



Your regular Music Hall Transformation newsletter

Edition 3: October 2017

WELCOME

Hello and welcome to the third edition of Your Music Hall "I'm In" The Know newsletter. Our contractor Kier has now been on site for a year, stripping the building back to basics and laying the groundwork to build it back up.



MUSIC HALL UPCYCLING

When the Music Hall closed we held a rousp and sold off hundreds of items to members to the public - including seats, chandeliers, kitchen appliances and even our hand dryers! Here's where some of the items have ended up:

Three Music Hall seats found a new home with Jennifer Farr and her partner James Henry in Peterhead. They bought three Music Hall seats at our auction after seeing a post about the event on Facebook.

Jennifer said: "We bought a few bits and pieces and while we were there we heard people wondering if the seats were for sale. That got us interested and we decided to ask too. We went up to the balcony and chose three seats from the back row that were in really good condition."

After giving them a quick clean, James fitted new oak feet to the seats and the pair moved them into their living room, where they're quite the talking point with friends and visitors.

"People really like the seats and the fact they have some history behind them. A few folk are even a bit jealous - in hindsight we wish we had bought more!" said Jennifer.

The pair have attended dozens of Music Hall events over the years, from bands and tribute acts to comedy nights. "We've been to so many, it would be impossible to pick a favourite", added Jennifer. "We're really looking to coming back in when it re-opens."

And **around 20 of our old Music Hall lights and chandeliers** are now hanging in

The Old Auction Room in Strichen. Owners Graham and Jenny Smith, who took over the tea room in 2016, caught wind of the Music Hall auction and decided to get in touch to see if they could acquire some of the venue's lighting. Less than a week later they were the proud owners of more than 20 chandeliers and lights of different sizes, many of which now adorn the ceilings and walls of The Old Auction Room's tea room, florist, antiques shop and soon-to-be deli.

As well as the grandest chandeliers from the Music Hall, The Old Auction Room is also home to the green lights from The Doric Bar, and Graham and Jenny have even found a place for some chandeliers and lights in their own home which they've recently refurbished.

Graham said: "I think we must have bought about 95% of the lighting in the whole venue. It took days of work and employing an electrician and a removals firm to get the lights down and transport them to us in Strichen. It was one of the most laborious jobs when we were taking over the tea room but in hindsight it really was worth it - they look brilliant and we're so pleased to have found them."



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The Transformation



The basement excavation below the auditorium is now complete and we have almost finished laying the new auditorium floor. We're ordering hundreds of brand new, comfortable seats which will be fitted into the balcony. The auditorium will remain a versatile space with unfixed seating in the stalls for standing and seated concerts. The next steps will be the installation of a new lift and stairs to allow access to the new basement level



Fundraising

APA staff have been digging deep to support the Music Hall Transformation, with a variety of fundraising activities. To date, we've held a hugely successful Quiz Night and Bake Off, and five of our staff have taken on fitness challenges all in the name of the Music Hall, raising £3,000.



Manager **Lisa Mathieson**, Marketing Manager **Andy Kite**, Box Office and Ticketing Manager **David Downie** and Head of Business Transformation **Leon Gray** have been training for months and all finished the run with excellent times. Their efforts raised £665.40 - well done!



Our APA Bake Off saw 11 bakers put their skills to the test, with cakes, traybakes, muffins and brownies on the menu. Alison Polson returned to us (briefly!) from retirement to take on the Mary Berry role while our very own chef Andy Gray was Paul

Hollywood for the day. Our star baker was Marketing Officer **Alice Mills** who made a stunning chocolate cake topped with homemade profiteroles and lashings of chocolate. We sold the lot and made £225!

We couldn't possibly sit still after all that cake, so four of our staff took one for the team and raced in the first ever Great Aberdeen Run on Sunday August 27. Our Creative Learning

Our Marketing and Fundraising Coordinator **Bethany Hogg** also set herself a personal challenge and took part in her first ever open water swim on Saturday August 26. Bethany swam a mile in Loch Lomond as part of the Great Scottish Swim and raised an amazing £357.60.





Northern Arc returns for a new season beginning with **Talisk & Symbio**, at The Lemon Tree, Saturday 4 November.

Stepping Out

We have been Stepping Out across Aberdeen while the Music Hall is closed. Our classical season will take place in the stunning setting of His Majesty's Theatre, with concerts from **RSNO**, **Scottish Chamber Orchestra**, **BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra**, **Royal Scottish National Orchestra**. We've also programmed our next **Northern Arc** series in The Lemon Tree. **Talisk & Symbio** is the first in the new series on November 4 and **Saltfishforty & Basco** is on February 16. Comedian **Greg Davies** will take to the stage at HMT on October 31, with **David Baddiel** and **Milton Jones** at the theatre next February.

Take a Seat

With Christmas just a couple of months away, now is the time to start thinking about what to gift your loved ones - and what could be more poignant for a Music Hall fan than a special named seat in the newly restored venue. Campaign supporters will benefit from an inscribed plaque on their chosen seat for its lifetime, in addition to an acknowledgement on the APA website. Named persons will also be listed in the commemorative programme for the re-opening of the Music Hall, and will receive two tickets to the opening gala concert and reception and two tickets to a concert in the opening season of the Music Hall.

To enquire about naming a seat, contact **Bethany Hogg** on (01224) 337633 or email Bethany.hogg@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

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 "'I'm in!' THE KNOW'.

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

ambassadors@aberdeenperformingarts.com.

