



EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

MEDIA RELEASE
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Edinburgh International Festival 2010
Friday 13 August – Sunday 5 September

**Jonathan Mills, Festival Director today announced the programme for
Edinburgh International Festival 2010.**

Festival 2010 is a journey of discovery through the diverse contemporary cultures of **North, Central and South America, and Australasia.**

Artists from California, New York and New England, Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela, Argentina, Samoa, New Zealand, Australia, as well as Spain, Holland and the UK give Festival 2010 a distinctive feel as it explores the modern-day cultures of the 'New World'.

The Festival opens with **John Adams's *El Niño*** and closes with the annual spectacular ***Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert*** this year celebrating music from the movies.

World premieres include political writer Alistair Beaton's exploration of Scotland's futile attempt at establishing a colony in Panama, in ***Caledonia***, directed by Anthony Neilson and co-produced by the Festival and the National Theatre of Scotland, and flamenco dance work ***Quimeras*** from **Paco Peña Flamenco Dance Company.**

Peter Carey's novel ***Bliss*** is the inspiration for a **brand new Australian opera** from composer Brett Dean, to be performed by Opera Australia in its European premiere.

Great American composer George Gershwin's opera ***Porgy and Bess*** is updated in a spectacular multi-media production by Opéra de Lyon and the hip-hop and contemporary dance Compagnie Montalvo-Hervieu.

Lee Breuer and Bob Telson's music theatre extravaganza ***The Gospel at Colonus*** makes a big colourful splash at the Edinburgh Playhouse with the Festival debuts of **The Blind Boys of Alabama** and The Abyssinian Chancel Choir from Harlem.

A **world premiere** from New York theatre company **Elevator Repair Service**, a new play from **The Wooster Group** and the Festival debut of **Meredith Monk** broaden New York's influence on the theatre programme in 2010. From South America **Teatro Cinema** and **Teatro en el Blanco** are making their Festival debuts, and offering audiences a glimpse of innovative and cinematic theatre from Chile.

In a dance programme which features Brazil, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, flamenco and the late **Pina Bausch's** tropical *Água*, the Festival also brings San Francisco based **Alonzo King Lines Ballet** to the UK for the first time.

Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra, Russian National Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra performing alongside Scotland's finest, create an impressive line-up in The Usher Hall.

Popular American music, **jazz**, features in 2010, bringing the Festival debuts of the legendary classical and jazz musician Gunther Schuller, and saxophonists Joe Lovano and Tommy Smith.

Explorations, presented in association with the **British Council**, brings together an international array of academics, cultural commentators and Festival artists in an exchange of ideas and discussions at The Hub.

The Festival remains **highly affordable** with tickets to performances starting at just £8, and a large range of discounts available. Customers aged 26 and under also have access to £8 on-the-day tickets.

Jonathan Mills, Edinburgh International Festival Director, said 'This year the Festival takes us on a journey around the contemporary cultures of the Americas and Australasia. We have

shifted our centre of gravity from Europe towards these intriguing and complex continents. As these diverse cultures, separated by vast oceans, converge in Edinburgh, I hope you will join us to celebrate the synergies and revelations they offer.

'This year especially I would like to thank all those funders, sponsors, supporters and individuals who continue to contribute to the Festival, and to those who have joined us this year to make Festival 2010 possible. It is thanks to their support that we are able to present such a strong programme and also that we are able to keep tickets so affordable.'

Scotland's Culture Minister Fiona Hyslop MSP, said: 'Jonathan's programme shows we have another August of outstanding events and performances to look forward to at this year's International Festival.'

'I am delighted we are able to support the Festival through our Expo Fund to help produce this exciting and diverse programme, putting Scotland's own world-class talent on the international stage. Such opportunities are vital in highlighting the tremendous breadth and depth of talent in Scotland, as well as being great for audiences.'

Jim Tough, Chief Executive, Scottish Arts Council said: 'Edinburgh International Festival consistently offers audiences a kaleidoscope of global creativity and this year's voyage around the New World promises to be intriguing, exhilarating and downright fascinating. As ever, the world's best arts festival invites us to join them at the frontier of our cultural experiences.'

Cllr Jenny Dawe, Leader of the City of Edinburgh Council said: 'The programme for this year's Edinburgh International Festival looks vibrant and truly international. I am certain that it will help to maintain Edinburgh's reputation as a global leader for culture and tourism. I will be attending as many of the performances as I can fit in and I think there are events here that will appeal to a wide range of tastes. I look forward to welcoming these diverse artists to Edinburgh in August and I am sure that Edinburgh will once again give a great welcome to those who come to enjoy a spectacular Festival.'

Councillor Steve Cardownie, Edinburgh's Festivals and Events Champion said: 'This year's outstanding programme once more showcases artists from different parts of the world with a diverse and vibrant offer of music, dance and theatre that will attract audiences from home and all over the world. The Edinburgh International Festival, along with our other

Festivals, make Edinburgh the world's pre-eminent festival city, a reputation that will only be enhanced with this year's programme which extends boundaries to artistic limits.'

ENDS

Public booking opens Saturday 27 March
Hub Tickets +44 (0)131 473 2000
eif.co.uk

Further information on the programme and Festival Director Jonathan Mills, photographs and interview set up is available from the Festival press office. Please get in touch so that we can help you.

