



Your regular Music Hall Transformation newsletter

Edition 3: November 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.



New appointment

The Music Hall development team has welcomed **Debbie Mackenzie** as the new Corporate Sponsor and Donor Campaign Manager. Debbie brings more than 25 years of experience in business development to the three-strong development team, which includes a Public Giving Campaign Manager and Marketing and Fundraising Coordinator.



Debbie, who will oversee the corporate fundraising drive for the remaining campaign, said: "I'm delighted to play a role in the transformation of this iconic building. The Music Hall has a wonderful heritage and means so much

to the people of the North-east. I look forward to raising awareness about our ambitious plans for the future of the venue and establishing partnerships with the business community in support of this exciting project."

Charlotte Farmer, Public Giving Campaign Manager, has returned to the team on a part-time basis from maternity leave, having formerly been APA's full-time Development Manager.

Charlotte said: "We are passionate about the hall and its place at the heart of life in the city, as are many people in the North-east. We openly invite for the people of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire to get involved in the project and there are so many ways you can do this - you can donate, become a Music Hall ambassador or help us fundraise. We've put together a fundraising toolkit with fun hints and tips on how you can help play a part in the re-awakening of this amazing venue."

A little bit of history...

In 1896, there is a reference in the local papers to an exhibition of 'Animated Photographs' in the Music Hall. This "amusing and delightful" entertainment which was "all the rage in Paris and London", was supplemented with "conjuring and musical sketches". 18 short films were shown that night including Arrival of Paris Express, Cycling in Hyde Park, The Coronation of the Czar and the intriguing The Serpentine Dance. This cinematograph presentation was the first of many such showings in the Music Hall.

A review from the following day's newspaper reads: "The first of a series of three exhibitions of animated photographs was given yesterday evening in the Music Hall, Aberdeen. This is first occasion



on which the results of Mr R. W. Paul's marvellous invention, the cinematoscope, have been shown in Aberdeen. The entertainment was naturally looked forward to with considerable interest, a fact which was amply demonstrated by the magnificent gathering that filled the hall. The exhibition was remarkably simple. The scenes reproduced were of the most varied description, and the enthusiasm of the spectators was unbounded".

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MUSIC HALL UPCYCLING

When the Music Hall closed we held a rroup and sold off hundreds of items to members of 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."*



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

Did you know?

When the Music Hall re-opens access in and through the building will be transformed with new ramps and lifts to all areas. For the first time in the history of the Music Hall people with restricted mobility and wheelchair users will be able to use the main Union Street entrance and access the balcony.

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.



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

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



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. **Culture Café** will recommence on February 7 at Belmont Cinema, and **David Baddiel** and **Milton Jones** will be visiting HMT.

Take a Seat

With Christmas just a month 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.

