



Scotland's Music **Ready for** **the World**

**Your guide to Scotland's
jazz festivals, venues, series,
touring and more**

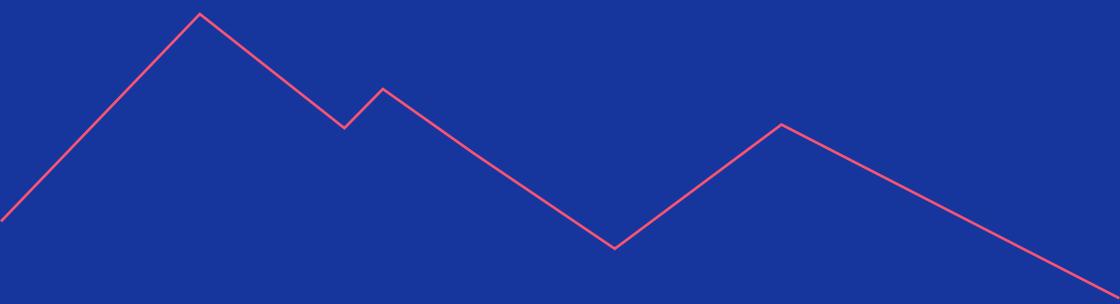
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Live jazz in Scotland

Scotland's dynamic music scene is brimming with jazz and improvising talent from established musicians to a new generation of artists, encompassing many styles from traditional to cutting-edge jazz. Scotland sets the stage for some of the most exciting jazz and improvised music festivals and venues, welcoming musicians from across the world and showcasing our own homegrown talent.

We've gathered together highlights from Scotland's live jazz and improvised music festivals, regular series, promoters and venues, along with information about touring. Whether you're a musician, a promoter or a fan, we look forward to welcoming you to Scotland's jazz scene.



Festivals

Aberdeen Jazz Festival

Aberdeen | March

Presented by Jazz Scotland, Aberdeen Jazz Festival is one of the city's top music festivals, presenting an exciting programme of UK exclusives, international stars, new collaborations, old favourites, and the special atmosphere of Jazz on the Green, Aberdeen's biggest free admission music event.

aberdeenjazzfestival.com | jazzscotland.com

Bute Manouche

Isle of Bute | October

Taking place on the Isle of Bute, just off Scotland's south west coast, the Bute Manouche Festival features a range of artists, from homegrown talent to international musicians. One of Scotland's most accessible islands, the Isle of Bute offers a fantastic location to experience the country's dedicated jazz manouche festival.

butejazz.com

Callander Jazz and Blues Festival

Callander | September/October

The Callander Jazz and Blues Festival is the largest rural jazz and blues festival in Scotland. Established in 2006, the 3-day event has grown year on year and now features over 40 gigs across 11 different venues throughout the village of Callander, Stirling. From solo artists to big bands, over 130 musicians flock to Callander for a spectacular weekend of music in the autumn splendour of the Trossachs.

callanderjazzandblues.com



Grit Orchestra at Barrowland Ballroom, Celtic Connections, photo: Gaelle Beri

Celtic Connections

Glasgow | January/February

The UK's premier festival of folk, roots and world music, Celtic Connections takes place each year in Glasgow and features jazz musicians whose work holds a strong Celtic influence. Celebrating its 30th edition in 2023, the festival comprises concerts, workshops, unique collaborations and fringe events in venues across the city, and presents Scotland's talent alongside international musicians to celebrate the connections between cultures across the globe.

celticconnections.com

Doone the Rabbit Hole

Stirling | July

Independent music and arts festival Doone the Rabbit Hole takes place at the Cardross Estate in Stirling. Running for over a decade, the festival celebrates the best of Scotland's independent music scene alongside world-class international guest artists.

dounetherabbithole.co.uk

Dundee Jazz Festival

Dundee | November

Top class jazz and blues musicians come together at Dundee Jazz Festival. Local, national and international talent bursts from a programme that includes an impressive range of jazz styles, including blues, soul, funk, big band and Latin. This is a great way to discover Dundee, the festival's eclectic venues and see the very best new talent.

[f/dundeejazzfestival](https://www.facebook.com/dundeejazzfestival) | jazzscotland.com

Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Edinburgh | August

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is the largest arts festival in the world and takes place every August for three weeks in Scotland's capital city. Thousands of performers, from big names to new artists, present shows across all art forms. The festival includes music, theatre, comedy, dance, physical theatre, exhibitions and events.

edfringe.com

Edinburgh International Festival

Edinburgh | August

For three weeks in August, Scotland's capital becomes an unparalleled celebration of the performing arts and an annual meeting point for people from across the world. The International Festival presents a programme featuring the finest performers and ensembles from the worlds of dance, opera, music and theatre. Their impact extends beyond the annual programme through community learning and engagement alongside professional development programmes running throughout the year, reaching the widest possible audiences and contributing to the cultural and social life of Edinburgh and Scotland.

eif.co.uk

Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival

Edinburgh | July

Running since 1978, this 10-day festival hosts over 170 gigs encompassing all styles of jazz and blues. A varied programme sees everything from top international talent to emerging musicians. Taking place in venues across the city, there are also outdoor performances as part of Mardis Gras and Edinburgh Festival Carnival.

