

Free Digital Programme from Edinburgh International Festival Proves ‘Edinburgh is a Story’



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- Edinburgh International Festival celebrates National Poetry Day by releasing a newly commissioned poem ‘Edinburgh is a Story’ by Edinburgh Makar **Hannah Lavery**. The poem is featured in a trailer for the 2022 digital programme **Edinburgh International Festival At Home in partnership with abrdn**.
- The **At Home** digital programme features sixteen films, available for free, to view internationally and released throughout November culminating in a special viewing event to celebrate St Andrews Day. They include short film series *Edinburgh is a Story*, five powerful performances in iconic Edinburgh locations; two full-length concerts recorded at this year’s Festival and six intimate music sessions.
- Artists from this year’s International Festival featured in the digital programme include **Arab Strap**, **Sian** (Niteworks), **Wayne Marshall**, **Liudmyla Monastyrska** and the **Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra**, **Iestyn Davies**, **Hannah Lavery**, **Jordi Savall**, **William Barton**, **Aref Ghorbani**, **Takacz Quartet** and **Scottish Ballet**.

TRAILER AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

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6 October 2022, *Edinburgh*: Today, on National Poetry Day, **Edinburgh International Festival** reveals full details of a month-long digital programme series, **Edinburgh International Festival At Home in partnership with abrdn**, alongside a video featuring an excerpt of a brand-new poem by Edinburgh Makar, Hannah Lavery. The poem, also titled ‘Edinburgh is a Story’ was read by Lavery at the International Festival’s 2022 Opening Event, MACRO, and is now available in full to read on the Festival website.

Celebrating the Edinburgh International Festival in its 75th year, the **At Home** programme is available for free, worldwide, and will feature 16 videos released throughout November. The programme comprises a set of five short films titled *Edinburgh is a Story*, two full-length concerts performed at the 2022 International Festival, a series of six intimate music sessions, and a behind-the-scenes video that includes artist interviews.

The Festival commissioned Glasgow-based production company **Forest of Black** to produce *Edinburgh is a Story*, five short films which come together to create a beautiful journey through the city. Each is filmed in an iconic Edinburgh location and creates an intimate portrait of an artist featured in this year's Festival programme. Audiences will experience powerful performances from poet **Hannah Lavery**, Ukrainian soprano **Liudmyla Monastyrska** and the **Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra**, British pianist and conductor **Wayne Marshall**, Australian didgeridoo virtuoso **William Barton** and a new **Scottish Ballet** commission choreographed by **Nicholas Shoemith**. Locations range from the ancient winding city streets to the Scottish Parliament Building and the wild Salisbury Crags to the historic Palace of Holyroodhouse.

A series of exclusive music sessions captured backstage throughout the 2022 Edinburgh International Festival feature: a vivid and passionate performance from the **Takács Quartet**, pioneering early music performer **Jordi Savall** with members of his **Hespèrion XXI** ensemble, Gaelic vocal trio **Sian** performing as part of Niteworks: Comann, leading contemporary performer of Celtic music **Brighde Campbell** and Iranian musician **Aref Ghorbani**. The sessions open with the Scottish indie rock duo **Arab Strap**.

During this year's Festival, two concerts were captured at full broadcast quality, including the joyfully epic Closing Concert. For this, **Sir Andrew Davis** conducts the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra** performing Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* from the Usher Hall, featuring the **Edinburgh Festival Chorus** and the **National Youth Choir of Scotland**. The other full performance features British harpsichordist and conductor **Richard Egarr** as he leads a hand-picked ensemble of outstanding period musicians to perform Bach's **Brandenburg Concertos**, each with its own distinctive character and sound. Highlights of a concert performance of Handel's **Saul** will be released, with soloists **Neal Davies** and **Iestyn Davies** joining period instrument orchestra **The English Concert** under conductor **John Butt** for one of the true masterpieces of Baroque vocal music.

The At Home programme takes place 27 October 2022 - 1 December with three digital releases per week, each at 4pm, all freely available to be watched from anywhere in the world at www.eif.co.uk/at-home and on the [Edinburgh International Festival YouTube Channel](#). On 30th November audiences are invited to join the International Festival on YouTube and celebrate St Andrew's Day by watching a beautiful journey across Edinburgh as world class artists perform in stunning locations.

Francesca Hegyi, Chief Executive, Edinburgh International Festival said *"It was so encouraging to see our audiences return to the city's concert halls and theatres in our 75th year, the anticipation of this year's Festival was high and the artists delivered."*

"Not everyone can make it to our live performances, however, and the At Home programme gives a taste of what we have on offer at the International Festival. We couldn't do this without the support of abrdn, so it's with great appreciation to them that we unveil this programme."

"It's available for free and from anywhere in the world, so wherever you are this November you can transport yourself to Edinburgh in August."

Judith Kynaston, Head of Global Brand at abrdn said *"We're delighted to support the Edinburgh International Festival Digital At Home Programme for a second time. At Home gives global audiences the opportunity to experience a diverse programme of live performances for free, and we're excited to continue our association with the World's leading performing arts festival in 2022. Looking forward to watching!"*

RELEASE SCHEDULE

Title: Arab Strap – Music Session

Release Date: 27 October, 4pm

Description: Arab Strap perform 'The Turning of Our Bones', recorded onstage before their International Festival performance at Leith Theatre.

