Edinburgh International Festival Strengthens its Leadership to Help Shape the Festival's Future

The Hub, photo by Andrew Perry

- Edinburgh International Festival appoints five new trustees, with expertise ranging from policy development and international relations to broadcast and finance.

MEDIA IMAGES AVAILABLE HERE
1–24 AUGUST 2025

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1 August 2025, Edinburgh: Today, as the Edinburgh International Festival kicks off, the Board of Trustees held its first meeting with its newly appointed members. The five new trustees' expertise ranges from international diplomacy, media, technology and financial regulation will help the Festival continue to innovate and deliver world-class theatre, opera, dance and music to the broadest possible audience.

Andrew Gilmour, a former senior United Nations official, spent over 30 years in global diplomacy, leading efforts in human rights and peacebuilding. **Lyn McDonald OBE**, former Director of the Scotland Office, has led major projects and government functions, and **Michelle Reglinski**, Chief Revenue and Partnerships Officer, Global Syndication at

Comcast and Sky, brings a strong track record in international media, commercial strategy, and business transformation.

John Taylor, former President of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, is a financial leader and arts advocate with experience at the Bank of England and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and **Chris Yiu**, Director of Public Policy for Northern Europe at Meta, brings expertise in technology and policy shaped by roles at Uber and the Tony Blair Institute.

The appointments were supported by global non-executive search specialists **Nurole**. Full biographies below.

At a time when the role of arts organisations is rapidly evolving, this expertise in global and public affairs, as well as digital innovation, will strengthen the International Festival's mission to promote the exchange of ideas, deepen cultural understanding, and enhance its unique role as a bridge between Scotland and the wider world.

Sir Keith Skeoch, Chair of the Edinburgh International Festival, said: "*We are delighted to welcome such a distinguished group of individuals to our Board. Their global experience and diverse perspectives will be invaluable as we continue to evolve as an organisation. As we look towards our 80th anniversary in 2027, this is a pivotal moment to both honour our rich legacy and embrace the opportunities ahead*."

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Board of Trustees - Edinburgh International Festival

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Councillor Jane Meagher
Councillor Joanna Mowat
Martin Nolan
Councillor Hal Osler
Spiro Phanos

Michelle Reglinski
John Taylor
Chris Yiu

New Appointments

Andrew Gilmour is a distinguished former senior United Nations official with more than 35 years of international experience in diplomacy, human rights, and peacebuilding. Andrew served as UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, and last year published a book on climate change and conflict. A visiting fellow at All Souls, Oxford, and now a senior fellow at SOAS, he is also a passionate advocate for the arts, as well as nature conservation.

An esteemed former senior civil servant, **Lyn McDonald OBE** has over 38 years' experience working at the heart of Whitehall and Westminster, and most recently led the Scotland Office as Director, for the Department for the Secretary of State for Scotland. She is known for driving major government reforms, including the creation of the UK's Public Sector Fraud Authority and the award-winning 'Tell Us Once' service.

Currently Chief Revenue & Partnerships Officer, Global Syndication at Comcast & Sky, **Michelle Reglinski** brings over fifteen years of commercial and strategic leadership in the media and TV sector, following senior roles at Sky. She is also a dedicated charity fundraiser and advocate.

John Taylor is an accomplished leader with expertise in finance, regulation, and governance. He has held notable roles, including President of the Institute & Faculty of Actuaries and External Member of the Prudential Regulation Committee at the Bank of England. With a background in actuarial science and a Ph.D. in Mathematics, he has led strategic initiatives across fintech, pensions, and risk management. A passionate supporter of the arts, he serves as a Governor of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Chris Yiu is Director of Public Policy for Northern Europe at Meta, where he oversees the company's policy operations in Northern Europe. His previous roles include leadership at the Tony Blair Institute and Uber, with board experience at Enable and as advisor at the David Hume Institute, and brings extensive experience in technology policy, digital transformation, and governance.

About Edinburgh International Festival
Edinburgh International Festival is the original festival. It's the one that started it all, the igniting spark that established Edinburgh as the world's Festival City.

The next International Festival takes place 1–24 August 2025, under the direction of Festival Director and Scottish violinist Nicola Benedetti. Benedetti's vision for the Festival is to create the deepest level of experience, through the highest quality art, for the broadest possible audience.

The Edinburgh International Festival was founded in 1947, the inspired idea of Rudolf Bing, a cultural pioneer and Jewish refugee, working with a group of civic and artistic leaders. Together, they created a festival that transcends political boundaries through a global

celebration of the performing arts.

Over the following 77 years the International Festival's hand-picked programme of world-leading dance, opera, music and theatre has continued to bring people of different cultures and viewpoints together every August. Meanwhile, the International Festival's sister festivals have grown up around it – each of them contributing to the atmosphere of unparalleled excitement that transforms the city each summer.

Shining far beyond what you see on stage, the Festival also offers year-round pathways for people of all ages and backgrounds to discover and participate in live performance. Learn more at eif.co.uk/about .