

PRESS RELEASE  
10.30am on Wednesday 2 April 2008

# EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 08 8-31 AUGUST

## **Festival sponsorship hits £1.6 million – and counting.**

As Edinburgh International Festival launches its 2008 programme, Director Jonathan Mills announces fundraising levels have already passed the 2007 total of £1.6 million.

‘Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, corporate members, trusts and foundations and individual supporters, the Festival can continue to offer world class events at affordable prices,’ he said. ‘This allows diverse audiences both local and international to enjoy what we have to offer.’

‘It is extremely gratifying that at the time of the programme launch we have already secured more sponsorship than we did for the 2007 Festival as a whole. I want to pay special tribute to those sponsors who have maintained long-term links with us, sometimes over many years.’

Longstanding corporate member **Baillie Gifford** celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a significantly increased involvement. Previously the company was a member of the Proscenium Club, giving general support to the Festival in return for a package which gives benefits to the company’s staff. For Festival 2008 the leading financial firm has upgraded its support and become sponsor of The State Ballet of Georgia’s *Giselle* with prima ballerina Nina Ananiashvili.

In another innovative partnership **Standard Life**, which has backed the Festival for 12 years, has signed up to a new agreement giving guaranteed support for the next three years. In Festival 08 they sponsor the Batsheva Dance Company’s *Deca Dance 2008*.

**Bank of Scotland**’s support continues, including the thrilling Festival finale that is the **Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert** performed by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

Jonathan Mills continued: ‘The Edinburgh International Festival is one of the most exciting places on earth to experience the arts; it is also one of the most prestigious. Sponsors, corporate members, trusts and foundations and individual supporters contribute to opera, theatre, dance, orchestral and chamber concerts in Edinburgh’s finest venues sure in the knowledge that quality and excellence, as well as diversity and enjoyment are keystones of the Edinburgh International Festival experience.’

Festival 08 runs from Friday August 8 until Sunday August 31, with a range of theatre, dance, music and opera performances around the city. There are opportunities for corporate collaborations and charitable involvement in Festival 08 as well as future festivals. For further information contact the Sponsorship and Development Department on 0131 473 2061. *More...*

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Notes to Editors:

Public booking opens Saturday 12 April 2008

Hub Tickets: +44 (0)131 473 2000

Online booking and information: [www.eif.co.uk](http://www.eif.co.uk)

Please see enclosed brochure for full programme information and listings.

We can supply the Festival listings and information in any format you require, please contact the press office.

For further information please contact the press office on 0131 473 2020 or [press@eif.co.uk](mailto:press@eif.co.uk)

**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 component of our income and our healthy relationships with sponsors by crediting them in print. This makes a real difference to the Festival. Mentions are counted and used as an evaluation of projects by our sponsors. A credit at the foot of an article can make all the difference to us. Please credit our sponsors where you can.**

***The Edinburgh International Festival is supported by The City of Edinburgh Council, the Scottish Arts Council, and The National Lottery through the Scottish Arts Council.***

**Event Sponsors are:**

**Baillie Gifford**

*Giselle* - State Ballet of Georgia

Saturday 9 August and Sunday 10 August

**Bank of Scotland**

Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert

Sunday 31 August

Bank of Scotland Connecting to Culture Series

**Classic FM**

Dmitri Hvorotovsky

Saturday 9 August

**First ScotRail**

*The Two Widows* - Scottish Opera

Saturday 9, Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 August

**Lloyds TSB Scotland**

*Prokofiev - The Seven Symphonies*

London Symphony Orchestra, conductor Valery Gergiev

Friday 15, Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 August

*More...*

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**Lumison**

*A Child of Our Time* - BBC SSO, conductor Gennadi Rozhdestvensky  
Saturday 30 August

**Scottish and Newcastle plc**

The Opening Concert – *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*, RSNO, conductor HK Gruber  
Friday 8 August

**Standard Life**

*Deca Dance 2008* - Batsheva Dance Company  
Thursday 28 – Saturday 30 August

**Event Supporters are:**

**The Bacher Trust**

*Ruhe* - Muziektheater Transparant, Collegium Vocale Gent  
Thursday 21 – Sunday 24 August

**The Binks Trust**

*Dybbuk* - TR Warszawa  
Saturday 9 – Monday 11 August

**The Director's Circle**

Messiaen 100 – Naji Hakim  
Saturday 9 and Monday 11 August

*Eclairs sur l'au-delà*

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, conductor Ilan Volkov  
Sunday 10 August

**Dunard Fund**

Alfred Brendel  
Thursday 21 August

Scottish Chamber Orchestra with Sir Charles Mackerras and Alfred Brendel  
Wednesday 20 August

Orchestre Revolutionnaire et Romantique and the Monteverdi Choir, conductor Sir John Eliot Gardiner  
Tuesday 19 August

*Le Roi David*

Royal Scottish National Orchestra, conductor Stéphane Denève  
Monday 18 August

**The Edinburgh International Festival Patrons and Muses**

*Król Roger*  
Mariinsky Opera Company, conductor Valery Gergiev  
Monday 25 and Wednesday 27 August

*More...*

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**Léan Scully EIF Fund**

*Israel in Egypt*

Scottish Chamber Orchestra, conductor Emmanuelle Haïm

Wednesday 13 August

**Donald and Louise MacDonald**

Scottish Chamber Orchestra, conductor Oliver Knussen

Friday 29 August

**David McLellan**

Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, conductor Paul Hillier

Monday 11 August

**Scottish Government Expo Fund**

*The Two Widows*

Scottish Opera, conductor Francesco Corti

Saturday 9, Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 August

**The Stevenston Charitable Trust**

*Aleko and Semyon Kotko Act III*

The Mariinsky Opera Company, conductor Valery Gergiev

Sunday 24 August

**DONORS**

Baillie Gifford

Bank of Scotland

Classic FM

Hire-a-Phone

Lloyds TSB Scotland

Lumison

Renault

First ScotRail

Scottish and Newcastle plc

Standard Life

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Edinburgh International Festival Endowment Fund

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More...

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(part of the Berkmann Group)

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Edinburgh  
Taipei Representative Office in the U.K.,  
Edinburgh Office  
The United States Consulate General,  
Edinburgh

**TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS**

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in the Humanities, The University of  
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(No SC024766) and as Scottish Charity (No SC004694)