Title: Hannah Lavery – Edinburgh is a Story

Release Date: 1 November, 4pm

Description: The first film from Forest of Black's *Edinburgh is a Story* series features a performance of Makar Hannah Lavery's titular poem. The special commissioned piece was also performed at the International Festival's Opening Event, MACRO, at BT Murrayfield this year.

Title: Behind-the-scenes – Edinburgh is a Story

Release Date: 2 November, 4pm

Description: Behind-the-scenes look at the making of *At Home*, featuring interviews with Oscar Sansom (Director), Beth Allan (Producer), Hannah Lavery, William Barton, Wayne Marshall, Sian.

Title: Jordi Savall – Music Session

Release Date: 3 November, 4pm

Description: Jordi Savall performs with an ensemble of musicians from Hespèrion XXI from the stage of the Queen's Hall.

Title: William Barton – Edinburgh is a Story

Release Date: 8 November, 4pm

Description: The second part of the *Edinburgh is a Story* series features Australian digeridoo player William Barton as he performs 'The Rising of Mother Country' from the Salisbury Crags.

Title: Brandenburg Concertos – Full Concert

Release Date: 9 November, 4pm

Description: The first full concert recording from the 2022 Edinburgh International Festival features Richard Egarr leading The Brandenburg Concertos, a collection of Bach's iconic compositions filmed as live at the Queen's Hall.

Title: Brighde Campbell – Music Session

Release Date: 10 November, 4pm

Description: Brighde Campbell who featured in *MACRO* is a leading contemporary performer of Celtic music and plays a rendition of 'Clann Ulaidh' backstage at Leith Theatre.

Title: Wayne Marshall – Edinburgh is a Story

Release Date: 15 November, 4pm

Description: *Edinburgh is a Story* continues as audiences join Wayne Marshall in a unique and intimate performance from the Great Gallery at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

Title: Saul – Highlights

Release Date: 16 November, 4pm

Description: Filmed highlights of The English Concert's performance of Handel's *Saul* at the Usher Hall as part of this year's Edinburgh International Festival, conducted by John Butt and featuring Neal Davies in the title role

Title: Aref Ghorbani – Music Session

Release Date: 17 November, 4pm

Description: Aref Ghorbani performs the Persian folk song recorded ahead of *Vocal*, part of 2022's Refugee series, in partnership with the Scottish Refugee Council.

Title: Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra – Edinburgh is a Story

Release Date: 22 November, 4pm

Description: The Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra, conducted by Keri-Lynn Wilson and featuring soprano Liudmyla Monastyrskya, perform 'Abscheulicher, komm Hoffnung' from Beethoven's *Fidelio* in a historic performance at the Scottish Parliament Building, reflecting Edinburgh's position as a twinned city of Kyiv.

Title: The Closing Concert – Full Concert

Release Date: 23 November, 4pm

Description: The closing concert of the 2022 Festival, Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* marks the final full performance recording, a grand spectacle performed by the RSNO led Sir Andrew Davis and featuring the Edinburgh Festival Chorus and the National Youth Choir of Scotland.

Title: Sian – Music Session

Release Date: 24 November, 4pm

Description: Gaelic vocal trio Sian performs 'Na Gamhna Geala' outside of Leith Theatre before their performance in Niteworks: Comann which closed the 2022 Edinburgh International Festival.

Title: Scottish Ballet – Edinburgh is a Story

Release Date: 29 November, 4pm

Description: An exclusive commission choreographed by Nicholas Shoesmith features dancer James Garrington concluding the singular releases of the *Edinburgh is a Story* series.

Title: Edinburgh is a Story – Full Film

Release Date: 30 November, 4pm

Description: Audiences across the world are encouraged to gather and celebrate Scotland on St Andrews Day by watching *Edinburgh is a Story* in full. The film will take the viewer on a beautiful journey across the city of Edinburgh as world class artists perform in wild and stunning locations.

Title: Takacz Quartet – Music Session

Release Date: 1 December, 4pm

Description: The final Music Session features the Takacz Quartet performance of the first movement of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's 'Five Fantasiestucke Op 5'.

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

– ENDS –

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For media images – see [here](#)

For the 2022 At Home trailer – see [here](#)

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Edinburgh International Festival

Every August, the International Festival brings world-class music, opera, dance and theatre performances to Edinburgh.

Created in 1947 following WWII, the Festival inspired artists and audiences to heal through international cultural collaboration. This year the International Festival celebrated 75 years of bringing world cultures together and in 2023 will take place from 4-27 August.

Year-round the Edinburgh International Festival connects with local communities through education projects, access programmes, and initiatives that introduce new audiences to live performance.

For more information visit www.eif.co.uk

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- At abrdn, our purpose is to enable our clients to be better investors.
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For more information visit Abrdn.com

Forest of Black

An award-winning, independent production company, developing and producing innovative film content across multiple platforms in the UK and abroad. Our highly experienced team of producers and directors are passionately committed to creating genre-defining moments within film, television, music, commercials and documentary. Music video has been a core part of our DNA since the founding of the company and we take the creative and adaptive approach of this genre into all the work we make.