

Edinburgh International Festival's digital programme offers free full-length performances for global audiences



The Edinburgh International Festival At Home in partnership with abrDN digital programme features 18 full length performances available for free throughout 2021, including Gregory Maqoma's *Retrace Retract* in Dancing in the Streets. Photo: Moeletsi Mabe

- 'Edinburgh International Festival At Home in partnership with abrDN' digital programme includes 18 full length performances available for free online throughout 2021.
- The digital programme includes the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Nicola Benedetti, the Chineke! Orchestra, Malcolm Martineau, the National Theatre of Scotland and Talisk.
- Partnerships with BBC Radio 3, Classic FM and Apple Music allow audiences more options to view or listen to the programme from their own home.

MEDIA IMAGES AVAILABLE [HERE](#)
VIDEO TRAILER AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

eif.co.uk

14 July, Edinburgh: For the first time in its 74-year history, the **Edinburgh International Festival** offers audiences worldwide the opportunity to experience performances from the comfort of their own homes, with 18 full-length performances available to watch for free online. The world's leading performing arts festival presents its digital programme in partnership with global investment brand **abrdn**.

As part of the International Festival's ongoing commitment to accessibility, many of the performances featured in the digital programme offer audio description, captioning or British Sign Language interpretation. Selected performances from the programme will also be broadcast, streamed or hosted on classical music radio stations BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM and music streaming service Apple Music.

The International Festival's digital programme features newly commissioned dance works made for the digital experience as well as classical and contemporary music, opera, theatre and spoken word performances captured during the 2021 festival. The digital programme extends into October and November, providing a global platform for some of the world's leading artists beyond the festival season.

Highlights include:

- **Nicola Benedetti** alongside a specially selected ensemble in Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* (online from 27 August).
- A new production of *Ariadne auf Naxos*, conducted by **Sir Andrew Davis** with the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra** and featuring German soprano **Dorothea Röschmann** (29 August).
- A thrilling musical partnership between Argentinian-born cellist **Sol Gabetta**, fiery Hong Kong-born conductor **Elim Chan** and the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra**, with repertoire including Saint-Saëns's *First Cello Concerto* and Beethoven's *First Symphony* (25 November).
- Pianist **Isata Kanneh-Mason** and Russian-born conductor **Vasily Petrenko** joining forces with the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** to perform Clara Schumann's *Piano Concerto* and Beethoven's *Seventh Symphony* (7 October).
- The **Chineke! Orchestra**, conducted by **William Eddins**, joined by mezzo soprano **Andrea Baker** for Judith Weir's song cycle *woman.life.song*, which features texts from Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison and Clarissa Pinkola Estes (online from 22 August).
- Acclaimed Edinburgh pianist **Malcolm Martineau** and friends celebrating the 250th anniversary of **Sir Walter Scott**'s birth with a concert inspired by the poet's famous verse (online from 15 August).
- Writer and director **Hannah Lavery** leads an artistic response to the 2015 death in Scottish police custody of Sheku Bayoh in the **National Theatre of Scotland's** *Lament for Sheku Bayoh* (online from 25 August).

Audiences at home will also experience the atmosphere in the Old College Quad with the exhilarating **Zehetmair Quartet** (14 October), Egyptian soprano **Fatma Said** accompanied by **Malcolm Martineau** (4 November) and a fast-paced, genre-bending performance from

folk sensations **Talisk** (11 August). The digital programme also includes a rehearsed reading of **You Bury Me** (17 August) written by Ahlam; a panel discussion about women's playwriting in Scotland chaired by The Guardian's Arifa Akbar (11 August); and performances from **Inua Ellams** and **Saul Williams** in **A Toast to the People** (28 October), a spoken word series presented in partnership with the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

Dancing in the Streets (20 August) gives audiences an opportunity to travel to the four corners of the world with the premiere of four specially commissioned dance works created for film by critically acclaimed choreographers **Alice Ripoll** from Rio de Janeiro, **Omar Rajeh** from Beirut, **Gregory Maqoma** from Soweto and **Janice Parker** from Edinburgh. Each of the four choreographers has produced a short film with their dancers responding to the past year and reflecting on their relationship with their home cities.

