



# Your regular Music Hall Transformation newsletter

Edition 2: June 2017

## WELCOME

Welcome to the second edition of Your Music Hall "I'm in" THE KNOW newsletter. Our contractor Kier has now been on site for eight months and the transformation is well underway.



## Fundraising

To date, we have raised £6.5m and the drive to raise the remaining £1.4m continues.

APA's Marketing Manager **Andy Kite** raised £900 by running the New York Marathon in aid of the Music Hall, and more than £1,000 was raised by our **Music Hall Fundraising Quiz**, organised by APA's Marketing and Fundraising Coordinator **Bethany Hogg**. More than 100



The triumphant Box Office team.

people attended and we had a fantastic raffle - combined ticket and raffle sales amounted to £1,051 - well done quiz teams!

We're even getting our running shoes on again to fundraise for the project! Four of our dedicated staff from Team APA (Creative Learning Manager **Lisa Mathieson**; Sales & Ticketing Manager **David Downie**; Marketing Manager **Andy Kite** and Head of Business Transformation **Leon Gray**) will run a half marathon in August as part of the Great Aberdeen Run. Our Marketing and Fundraising Coordinator Bethany will take part in the Great Scottish Swim on August 26 to raise funds. She'll be swimming a mile (yes, a mile!) in open water at Loch Lomond. We wish her the very best of luck, come on Bethany!

We'd love for you to get involved and help us reach our final fundraising target. Our Marketing and Fundraising Coordinator Bethany Hogg has put together a toolkit with lots of fun ideas including a fancy dress bash, sponsored silence, pet show, quiz night and swap shop to name just a few. If you'd like to get involved, email [bethany.hogg@aberdeenperformingarts.com](mailto:bethany.hogg@aberdeenperformingarts.com)

## The Transformation

The basement excavation is now complete and we're putting the steelwork in place to create the new lower foyer and relocate the toilets. When that's done we'll be laying a new floor end to end in the auditorium and installing the new seats. We're cracking on with roof and window repairs over the summer and the installation of a new lift and stairs.



Thanks to our supporters, ambassadors, funders and investors who share our vision



# Meet the Construction Team



Kier Construction's Senior Project Manager **Brian McGuinness** is on site to oversee all production activities. Brian brings considerable construction expertise to the job, having worked on previous historic buildings around the country, including Odeon Leicester Square.

Brian's main area of focus is on co-ordinating design information, insuring quality and value is always at the forefront of the agenda. His proactive approach and early engagement with APA has confirmed his trusting relationship with all persons involved. The charm of the building has truly captivated Brian and his team and he is devoted to delivering a successful once in a lifetime Music Hall for the future.



Brian said: *"Having an admiration for the arts and architecture, this building has so many unique attributes and is one that when finished will continue to be recognised as an iconic landmark in not only Aberdeen but in Scotland."*

## Contractor news

**OUR CONTRACTOR KIER CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN AWARDED A TOP INDUSTRY SCORE FOR ITS WORK ON THE MUSIC HALL PROJECT.**

An inspection at the site by the Considerate Constructors Scheme gave Kier a mark of 40 out of 50 - Kier's highest score in the North of Scotland from Dundee to Fort William and Stornoway.

**Brian McGuinness**, Kier's senior project manager at the site, said: *"The testing process for the Considerate Constructor's scheme is rigorous and we scored highly in every department. This is a great result for the team behind this heritage project and we plan to keep up the good work."*

The aim of the Considerate Constructors Scheme is to improve the image of construction, and this is achieved by monitoring all registered sites, suggesting areas where improvements could be made and rewarding those who are performing at the highest levels.

Kier's Music Hall Refurbishment was scored in the Scheme's five categories: Care about Appearance; Respect the Community; Protect the Environment; Secure everyone's Safety and Value the Workforce.

## Conundrums!

Our quest to find out as much as we can about the Music Hall down the years is uncovering some great stories. Did you know that on May 12th 1863 there was a Conundrum competition in the Music Hall with prizes for the best and worst conundrum? We've not been able to establish the winners but our archivist Alan Rennie has managed to dig out the little pamphlet of Conundrums submitted called The

Wit of Aberdeen. 154 years on it made us laugh!  
How is the Royal Hotel in Aberdeen like the Bay of Biscay?  
*Because it is continually visited by swells!*  
Why is the Princess of Wales like a cashmere shawl?  
*Because she is charming, pretty and very dear!*  
Why is it impossible for the inhabitants of the city of Aberdeen to quarrel?  
*Because they live in Bon Accord!*

## Stepping Out

We have been busy Stepping Out across Aberdeen while the Music Hall is closed. We've moved our **Culture Café** series to Belmont Filmhouse - you can catch award-winning novelist **Louise Welsh** there on Wednesday, September 6.

Under our original Stepping Out programme we're presenting two performances as part of Aberdeen's Silver City Stories celebrations.

**Stolen Voices** is a project for community groups which transforms snippets of sounds and voices into a new musical composition and performance. Associate artists Rebecca Collins and Johanna Linsley are leading the project.

**What Country Friends is This?** is another brand new performance weaving together Shakespeare's text with verbatim testimonies of migration and arrival.



**Culture Café**  
with Louise Welsh  
Wednesday 6 September

# Take a Seat

We have successfully launched our Take a Seat campaign to name a seat in the newly restored auditorium at the Music Hall. This new endeavour provides an exciting opportunity to be part of the history of this great hall. Every penny raised through the campaign will help APA achieve its vision for the future to keep Scotland's concert hall in the North-east at the heart of cultural, community and civic life for generations to come.

The very first seats to be named were kindly sponsored by Scottish singer, actress and broadcaster **Fiona Kennedy, OBE, DL**, who has named a seat in her own name and a second in her husband's name; Francis Clark.



*Fiona said: "I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to name the first seat in the restored Music Hall auditorium. The Music Hall holds so many precious memories for me and my family, passed on from generation to generation. We've all enjoyed countless wonderful evenings at concerts and events - on and off stage. My father Calum Kennedy was so proud to win his Mod Gold Medal at the Music Hall in Aberdeen in 1955 and was presented with it on the stage by Her Majesty the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret. I have a wonderful photograph capturing that moment which I'll always treasure."*

***With Father's Day just around the corner (June 18!), why not consider naming a seat in honour of your dad - what a special gift that would be!***

To date, 77 seats have been named, so get in touch to name yours now and avoid missing out. Seat prices are in two tiers. Seats can be named for £400 for one and £700 for two, or £450 for one and £800 for two. Customers can choose the inscription that appears on the plaque affixed to the seat. For more information and to enquire about naming a seat, contact Bethany Hogg on **01224 337633** or email: [takeaseat@aberdeenperformingarts.com](mailto:takeaseat@aberdeenperformingarts.com)

## Your Hall | Your Story

We set up the Your Hall: Your Story project to research, collect and bring together the story of your hall for the first time. If you have a tale to tell or a piece of history you would like to donate - a poster, programme or ticket, contact our volunteer archivist Alan Rennie: [alan.rennie@aberdeenperformingarts.com](mailto:alan.rennie@aberdeenperformingarts.com)

## GIVE A GIFT

***To make a donation visit <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/4526#/DonationDetails>.***

Watch this space for the next edition of the Music Hall Transformation later in the year.

If you would like to join our mailing list for regular updates and invitations, please get in touch by emailing

[ambassadors@aberdeenperformingarts.com](mailto:ambassadors@aberdeenperformingarts.com).

