on the bill, firmly cementing Big Burns Supper as a destination for fantastic Scottish music. These include, Celtic rockers **Skerryvore**, rising indie-folk stars **Elephant Sessions**.

Since arriving on the scene in the early 1990s, four-time Grammy Award winner, **Keb' Mo'** has earned a reputation for his mastery of multiple blues styles, his ability to combine traditional approaches with a contemporary attitude, and for his timeless storytelling sensibility.

The music festival within a festival, the **Sunday Sessions** will return on the final day of the Big Burns Supper 2020 for one last hoorah! The full line-up is yet to be announced, but headlining are storming Stornoway trio, **Peat and Diesel**, **renowned for their raucous live shows** which has earned them a MG ALBA

Scots Trad Music Awards nomination for 'Best Live Act of the Year'. Expect local musical talent performing across day and night to end the festival on a high.

Life is a Cabaret

Cabaret is the frantic beating heart of the festival and no stronger example of its ability to provide a contemporary reflection of Burns can be found than through that of the home-grown cabaret smash-hit, **Le Haggis**. Expect rabble rousing contemporary Celtic rock from house band **Face the West**, alongside an international host of astounding variety acts from across the globe under the dastardly direction of internationally renowned artist, performer, director and producer **Empress Stah**. It's not La Clique and it's not La Soiree, it's Le Haggis and it's a Scottish national treasure!

Another Fringe favourite making its way South West is **Massaoke**, Britain's original and best live band singalong party. A brilliant live band smashing out the greatest anthems of all time, big screen lyrics and a crowd singing and dancing their hearts out together is an experience not to be missed!

International touring music-cum-circus superstars, **The Electric Swing Circus** are bringing their 6-piece fusion of saucy 20's swing and stomping electro beats to Dumfries. With an explosive sound that reverberates back through time, ESC's own unique style of swing always brings the party! Their live set includes electric double bass, vintage samples, gypsy-jazz guitar, keys, drums, synths and electro beats. Fronted by a sassy female double-act, the ESC delivers a consistently dazzling show.

A Family Festival

Brand new for this year's festival is the exciting addition of two performances of **Family Le Haggis**, bringing all that is brilliant and bizarre from Dumfries' favourite cabaret show but suitable for audiences young and old. Expect hilarious comedy and jaw-dropping circus skills to astound the whole family!

What better way to start the day than with dancing? Families will need their dancing shoes on for the Silent Disco down in the Spiegel tent, while elsewhere in the family programme there's Nick Sharratt's smash hit **Shark in the Park** as well as two family fun days.

For fans of big band music of yesteryear, look no further than **The Glen Miller Orchestra**. Plus, the festival's intergenerational **High Tea** returns by popular demand in 2020, which includes relaxed performances accompanied by afternoon tea.

It takes a village

The local community is at the very heart of what Big Burns Supper is about. From the producers to the bar staff, the box office to the artist liaisons, this is a festival put on by locals for locals, but also offering a warm Dumfries welcome to anyone who wishes to come and celebrate culture in all forms in the home of Robert Burns.

The Festival Village at Whitesands in central Dumfries will once again be a focal point for both local residents and visitors to meet, share a drink at the bar, grab a bite to eat and experience some brilliant live music from up and coming musical talent, alongside the likes of the Dumfries Town Band and Carlisle Community Choir. A full list of the Festival Hub's 132 free music performances can be found here:

<http://bigburnssupper.com/free-music-line-up/>.

New for 2020, the festival has also launched an **Exclusive Members Lounge** where audiences will be able to order pop up entertainment for groups of 15, ranging from folk, cabaret and karaoke.

Brexit is confronted head-on as the community of Dumfries will come together on the 31st January as part of ***Europa Picnic - a farewell to Europe!***, when the local community join forces with artists, poets and songwriters to pen a community wide poem, marking our potential last days as part of the European Union. Audiences will also be able to take part live online.

Executive Producer, Graham Main said: "Next year's festival heralds the start of a new decade, with redefined borders throughout Europe, and collaboration is a key theme with lot of sessions featuring different artists playing together. Perhaps where politicians have failed, artists and communities might make more sense out of the last couple of years."

Paul Bush OBE, Director of Events at VisitScotland, said: "We are delighted to be continuing our support for Big Burns Supper in its ninth year as part of Scotland's Winter Festivals. Scotland provides the perfect stage to celebrate our national bard and this eleven-day celebration in Dumfries will showcase the culture and hospitality that our country is famed for."

www.bigburnssupper.com

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Ends

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Listing Highlights can be accessed [here](#)

Images can be accessed [here](#)

Notes to Editors

About Big Burns Supper

Big Burns Supper is Scotland's landmark Burns Night event which takes place in Dumfries and features a heady mixture of cabaret, comedy, music and entertainment in over 30 different venues as the town goes bonkers for nine days of winter magic. If you are going to check out Dumfries – this is definitely the time to do it, with events including Burns Night Live – which is streamed live to the world. The festival is also the home of Le Haggis, Scotland's finest five-star cabaret experience.

www.bigburnssupper.com

Elektronika

Elektronika (formally Electric Theatre Workshop) is a cultural producer which creates platforms for audience engagement through a diverse range of community arts based programmes, including Big Burns Supper Festival, Carlisle Fringe Festival, Creative Schools, Dumfries Community Choir, Dumfries Youth Theatre and our award winning participatory programmes that have helped to transform the communities we serve. We believe everyone has the right to experience culture.

www.elektronika.org.uk

Scottish Winter Festivals

SWF aims to mobilise the people of Scotland and those with an affinity to Scotland to join in the St Andrew's Day, Hogmanay and Burns celebrations, boosting our key tourism and events sectors and the wider economy, enhancing community engagement and raising Scotland's international profile.

Scotland's Winter Festivals is a Scottish Government initiative, delivered in collaboration with VisitScotland, BEMIS Scotland, the Fair Saturday Foundation, the English-Speaking Union Scotland and a range of other partners.

Scotland's Winter Festivals will welcome hundreds of thousands of people to funded events celebrating St Andrew's Day, Hogmanay and Burns right across Scotland; significantly boosting the economy and engaging our diverse communities during the winter months whilst showcasing our unique world class tourism assets to a global audience.

Burns Night

1. Robert Burns is Scotland's national poet and his birthday is marked every year on January 25th with celebrations of his life and his cultural legacy at home and around the world.
2. After his death at the age of just 37, Burns' works became internationally renowned and the sentiments of many of his poems and songs continue to resonate to this day with people from all corners of the world singing 'Auld Lang Syne' to bring in the New Year.
3. There are many ways to get involved and celebrate the life and works of Robert Burns. For example, host a Burns Supper. A Burns Supper is an inspiring event to be part of. The haggis is traditionally piped in to dinner and then specifically addressed in poetry. Further poems including 'A Toast to the Lassies' are exchanged

by dinner guests with accompanying drams of whisky, however there are many modern variations and twists on these traditions that befits Scotland, a country that champions fairness, equality and inclusivity.

4. In addition, the national and community events programme celebrating Burns Night offers something for everyone with events taking place right across the country. Further information is available at scotland.org/burns.

5. Learn more about Robert Burns himself and how to hold your own modern Burns Supper as well as the meaning behind some of his most famous words and phrases by visiting scotland.org/burns.