The dance programme is completed by a new film of **Akram Khan's Chotto Xenos**, available to stream on 14 and 15 August. Inspired by Akram Khan's solo show *XENOS* and created by Sue Buckmaster, *Chotto Xenos* visits the untold stories of colonial soldiers during the First World War.

The Edinburgh International Festival also partners with major broadcasters to share the return of live performance with a wider audience.

BBC Radio 3 will broadcast 12 chamber performances from the Old College Quad in its flagship chamber music strand, the Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert; Radio 3 in Concert will feature four evening concerts from Edinburgh Academy Junior School, including the **BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra** with **Marin Alsop**, **Joyce DiDonato** with **Il Pomo D'Oro** and the **Benedetti Baroque Orchestra**. All BBC Radio 3 recordings are available for 30 days after broadcast on BBC Sounds.

Highlights of the programme will be broadcast on **Classic FM**, the UK's most popular classical music station, on Friday 3 September, alongside video excerpts from five concerts featured on Classic FM's social media channels throughout August.

The International Festival is working with **Linn Records** to release a series of recordings throughout the autumn of 2021, exclusively on **Apple Music**. These recordings will include *A Grand Night for Singing*, Stravinsky's *A Soldier's Tale*, *Ariadne auf Naxos* and compilations of orchestral and chamber highlights.

Fergus Linehan, Festival Director, Edinburgh International Festival said:

"We are looking forward to reuniting artists and audiences once more in Edinburgh this summer, yet we appreciate that some people may not be able to join us in person this year. For the first time in the Festival's history, we are delighted to offer an extensive programme of digital works for audiences across the UK and around the world to enjoy from home.

"We are hugely grateful to abrdn for supporting the At Home programme and helping us to offer these extraordinary full-length performances free of charge. We also look forward to working with broadcasters BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM to share the experience of the Festival with a wider audience."

Simon Bailey, Global Head of Brand Management at abrdn said:

“We’re delighted to support the Edinburgh International Festival with their Digital Programme for 2021. Offering global audiences the opportunity to experience such a diverse programme of live performances is very exciting. This is a difficult time for the arts, but the Edinburgh International Festival continues to thrill and entertain audiences worldwide and we’re very happy to continue our association.”

UK Culture Minister Caroline Dinenage said:

“I’m hugely impressed by the extensive digital programme Edinburgh International Festival has put together with support from our Digital Accelerator Fund. We launched this fund to help Edinburgh’s Festivals build back better from the pandemic and, thanks to this funding, culture lovers from around the world can enjoy these events again.”

Visit www.eif.co.uk/at-home for full details of Edinburgh International Festival At Home in partnership with **abrdn**.

– ENDS –

FULL SCHEDULE OF DIGITAL RELEASES ON eif.co.uk

11 August	Talisk
11 August	Plays for Today: Women’s Playwriting in Scotland
14 August	Chotto Xenos
15 August	Malcolm Martineau: Walter Scott 250
17 August	You Bury Me
20 August	Dancing in the Streets
22 August	Chineke! Orchestra with William Eddins and Andrea Baker
25 August	Lament for Sheku Bayoh
27 August	A Soldier’s Tale
29 August	Ariadne auf Naxos
7 October	Royal Philharmonic Orchestra with Vasily Petrenko and Isata Kanneh-Mason
14 October	Zehetmair Quartet
28 October	A Toast to the People – Inua Ellams and Saul Williams
4 November	Fatma Said and Malcolm Martineau
11 November	A Toast to the People – Hollie McNish and Wana Udobang
25 November	Royal Scottish National Orchestra with Elim Chan and Sol Gabetta

