

365: STORIES + MUSIC

JAMES ROBERTSON · AIDAN O'ROURKE

Press release for immediate use

Aidan O'Rourke, Kit Downes and James Robertson continue 365: Stories + Music journey with new UK tour dates



(L-R) Aidan O'Rourke, James Robertson and Kit Downes

- **'365: Stories + Music' the acclaimed epic cross artform collaboration of by Aidan O'Rourke (Lau), Kit Downes (Mercury Prize nominated ECM recording artist) and Scottish author James Robertson to tour UK including special Glasgow Celtic Connections concert**
- **New tour dates performances in; Castle Douglas, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Preston and London**
- **O'Rourke's music and Robertson's stories as created for the 365 project are encased within a specially created immersive installation designed by Yann Seznec to continue to tour Scotland throughout 2020**
- **Public can [subscribe now](#) to receive a new tune and story for free by email every day of 2020 in innovative piece of public art**

Images available to download [here](#)

Lau fiddler Aidan O'Rourke, harmonium player and pianist Kit Downes and acclaimed author, James Robertson have announced the next chapter in the *365: Stories + Music* story,

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confirming new live **UK tour dates for 2020** including gigs in Castle Douglas, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Preston and London.

Reveal Records will issue a **physical and digital release (30 CD box set) on 14th August 2020 featuring all of Aidan O'Rourke's 365 recordings**. This limited edition (of 365 copies only) box will be available exclusively from the label's website and artists concerts, whilst a digital edition will be split into 30 volumes for streaming from music platforms such as Spotify, Google and Apple Music. More details of the boxset will follow along with pre order in April, to coincide with the concert tour as outlined below.

The Story So Far

In 2013, James Robertson – one of Scotland's leading authors – set himself the challenge of writing a short story every day for a year. Each story was to be 365 words, no more, no less. It became an enchanting, roaming collection of fairytales and memories and provocations published in 2014 by Penguin as [365:Stories](#). That was only the beginning.

In 2016 Scottish fiddler and composer [Aidan O'Rourke](#) (of Lau) wrote a tune every day in response. The result is a major new body of 365 tunes – a significant addition to the Scottish traditional music canon. O'Rourke's fiddle tunes are sparse and emotive; his playing is renowned for its lyricism, here paired with kaleidoscopic harmonies from Mercury-nominated [Kit Downes](#) on harmonium and piano, guitarist Sorren Maclean and harpist Esther Swift.

INSTALLATION

Robertson's stories and O'Rourke's music now form a touring installation designed by inventor [Yann Seznec](#) in collaboration with design team [Old School Fabrications](#). The installation is a piece of art in itself, beautifully crafted from wood and brass with no digital screens in sight encasing the spoken-word recordings of all 365 stories: Robertson reads many himself, and other storytellers provide rich and varied accents from artists, actors and young people around Scotland including; Gerda Stevenson, Cathy Macdonald, Matthew Zajac and Kate Molleson.

The free to enjoy installation, which allows up to six people at a time to browse through all 365 stories and listen through headphones, was commissioned by the Edinburgh International Book Festival supported by Creative Scotland and PRSF, and launched in August 2019 and continues its tour of Scotland including; Celtic Connections, Paisley Book Festival and The Tobermory Book Festival on the Isle of Mull.

SUBSCRIBE TO 365

Readers can now also receive a daily story and tune to be delivered to their email inbox. With no need to buy a CD or book, the **365 Stories and Music will arrive every day free of charge** – a daily miniature piece of public art. A son might sign his mum up to receive a tune and short story every day via email. A tourist might fall in love with Scottish fiddle playing. Couples will nod in recognition to one of James's wise tales; children will get the creeps from his ghost stories; budding composers might feel inspired to create their own 365-day challenge.

Sign up to *365 Stories and Music* here: <https://three-six-five.net/Subscribe>

365: Music + Stories created in partnership with Edinburgh International Book Festival, with support from Creative Scotland, PRS for Music Foundation's The Open Fund, the University of Glasgow's Scottish Literature department, BBC Scotland, The Hope Scott Trust,

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The Centre for Voice in Performance at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Scottish Poetry Library, Reveal Records, An Tobar Arts Centre and Penguin Books.

