



# Your regular Music Hall Transformation newsletter

Edition 1: October 2016

## WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of Your Music Hall **"I'm in" THE KNOW** newsletter. We've been very busy over the past few months. In Spring, our colleagues based at the Music Hall all packed up their desks and made the move to The Lemon Tree, their new home for the next two years! Following on from this, a series of closing events including **Connect:ed, Your Hall: Your Story**, and finally a sell-out ceilidh gave the Hall the send-off it deserved. Contractors then moved in to undertake site investigations and our own Operations Team began the job of decommissioning the building, all ready for it to be handed over to main contractors the Kier Group.



## Music Hall Ambassadors

Our list of celebrity and community ambassadors is growing. The façade of the hall is now enveloped in a large wrap showcasing the Music Hall's newest celebrity ambassador, **Emeli Sandé**. We're delighted that Emeli is lending her support to the transformation and proud to be developing a venue which will be international in outlook and also operate at the heart of the ever-growing arts community in the North-east.

## Meet Sandy and Charlie...

Sandy is one of our wonderful community ambassadors, and has been frequenting the Music Hall since he was a teenager, mostly for classical concerts. Thanks to his assistance dog Charlie, Sandy has been able to continue his visits to the Hall to enjoy his favourite orchestras - and Charlie is also a fan! The duo will be doing their bit to raise funds for the venue's transformation over the coming months - keep your eyes peeled for updates.



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

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# Meet the Construction Team



Kier Construction's North of Scotland's Operations Director Sean O'Callaghan

Our contractor The Kier Group is now officially on site as of 10th October and work is underway to transform this gem of a concert hall.

Kier Construction's North of Scotland's Operations Director Sean O'Callaghan who is responsible for putting the team in place to deliver the Music Hall transformation said:



*"We are delighted to be working on restoring and transforming the Aberdeen Music Hall - a national treasure that lies at the heart of Aberdeen city centre. This technically challenging project really highlights our capabilities and expertise in this field. We have a solid record of successfully completing major projects of this scale and we will build on our relationships with the local supply chain to help create a range of employment opportunities in Aberdeen and the north of Scotland to deliver this important project."*

## The Transformation

Our architects BDP are undertaking a truly ingenious re-imagining of the space - restoring and retaining the Music Hall's historic fabric and its wonderful acoustic and at the same time adding new features in keeping with the expectations of a 21st century audience

*"The architects' job is to gift the kiss of life, awakening the sleeping beauty in this delightful auditorium, stripping back the years, restoring its youthful glory. Let the light flood in."*

**Bruce Kennedy**, Architect Director, BDP Architects



Plans for the revamped Music Hall include upgrades to the historic auditorium with new seating, flooring and more flexible staging, new performance, rehearsal and education spaces, upgraded artist facilities, a new foyer, box office and café bar and new ramps and lifts to improve access to all areas - all within the current footprint of the building.

## Fundraising

A massive thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Music Hall transformation campaign to date. It simply wouldn't happen without you. We have a total £6.4m pledged to date and we continue to fundraise to reduce the funding gap of £1.5m. The latest welcome additions to our funders include sponsorship of £150,000 from ASPC, £50,000 from Aberdeen Inspired, and £2,000 from The Maple Trust towards the Music Hall's Stepping Out programme during closure.



On Saturday 6th November APA's Marketing Manager, Andy Kite will take on the New York Marathon on behalf of the Music Hall Transformation aiming to run the 26.2 miles through all five burghs in under four hours to raise £1,500. To help Andy raise his target visit <https://www.gofundme.com/ny-marathon-for-music-hall> and to track Andy's progress follow his running number 54916 on the real time app 'TCS New York City Marathon'. **Run Andy run!**



## Stepping Out

While the Music Hall is closed we are **Stepping Out** across the City. Look out for us popping up all over the place - so far at the Belmont Filmhouse, Underdog, the Tivoli, the Anatomy Rooms, Sir Duncan Rice Library and the Maritime Museum. Coming soon **Val McDairmid** at the Belmont Filmhouse on Thursday 10 November. We also have five Music Hall associate artists working in the city at the moment,

- writers, musicians, sound artists and film makers - engaging with communities, creating work inspired by the Music Hall and building ownership and audiences for the future. Most recently, we've been working with young people from Bramble Brae Primary, Gilcomstoun Primary School, Craigielea Children's Centre, APA Youth Theatre, Robert Gordon's College and Inchmarlo Retirement Community.

## Your Hall | Your Story

Our Music Hall in Aberdeen is a national treasure with decades of wonderful history behind it. The range and calibre of artists, musicians and events the Hall has hosted over nearly 200 years is truly astonishing and you'd be hard pressed to find anyone who has a connection with Aberdeen who doesn't have a story to tell about the Music Hall - a prize giving, graduation, great concert, school orchestra, a romantic encounter. We've set up the Your Hall: Your Story project to research, collect and bring together the story of the hall for the first time. If you have a story to tell or a piece of history you would like to donate - a poster, a programme, a ticket, contact **Alan Rennie** our volunteer archivist by email: [alan.rennie@aberdeenperformingarts.com](mailto:alan.rennie@aberdeenperformingarts.com)



### Did you know....

Almost all Freedom of the City ceremonies were held in the Music Hall, from the first conferred on Lord Russell in 1859. The roll of honour lists amongst many illustrious names, wartime Prime Minister, Winston Churchill in 1946; Mikhail Gorbachev in 1993 and of course Sir Alex Ferguson, the Hero of Gothenburg in 1999.



## GIVE A GIFT

*We've calculated that if everyone who buys a ticket for an APA show over the next year donates £3.87 we'd reach our £1.5m target! To make a donation visit <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/4526#/DonationDetails>.*



## Take Your Seat

Watch out for the **Take Your Seat** campaign launching in November in time for Christmas. Buy one of our new seats in the auditorium for yourself or a loved one for £450, £400 or £350.

Watch this space for the next edition of the Music Hall Transformation in January 2017.

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).

