



MUSIC HALL YOUNG AMBASSADORS



Your regular
**Music Hall
Transformation**
newsletter
Edition 5: July 2018

WELCOME

Hello and welcome to the July edition of your Music Hall **"I'm in!"** **The Know** newsletter.

Work is now progressing at a quick rate as we head in to the final months of the Transformation project, and lots of exciting plans are in the pipeline as we start to prepare to welcome everyone back in!



Our Music Hall Young Ambassadors programme has now officially launched, and we are delighted to announce that we have recruited 30 of the brightest, most ambitious 13-18 year olds from across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire to help us to spread the word about the Music Hall and be a part of history in the making.

The programme is part of our wider Year of Young People plans, supported by Event Scotland.

They will also be able to take part in a series of insight workshops led by the team at APA, exclusive 'behind the scenes' events, invitations to shows

and the chance to share thoughts and views across a variety of mediums - whether that be via social media, blog posts or video diaries. They will even play a part in helping to shape the Music Hall opening weekend, and beyond.

The programme is part of Aberdeen Performing Art's wider Year of Young People plans, supported by Event Scotland. It really is a unique project designed to allow space for youngsters to explore their creativity, have their voice heard and be part of a really exciting and historic moment in the history of the Music Hall and Aberdeen.

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



HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND

ARAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA



The Wolfson* Foundation

THE HUGH FRASER FOUNDATION



1822 Club supporters



STREET TO SEAT ACCESSIBILITY

From the beginning of the Transformation project, improved accessibility has been a key goal for the Music Hall.



The upgrade includes a new external granite grade access ramp, a state-of-the-art sesame lift and new lift access to the balcony, meaning that for the first time, the venue will have street to seat access for all.

It has always been a key objective of the Music Hall redevelopment to create new, inspirational spaces for educational and creative learning and our access improvements will give us the opportunity to extend our creative learning opportunities to include young people with additional support needs (ASN).

Take a Seat My Story

The Music Hall Transformation has provided a unique opportunity to hear from the local community and uncover some wonderful stories that provide an insight into the many ways that the Music Hall has woven itself into the tapestry of the lives of local people.

Our invitation to **'Take A Seat'** is giving people the chance to name a seat in the new Music Hall auditorium and is often motivated by a personal story.

Dr Fiona Kennedy, OBE, who has been the face of the campaign, shared her own personal story:

Dr Fiona Kennedy OBE, has been the face of the campaign. She has shared her own personal story with us:

"The Music Hall has a very special place in my heart as my father Calum Kennedy won the Mod Gold Medal there in 1955, presented by Her Majesty The Queen Mother attended by Princess Margaret. We have a wonderful photograph capturing this moment and you can see, if you look carefully, my mother Anne Gillies peeking from the side of the stage proudly waiting to present a bouquet of flowers."

"My father said that this event was the catalyst for his international career - he went on to win the World Ballad Championship in Moscow beating over 500 competitors and was presented with the gold medal there by President Kruschov."



He loved performing at the Music Hall which he described as 'a jewel'."

"Over the years I have been lucky enough to sing and perform at the Music Hall many times - from solo concerts, presenting and narrating with the RSNO, charitable events, television programmes and Christmas concerts."

The Music Hall has a wonderful, natural acoustic and it's a real thrill to perform in this splendid historic building in the heart of Aberdeen which comes to life with a packed house!"

If you would like to name a seat please get in touch by emailing takeaseat@aberdeenperformingarts.com or click [here](#) to do it online.



A BIT OF MUSIC HALL HISTORY

Marketing Executive Stuart Mitchell recently uncovered a fascinating news article from 1912, revealing an extraordinary incident linking the Music Hall to the suffragette movement. In November 1912, a group of suffragettes appeared in court accused of disorder, after attempting to disrupt a visit to the

Music Hall by then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lloyd George. One of the women involved was none other than Emily Wilding Davison (or Mary Browne as she was named) who died a few months later under the king's horse while fighting the cause of votes for women.

