

Media Release

Tuesday 7 January 2025

Glasgow counts down to premier winter festival Celtic Connections 2025

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Glasgow, a UNESCO City of Music, is counting down to hosting the premier winter festival **Celtic Connections**, in partnership with **Innis & Gunn**. In less than two weeks, the city will be brimming with the world's best roots, world and folk music.

An estimated 1,200 musicians and artists from 20 countries will be in Glasgow between **Thursday 16 January and Sunday 2 February**. Around 300 events will take place in 25 venues across the city as part of the internationally renowned event delivered by **Glasgow Life**.

Celtic Connections is a truly global showcase. The performers descending on Glasgow are coming from as far as Australia, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Bulgaria and many more countries for another of the festival's most extensive editions to date.

The glittering bill features one-off commissions and collaborations, debut performances and premiers, internationally renowned artists, and the biggest shows some musicians have ever staged. There will also be ceilidhs, workshops, screenings, book launches, dementia-friendly performances, recitals, and talks.

Months of careful planning for the 32nd edition of Celtic Connections are almost complete as the festival gears up for attendances in the region of 110,000 across its 18 days. People from near and far will be drawn out on the dark winter nights for the unparalleled, shared experience of live music and the emotion, joy, connection and magic it ignites.

Celtic Connections 2025 will open with its iconic **Opening Concert**, this year celebrating 850 years of its home, Glasgow. With a secret line up that's under wraps, the show will epitomise the city's motto – Let Glasgow Flourish – and give audiences moment after moment of unexpected delight.

From there, a myriad of performances and activities – up to 33 a day – will follow. With everything from acoustic and folk music and roots, Americana and indie to world, jazz and blues and experimental and orchestral music on offer, the festival’s genres and audience are vast.

Always keen to be at the forefront of innovation, a new Under 26 Community launched for the 2025 festival, giving younger fans access to exclusive discounts. The Emirates Arena will also be piloted as a music venue, and 2025 marks the start of a new five-year headline partnership deal with fellow Scottish household name **Innis & Gunn**.

Donald Shaw, Creative Producer for Celtic Connections, said: “With this festival, the clue is in the name – it’s all about connection and the sense of belonging and joy that comes with that. Dark, dreary January nights are replaced with rooms full of song and an unbeatable warmth that Glasgow’s people and music are famed for. As the festival continues to break new ground in our programming, scale and ambition, it’s incredible to see more new faces join us in the audience each year. There’s 18 days, 10 genres, 25 venues and 1,200 musicians – audiences really are spoiled for choice. We would encourage everyone to make sure they experience it for themselves and start their year being moved, cheered and amazed by the power of music.”

Celtic Connections first began in 1994 and has grown in size and ambition ever since, building an international reputation for world-renowned music, exciting new performances, unique showcases and one-off collaborations.

Celtic Connections 2025 in partnership with **Innis & Gunn** will take place from **Thursday 16 January to Sunday 2 February**. The programme can be viewed in full and tickets purchased at www.celticconnections.com.

ENDS

[Media accreditation is now open and you can apply here.](#)

The festival will run from Thursday 16 January to Sunday 2 February 2025. Follow the conversation at @ccfest.

For further information, images, or to request an interview, please contact: 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**. The festival receives invaluable support from **Creative Scotland**, **The Scottish Government Festivals Expo Fund** and **CalMac**.

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.

Our programmes, experiences and events range from grassroots community activities to large-scale cultural, artistic and sporting events which present Glasgow on an international stage.

Our work is designed to promote inclusion, happiness and health, as well as support the city's visitor economy, in order to enhance Glasgow's mental, physical and economic wellbeing.

For more information, see www.glasgowlife.org.uk

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports culture and creativity across all parts of Scotland, distributing funding provided by the Scottish Government and The National Lottery. Further information at creativescotland.com. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#). Learn more about the value of art and creativity in Scotland and join in at www.ourcreativevoice.scot

Innis & Gunn: Since the company was founded in 2003, Innis & Gunn has been determined to do things differently in the world of brewing. Starting with innovative oak cask maturation for our flagship beer, 'The Original', we have gone on to create a whole line up of boundary-pushing beers, including distinctive, limited edition and rare beers, and the Innis & Gunn Lager Beer which recently won gold at the World Beer Awards.

Innis & Gunn is now one of the UK's most successful beer brewers. Still pioneering, still innovating and still doing things differently, to excite and intrigue beer lovers all over the world. Innis & Gunn is the official beer sponsor of many iconic events including the Royal Highland Show, Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Celtic Connections and Belladrum music festival in Inverness.