

BIG BURNS SUPPER

Big Burns Supper raises a dram to another triumphant festival in Dumfries



American blues musician Keb' Mo' was joined by Rabbe Burns (Gary Swainson) to launch Big Burns Supper in Dumfries. (c) Ian Georgeson

IMAGES AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

Big Burns Supper 2020 is today celebrating another wildly successful Burnsian bash as the ninth edition of the Festival comes to a fabulous close in Dumfries. Audience numbers were up 16% as a string of smash-hit concerts and live events brought fans from around the world to Scotland's friendliest town. Festival producers are delighted with the ongoing support from audiences, local businesses and communities who once again backed the Festival and its ethos of bringing people together in what is Scotland's warmest, largest contemporary celebration of the Baird.

Big Burns Supper 2020 took place from 24 January – 2 February with 150 events, featuring over 300 artists, across 11 days of top-class music, comedy, dance and cabaret. With community at the heart of the Festival and key to its ongoing success, Dumfries once again opened its doors and extended a warm welcome to friends old and new, in a culture of togetherness as championed by Rabbie himself.

The festival kicked off with four-time Grammy Award-winner, **Keb' Mo'** bringing his cool American charm and soulful blues to the iconic Spiegel tent stage, and a showstopping performance from one of the UK's most respected gospel choirs and Royal Wedding favourites, **The Kingdom Choir**.

The festival's trademark celebration of the Scottish Bard, **Burns Night Live**, brought together multi award-winning Scots folk band **Rura**, Dumfries' own metal heads **Turbyne** and local stars **Kate Kyle** and **The Lutras** along with critically acclaimed **Band of Burns** who treated audiences to their unique Burns-inspired tunes. The festivities were capped off in style as folk-pop superstar **Newton Faulkner** performed some of his biggest hits from an impressive 12-year career in a Burns celebration unlike any other!

The party continued throughout the week with a huge line-up of acts including big shows from London 4-piece rockers **Turin Breaks**, 90s electronic specialists **Morcheeba**, home-grown cabaret sensation, **Le Haggis** and a packed programme of family-friendly events including **Bairns Day Oot** in Scotland's oldest working theatre, and a **Family Silent Disco** to get the whole family grooving.

New for this year was cross-artform collaboration, **Europa Picnic**, which saw the local community joining forces with top artists, poets and songwriters to pen a community wide poem, marking the UK's last day of EU membership.

The festival was once again supported by **an army of around 150 volunteers** from the local community who continue to be the backbone of the festival. These incredible local heroes are the people who make the festival happen helping in all areas of the event from building the site, looking after the artists, welcoming the audiences and, of course, pouring the drinks.

The **Festival Hub**, now a firm festival fixture had its most successful run to date, welcoming thousands of festival goers to enjoy a huge programme of free gigs and events, showcasing the very best local talent.

Big Burns Supper will return for its **10th edition Festival** in January 2021. Programme details will be announced later this year.

Executive Producer, Graham Main said: "We're overwhelmed by the commitment of our volunteers, partners and artists to make 2020 our biggest festival ever, but real thanks has to go to the audiences who turned up day and night to welcome artists from around the world to Dumfries. This year's Festival saw huge growth in family audiences and the Festival Hub which once again provided a vital platform to emerging artists from the local area and across the UK."



www.bigburnssupper.com

Twitter: @BigBurnsSupper

Facebook: @BigBurnsSupper

/Ends

For further information, images, interview or press ticket requests please contact **Kate Bouchier-Hayes on 078 25335489 / kate@thecornershoppr.com**

IMAGES AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

Notes to Editors

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.