**Media Release**

**Tuesday 1st November 2022**

**Celtic Connections announces an array of new acts for the 2023 line-up**

[**Images available to download here**](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/j3c2v29klj24xrn/AACfE1I9O55a6C5-0zDYfxG4a?dl=0)

**Celtic Connections,** the home of world-class music and one-off collaborations, has announced a host of new acts to be added to the dynamic bill for its celebratory 30th edition this January. The internationally renowned event will mark its 30th festival with an ambitious and eclectic programme of music that will be showcased between **Thursday 19th January – Sunday 5th February 2023**.

Thousands of musicians will perform at venues across the city over the course of the 18-day event, with concerts and performances spanning traditional folk, roots, Americana, jazz, soul and world music.

Post-punk indie rockers **The Twilight Sad** are back after having to cancel their performance at last year’s festival. Famed for their notoriously loud live performances, the band will bring a very special and intimate show to Celtic Connections, featuring stripped-back songs from across their critically acclaimed body of work.

Glasgow’s southside venue *Tramway* will host two very special performances across the last weekend of the festival. Genre-defying Scottish composer and performer **Anna Meredith** will bring her acoustic and electro performance to Celtic Connections 2023 on the final Friday, straddling the different worlds of contemporary classical, art pop, techno, large-scale installations, and experimental rock. The penultimate night will welcome Malian singer and guitarist **Vieux Farka Touré** to the Tramway stage to present his new album *Ali*, described by Elton John as “*one of the albums of the year*.”

Gaelic supergroup **Dàimh** will also set the Celtic Connections stage ablaze this January. Regarded as giants of the bagpipes and fiddle, **Angus Mackenzie** and **Gabe McVarish** lead the melodic powerhouse, with fellow founder member **Ross Martin** underpinning the groove on guitar. The band are joined by ’new guy‘ **Murdo “Yogi” Cameron** on mandola and accordion to complete the instrumental line up. Joining them on vocals is the Gaelic firmament’s rising star, **Ellen MacDonald**.

Joining Dàimh on this bill will be Irish singer-songwriter **Karan Casey** who has been blazing a trail for over 25 years. A lover of ballads, love songs and searing versions of social justice songs, as well as a great storyteller, Karan has toured the world connecting with her audience through Ireland’s past, while crucially repositioning women and songs in a universal and a modern setting.

Award-winning folk band **CARA** will celebrate their 20th anniversary as a band with a special anniversary line up, including **Jeana Leslie** (FARA), winner of the 2010 World Bodhrán Championship, **Aimee Farrell-Courtney**, and **Steffen Gabriel** (Northern Light).

**Sam Kelly & the Lost Boys** will also take to the Celtic Connections stage as part of its 30th edition. The brainchild of BBC Radio 2 Folk Award winning singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and producer **Sam Kelly**, The Lost Boys band has gained a reputation as one of the best live acts in the UK, with the virtuosic talents of **Jamie Francis** (banjo), **Graham Coe** (cello), **Toby Shaer** (whistles/fiddle), **Archie Moss** (melodeon) and **Evan Carson** (drums) showcasing an eclectic and innovative reworking of traditional songs and tunes from England, Scotland, Ireland and the USA.

Former BBC Radio Scotland’s Young Traditional Musician of the Year **Claire Hastings** will perform her varied repertoire of traditional, contemporary and original songs, with the accompaniment of her full band.

**The Friel Sisters** will bring their traditional Irish music and song to the festival, while Shetland fiddle player **Ross Couper** will make his return to Celtic Connections, this time with his own band. Joining him is BBC Radio Scotland’s Traditional Musician of the Year 2021, **Michael Biggins** and drumming legend **Paul Jennings**. This will be the first outing of **The Ross Couper Band** and it’ll be a chance to hear some material from his greatly received *Celtic Connections* *New Voices* commission last year, alongside some new material.