FULL SCHEDULE OF MEDIA BROADCASTS

10 August	Ronald Brautigam, Esther Hoppe & Christian Poltera, BBC Radio 3
11 August	Patricia Kopatchinskaja & Fazil Say, BBC Radio 3
12 August	Mari Eriksmoen & Daniel Heide, BBC Radio 3
12 August	Zehetmair Quartet (excerpt), Classic FM Facebook
13 August	Steven Osborne. BBC Radio 3
15 August	Malcolm Martineau: Walter Scott 250 (excerpt), Classic FM Facebook
17 August	Maxim Emelyanychev & Members of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, BBC Radio 3
18 August	Chineke! Chamber Ensemble, BBC Radio 3
18 August	Royal Philharmonic Orchestra with Vasily Petrenko and Isata Kanneh-Mason (excerpt), Classic FM Facebook
19 August	Nicola Benedetti: The Story of the Violin, BBC Radio 3
20 August	Elisabeth Leonskaja, BBC Radio 3

21 August	Royal Scottish National Orchestra with Elim Chan and Sol Gabetta (excerpt), Classic FM Facebook
24 August	Mariam Batsashvili, BBC Radio 3
25 August	Noa Wildschut & Elisabeth Brauß , BBC Radio 3
26 August	Renee Fleming & Hartmut Höll, BBC Radio 3
27 August	Gringolts Quartet, BBC Radio 3
28 August	Fatma Said and Malcolm Martineau (excerpt), Classic FM Facebook
3 September	90 min of highlights of the 2021 International Festival broadcast on Classic FM
13 September	BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra with Marin Alsop, BBC Radio 3
14 September	Royal Scottish National Orchestra with Valery Gergiev, BBC Radio 3
15 September	Joyce Di Donato and Il Pomo D'Oro, BBC Radio 3
16 September	Benedetti Baroque Orchestra, BBC Radio 3
29 October	Orchestral Highlights, Apple Music
5 November	A Grand Night for Singing, Apple Music
12 November	A Soldier's Tale, Apple Music
19 November	Ariadne auf Naxos, Apple Music
26 November	Chamber Music Highlights, Apple Music

Media contact:

Emma Goodacre, Media Manager, emma.goodacre@eif.co.uk

Hugo Mintz, Head of Communications, hugo.mintz@eif.co.uk
press@eif.co.uk / eif.co.uk

Join the conversation eif.co.uk / #edintfest / @edintfest

For media images – see [here](#)

For the 2021 International Festival trailer – see [here](#)

For b-roll – see [here](#)

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Edinburgh International Festival

Edinburgh International Festival is the world's leading performing arts festival, featuring the finest performers from the worlds of dance, opera, music and theatre. Created in 1947 to celebrate the enduring human spirit, the International Festival normally serves as an annual cultural exchange, every August, for an international audience exceeding 400,000 per year.

The 2020 Edinburgh International Festival was cancelled for the first time in its history due to concerns around the Covid-19 pandemic but will pioneer the return to live performance in Scotland in 2021 with 170 music, theatre, opera and dance performances. For more information visit www.eif.co.uk.

abrdn

abrdn is a global business, with clients in 80 countries. We manage and administer £535 billion of assets on their behalf, and we have over 1 million shareholders. (Figures as at 31/12/2020)

In July 2021 we changed our plc name from Standard Life Aberdeen to abrdn. All of the client-facing brands we use globally will be switching to our new abrdn brand identity. Over

the coming months this will include Aberdeen Standard Investments, Aberdeen Standard Capital, the Standard Life Wrap and Elevate platforms, and 1825 financial planning.

We choose sponsorships that help us form connections with our clients, colleagues and local communities, and that inspire excellence – both now and in the future. Aligning our brand with partners who share our values and ambition helps us to build our business globally, as well as to support the communities in which we operate. Our partnership with the Edinburgh International Festival Digital Programme – giving global access to one of the world's premier arts events – enables us to showcase our brand to people in our markets around the world, as well as to support the local community where the event takes place.

Capital at risk.

abrdn.com