Edinburgh International Festival press office, +44 (0)131 473 2020 or press@eif.co.uk.
Further information available on eif.co.uk/press

We would like to make a request for your support:

Corporate sponsorship of the Edinburgh International Festival is crucial to its future. As arts supporters yourselves we hope you will help us in maintaining this important portion of our income and healthy relationships with sponsors by mentioning them in your coverage. This makes a real difference to the Edinburgh International Festival. Mentions are counted and used as an evaluation of projects. Please credit our sponsors.

The Edinburgh International Festival is supported by The City of Edinburgh Council and the Scottish Arts Council.
Scottish Charity (SC004694)

BBC Radio 3: Radio 3 presents extensive coverage of the Festival with many concerts broadcast live or recorded for broadcast at a later date. A list of these dates is available from the press office.

Event sponsors and supporters are:

Project Grants:

British Council

Explorations series of talks and panel discussions

The Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund

Caledonia

National Theatre of Scotland, director Anthony Neilson

Visiting Arts

Tempest: Without a Body

Birds with Skymirrors

MAU, Choreographer Lemi Ponifasio

Principal Supporters:

Dunard Fund USA

Cleveland Orchestra 01 and 02

Conductor Franz Welser-Möst

Russian National Orchestra
Conductor Mikhail Pletnev

Minnesota Orchestra
Conductor Osmo Vänskä

Léan Scully EIF Fund
Alonzo King Lines Ballet
Choreographer Alonzo King

Corporate Partners:

Bank of Scotland
Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert
Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Conductor Clark Rundell

Heineken UK
Opening Concert: El Niño
BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Conductor James Conlon

Lloyds TSB Scotland
Porgy and Bess
Opéra de Lyon, Conductor William Eddins

Alonzo King Lines Ballet
Choreographer Alonzo King

Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra 02
Conductor Mariss Jansons

Lumison
Mahler Symphony No 8
BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Conductor Donald Runnicles

Standard Life
Quimeras
Paco Peña Flamenco Dance Company, Director Jude Kelly

The Gospel at Colonus
by Lee Breuer and Bob Telson

Production Sponsors:

Arup
Sydney Symphony Orchestra 01
Conductor Vladimir Ashkenazy

Baillie Gifford, Investment Managers
Grupo Corpo
Choreographer Rodrigo Pederneiras

City Inn
Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra 01
Conductor Mariss Jansons

Classic FM

The Indian Queen

The Sixteen, Conductor Harry Christophers

The List

Diciembre by Guillermo Calderón

Teatro en el Blanco

Pinsent Masons

Sin Sangre, Director Juan Carlos Zagal

The Man Who Fed Butterflies, Director Juan Carlos Zagal

Teatro Cinema

Sharing the Festival

Prudential

Rhapsodies in Red, White and Blue

Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Conductor Gunther Schuller

Principal Donors:**American Friends of the Edinburgh International Festival**

Songs of Ascension by Meredith Monk and Ann Hamilton

Meredith Monk Company, The Elysian Quartet, Edinburgh University Singers

Edinburgh International Festival Benefactors

The Queen's Hall Series

The Sun Also Rises

Elevator Repair Service, Director John Collins

Edinburgh International Festival Friends and Patrons

Bliss by Brett Dean and Amanda Holden

Opera Australia, BBC Symphony Orchestra

Donors:**Director's Circle**

The Sun Also Rises

Elevator Repair Service, Director John Collins

Foreign Government Support:**The Victorian Government through Arts Victoria**

Joan Rodgers, Roderick Williams, Roger Vignoles

Richard Mills, *Songlines of the Heart's Desire*

Duo Sol

Ross Edwards, Matthew Hindson

Bliss by Brett Dean and Amanda Holden

Opera Australia, BBC Symphony Orchestra

CONACULTA

Montezuma

Carl Heinrich Graun

Culture Ireland

Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Kevin Volans, Symphony: Daar Kom die Alibama

Embassy of Mexico, United Kingdom

Montezuma

by Carl Heinrich Graun

The Embassy of the United States of America, London

The Sun Also Rises

Elevator Repair Service, Director John Collins

Vieux Carré

The Wooster Group, Director Elizabeth LeCompte

Songs of Ascension by Meredith Monk and Ann Hamilton

Meredith Monk Company, The Elysian Quartet, Edinburgh University Singers

The Italian Cultural Institute, Edinburgh

La fanciulla del West

The Orchestra of Scottish Opera, Conductor Francesco Corti

Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, Estados Unidos Mexicanos

Montezuma

by Carl Heinrich Graun

Trusts and Foundations:

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Idomeneo

Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Chorus, Conductor Sir Charles Mackerras

The Peter Diamond Trust

Simón Bolívar String Quartet

Gordon Fraser Charitable Trust

Conversations

The Stevenson Charitable Trust

La fanciulla del West

The Orchestra of Scottish Opera, Conductor Francesco Corti

Benefactors:

Mr & Mrs James Anderson

Edicson Ruiz, Double bass

Sergio Tiempo, Piano

Joscelyn Fox

Llŷr Williams, Piano (Juliette Bausor, Flute and Jane Atkins, Viola)

Frank Hitchman

Susan Graham, Mezzo soprano
Malcolm Martineau, piano

Donald and Louise MacDonald

Scottish Chamber Orchestra
Kevin Volans, Symphony: *Daar Kom die Alibama*

Jim and Isobel Stretton

Magdalena Kožená, Mezzo soprano
Private Musicke

Legacies:

Ronnie Alexander Miller Mackenzie, FRICS

L'heure espagnole
Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Conductor Stéphane Denève