/ENDS

Press enquiries

For further information including interview, session, and review requests please contact - Kate Bouchier-Hayes / kate@thecornershoppr.com / 0131 202 6220

LISTINGS

Aidan O'Rourke and Kit Downes with James Robertson

365: Music + Stories Concert Tour 2020

Full gig details can be found via <https://three-six-five.net/Tour/Live>

02/02/20

Celtic Connections

Mackintosh Church

Glasgow

02/04/20

The Catstrand, Castle Douglas

High St, New Galloway, Castle Douglas DG7 3RN

Aidan O'Rourke, Kit Downes and James Robertson

03/04/20

The Grand Theatre, Clitheroe

18 York Street, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 2DL

Aidan O'Rourke, Kit Downes and James Robertson

04/04/20

St Anne's Church, Manchester

44 George Leigh Street, Ancoats, Manchester, M4 5DG

Aidan O'Rourke, Kit Downes and James Robertson

05/04/20

Preston (venue tbc)

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Aidan O'Rourke, Kit Downes and James Robertson

06/04/20

Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool

Hope St, Liverpool L1 9BP

Aidan O'Rourke, Kit Downes and James Robertson

07/04/20

Hyde Park Book Club, Leeds

27-29 Headingley Ln, Leeds LS6 1BL

Aidan O'Rourke, Kit Downes and James Robertson

08/04/20

St Mary in the Castle, Hastings

7 Pelham Cres, Hastings TN34 3AF

Aidan O'Rourke, Kit Downes and James Robertson

09/04/20

Cecil Sharp House, London

2 Regent's Park Rd, Primrose Hill, London NW1 7AY

Aidan O'Rourke, Kit Downes and James Robertson

365 Music + Stories Installation Tour 2020

16/01/20 - 02/02/20

Celtic Connections

Glasgow Royal Concert Hall Main Foyer

[Info here](#)

21/02/20

Paisley Book Festival

[Info here](#)

01/04/20 - 14/04/20

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Historic Environment Scotland

Huntingtower

Perthshire

[Info here](#)

08/06/20 - 21/06/20

Inverness - Eden Court

[Info here](#)

21/10/20 - 07/11/20

Isle of Mull - Tobermory Book Festival

[Info here](#)

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. *365: Stories and Music* is a not-for-profit venture. Our thanks extend to Reveal Records and Penguin Books for allowing the music and stories to be included in the installation
2. The installation is free; it is un-ticketed and will tour public spaces
3. Principal partner: Edinburgh International Book Festival
4. Principal funder: Creative Scotland
5. With support from: PRS for Music Foundation's *The Open Fund*, the University of Glasgow's Scottish Literature department, BBC Scotland, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Scottish Poetry Library.

About James Robertson

James Robertson has published more than forty books and pamphlets, including novels, short stories, poetry, non-fiction and books in Scots for young readers. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and an Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of Scottish Literature at Glasgow University. He is a contributing author to and general editor of the Scots language children's imprint Itchy Co, for which he has translated works by A.A. Milne, Roald Dahl, Julia Donaldson and Alexander McCall Smith. His 2003 novel *Joseph Knight* won both the Saltire Society and Scottish Arts Council Book of the Year awards, *The Testament of Gideon Mack* (2006) was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize, and *And the Land Lay Still* (2010) was also the Saltire Society's Book of the Year. His most recent book (2017) is *Arrest This Moment*, a biography of his friend, the late Dundee songwriter and performer, Michael Marra.

About Aidan O'Rourke

Aidan O'Rourke is a fiddler, composer, producer and curator. With his trio Lau, in multiple solo projects and in collaborations, he has pioneered a new sound in Scottish folk music and redefined traditional forms. He joined Blazin' Fiddles in 2008; in 2010 he formed the quartet Kan with whistle player Brian Finnegan; in 2016 he formed a duo with the jazz

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pianist Kit Downes; in 2017 he joined folk-legend Donal Lunny's new collective The Atlantic Arc Orchestra. Lau came together in 2006 and their debut album set a precedent for politically-charged folk music that expands the form and experiments with sound while staying rooted in tradition. They have released five critically-acclaimed studio albums and won Best Group at the BBC 2 Folk Awards an unprecedented four times. As a composer, Aidan is a three-time winner of the PRSF New Music Biennial commission at the Southbank Centre; other commissioners include the Scottish Ensemble, Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Sage Gateshead. As a curator, Aidan has co-directed multiple editions of the Lau-Land festival.