**Rokia Koné**, aka the Rose of Bamako, visits Celtic Connections for the first UK live performance of her debut album *Bamanan*, a collaboration with Irish-born, California-based rock producer **Jacknife Lee** (U2, R.E.M, Snow Patrol, The Killers)

Rokia’s voice soars – pure, clear and true — above bass and synths, traditional percussion and infectious Mande guitar grooves. A stop-you-in-your-tracks voice instantly familiar to anyone in Mali, West Africa – and previously a core member of supergroup Les Amazones d'Afrique - her captivating performances run the gamut of emotion from joy to despair and fury to tenderness, wielding her astounding voice with grace and power. Jacknife Lee has become one of the most sought after and highly influential producers, having worked with some of the most influential artists on both sides of the Atlantic including Taylor Swift, U2, R.E.M, Snow Patrol & The Killers. Working together across three continents on *Bamanan*, Rokia and Jacknife have reimagined the Malian sound in ways leftfield and groundbreaking.

Marking 100 years since James Scott Skinner recorded ‘*The Strathspey King*’, **Alice Allen** (cello) and **Patsy Reid** (fiddle) will celebrate this milestone at next year’s festival by releasing their own take on his last, iconic recording from London, 1922.

Patsy and Alice both grew up steeped in the Northeast fiddle tradition, becoming effortlessly fluent in their native strathspeys, reels and airs, whilst simultaneously pursuing a hybrid musical education, achieving much sought-after string technique (that Skinner himself flaunted) whilst remaining true to their respective roots. Together, Alice and Patsy breathe new life into these wonderful tunes, and it is hoped their recording may be enjoyed by Scottish music lovers for another century.

Cottiers Theatre will be the venue for a unique Celtic Connections show entitled **When Mountains Meet / Jub Milain Pahaar: A musical adventure from Scotland to Pakistan.** The performance will showcase a unique musical journey with Scottish and South Asian influenced music and storytelling, alongside striking visual images. Composed and musically directed by Scottish violinist **Anne Wood** (The Raincoats, Deacon Blue, Michael Marra) the show will navigate along her unforgettable voyage from the Scottish Highlands to the Himalayas, in search of her Pakistani father whom she had never met.

Scottish folk quartet **Westward the Light** will bring their powerful and dynamic music to the 2023 edition of the festival. Comprising musicians **Charlie Grey**, **Sally Simpson**, **Owen Sinclair** and **Joseph Peach**, they will also be joined by Scottish Uilleann piper, flautist and composer, **Calum** **Stewart** and percussive Scottish step dancer, **Sophie Stephenson**.

Other names added to the 30th edition of Celtic Connections include, **Adam Sutherland, Ainsley Hamill, Alastair McDonald, Amythyst Kiah, Archie Fisher, Assynt, CLR Theory, Early James, Firelight Trio, Fraser Bruce, Gavin Paterson, Grainne Brady, Hamish Napier, Ian Bruce, Madison Violet, Malcolm MacWatt, Nae Plans, Pete Clark, Ron Jappy, Scott Wood Band, Seckou Keita, Session A9, Staran, Sylvia Barnes, Terra Kin, The Coaltown Daisies, The Routes Quartet, The Special Consensus, Tim Baker** and **William Prince.**

Tickets for Celtic Connections 2023 are available from [**www.celticconnections.com**](http://www.celticconnections.com/).

**ENDS**

Media accreditation is now open and you can apply [here](https://www.celticconnections.com/press-accreditation/).

The festival will run from Thursday 19 January to Sunday 5 February 2023. Follow the conversation at @ccfest.

For the programme line-up and to purchase tickets please go to: [www.celticconnections.com](http://www.celticconnections.com/)

For further information, images, or to request an interview with any of the acts performing at Celtic Connections 2023, please contact: Hannah Innes, Innes and Campbell Communications, hannah@innesandcampbell.co.uk, 07790 813 712 / Corrie Campbell, Innes and Campbell Communications, corrie@innesandcampbell.co.uk, 07900 981 073.

**Notes to Editors**

**Celtic Connections** began in 1994, when it offered 66 events at one venue. Since then it’s grown more adventurous, experimental and diverse each year and now offers thousands of events in locations across Glasgow.

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.

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