THE INCIDENT WAS REPORTED IN THE NEWS AT THE TIME:

Something in the nature of a sensation was created yesterday afternoon when, shortly after four o' clock, three Suffragettes with 'explosive bombs' in their possession were found concealed in the Aberdeen Music Hall three hours before Mr Lloyd George was to address his great meeting. The discovery was made while the attendants, accompanied by detectives and members of the Shore Porters' Society, were making a careful search of the premises.

One of the Suffragettes was discovered in the hall, and two in a paybox at the Golden Square entrance. This paybox is open at the top but had the door locked. In the possession of one of the Suffragettes there was a box of Knall Korke explosive cork cartridges, known as 'explosive bombs,' which, when fired from a small toy pistol, make a loud report. No pistol was found, but it is assumed

that the intention of the Suffragettes was to throw the cartridges high over the hall from the open spaces above the paybox, so that they might fall on the platform while the Chancellor of the Exchequer was speaking, and thus create a disturbance, and, in all probability, a panic. The box of those cartridges found in the possession of the Suffragettes contained several dozens of the explosive corks, and, if the plot had not failed, would probably have been the cause of great alarm; indeed, might have resulted in a fatal rush from the building.

A SUFFRAGETTE'S ESCAPE

While the arrest of the three Suffragettes referred to was being effected, a fourth was seen making her way from the hall, but she escaped and no attempt was afterwards made to secure her. It is alleged that she had a dog-whip in her possession.

(Source/credit to <https://lenathehyena.wordpress.com/tag/emily-davison/>)

BERNARD HUMPHREY THE COWAL WAY WALK

A big congratulations and an even bigger thank you is in order for Bernard Humphrey, who has now raised over £200 for the Music Hall Transformation after completing The Cowal Way in May. Bernard explained that his choice to support the Music Hall for his latest fundraising challenge was motivated by his belief in the importance of music, live performance and the arts, as well as the deep personal connection that he feels to the Music Hall. He has now raised £212 towards the Transformation, which is a fantastic 84% of his fundraising target. His fundraising page will remain open until August 14 and can be found [here](#). Our Fundraising Toolkit contains lots of ideas and tips on how to help us reach our goal. Find out how you too can get involved [here](#).



1822 CLUB UPDATE

- JULY 2018

The 1822 Club continues to attract interest within the local business community, with membership currently standing at seven companies with more poised to sign up. The most recent additions to the club are commercial property advisors **Ryden**, steel pipe manufacturer **Tenaris**, drilling contractor **Stena Drilling** and engineering consultancy **Optimus**.



Optimus Director Chris West revealed a special link between his company and the Music Hall - the company logo is modelled on the ionic columns of our beloved venue!

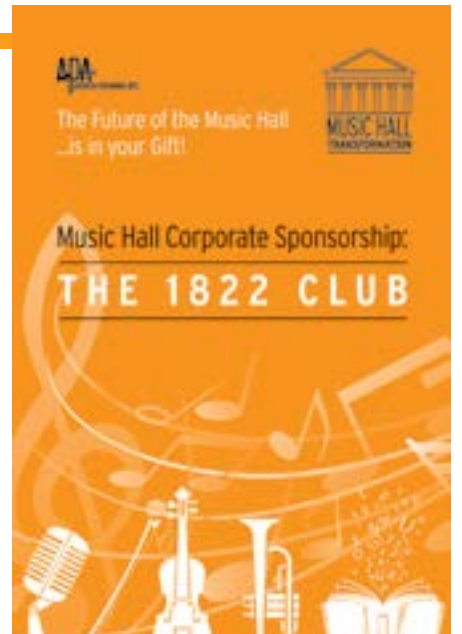
Gary Thomson, Tenaris Managing Director, Europe explained the reasoning behind his company's sponsorship:

"We have been a part of the Aberdeen community for decades and are proud to contribute and support such an historic revitalisation project. Tenaris has long been a supporter of education, arts and cultural programs, worldwide, as these experiences extend learning opportunities and foster values important to the company - innovation, diversity, growth, and development."

For more information about the 1822 Club, [click here](#).



Ryden's John Findlay (L) and Ken Shaw (R) with Debbie Mackenzie



Music Hall Transformation video



Have you seen our short film about the Music Hall Transformation?

[Click here to take a look on our website and let us know what you think...](#)

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
[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)

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.