edinburghjazzfestival.com

Watch on [YouTube](#)



Hidden Door, photo: Chris Scott

Hidden Door

Edinburgh | June

Hidden Door Festival opens up forgotten urban spaces for the public to explore while discovering the best new and emerging artists. A multi-arts festival, it shines a light on music, theatre, dance, spoken word and visual art. The 2022 festival will take place at the Old Royal High School in Edinburgh city centre. The imposing neoclassical building has lain empty since the school relocated in the 1960s. Hidden Door will be opening it up to the public and filling it with their most ambitious programme to date.

hiddendoorarts.org

Kelburn Garden Party

Largs | July

Kelburn Garden Party features exciting new music and underground sounds from across the Scottish scene, as well as fantastic guest artists from the UK, Europe and beyond. Bringing together musicians from across the spectrum – jazz, funk, dub, house, hip-hop and folk – the festival promises a diverse and exciting musical programme.

kelburngardenparty.com

GIOfest

Glasgow | November

Glasgow Improvisers Orchestra (GIO) is a large improvising ensemble of around 30 musicians from diverse artistic backgrounds ranging from free improvisation, jazz, classical and folk, to pop, experimental music and performance art. Their annual GIOfest includes three days of music, workshops and presentations.

glasgowimprovisersorchestra.com

Glasgow Jazz Festival

Glasgow | June

Glasgow Jazz Festival brings the biggest names in jazz to the city every June and showcases a wealth of Scottish performers and international artists. The rich and eclectic programme covers a whole range of styles, from trad to free jazz, and also encompasses blues, reggae, funk, soul and world. Late Night Jam Sessions offer audiences the chance to see some of the top names jamming together into the wee hours.

jazzfest.co.uk

Watch on [MyPlayer](#)

Lagavulin Islay Jazz Festival

Isle of Islay | September

Discover a high-quality artistic programme in the most southerly of the Hebridean islands. This fantastic setting offers a great backdrop to top gigs featuring the best of the Scottish jazz scene and talent from Europe and the USA. The three-day programme is an excellent opportunity to see familiar names and discover new artists in a stunning location.

islayjazzfestival.co.uk | jazzscotland.com

Langtoun Jazz Festival

Kirkcaldy | June

Langtoun Jazz Festival includes four main stage acts at the Old Kirk, a jazz vocalists day with six bands at the Live Lounge at King's Theatre, an outdoor jazz picnic, and a free community Jazz in the Park afternoon in Dunnikier Park featuring three bands.

langtounjazz.co.uk

Made in Scotland

Edinburgh | August

Made in Scotland supports Scottish artists and companies to bring work to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, to share incredible music, dance and theatre, and allow them to explore the international opportunities that arise from performing at the world's largest arts festival.

madeinscotlandshowcase.com



Langtoun JAZZ
24th-26th June
langtounjazz@yahoo.com

Laura MacDonald at Langtoun Jazz, photo: Flaneur Photography

Promoters, venues and regular series

432 Presents

432 Presents is a concert promotions company, based in Glasgow, empowered by its independence and dedicated to bringing cutting-edge live music events to Scotland and beyond.

432presents.com

An Tobar

Tobermory

For more than two decades, An Tobar has been a key venue on the touring circuit, winning Venue of the Year at the 2019 MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards. They present performances by bands and musicians across a range of genres, aiming to bring an eclectic programme of exceptional music to Mull.

antobarandmulltheatre.co.uk

Astrojazz

Astrojazz is the work of Chris Knight, an Edinburgh-based promoter, DJ, designer and consultant. Astrojazz largely exists to serve the independent music establishment in Scotland, and has provided services to a wide range of clients since 2005, including venues, bands and festivals.

astrojazz.co.uk

The Blue Arrow

Glasgow

Glasgow's first underground club dedicated to jazz in the heart of the city programmes a variety of jazz styles, with performances displaying Glasgow's vibrant and ever thriving jazz scene.

bluearrowjazzclub.com

Watch on [MyPlayer](#)

Edinburgh Jazz & Jive Club

Edinburgh

The Edinburgh Jazz ‘n’ Jive Club was founded in September 2000. The aims of the Club are to promote the enjoyment of live traditional jazz in all its forms whilst providing a platform for local bands to play on a regular basis. Generally, the Club programme features two local bands every Friday with a visiting band once per month.

edinburghjazz.com

Garioch Jazz Club

Inverurie

The Garioch Jazz Club was established in the 1950s and is Scotland’s oldest jazz club. It continues to delight audiences today, offering a superb selection of music for seasoned enthusiasts and new listeners alike.

inveruriejazzclub.com

GIOdynamics

Glasgow

GIOdynamics is a monthly improvised open mic night open to all, no matter how much experience someone has with improvisation. The night is curated by Jer Reid who arranges the players into small groups, each playing for ten minutes. People from all musical backgrounds take part, creating a fantastic mix of sounds and reference points.

glasgowimprovisersorchestra.com/giodynamics

The Glad Café

Glasgow

Based in the southside of Glasgow, The Glad Café is a not-for-profit music venue showcasing up and coming musicians as well as internationally renowned artists. They feature indie, electronic, experimental, world and traditional musicians alongside a diverse programme including film, drama and storytelling.

thegladcafe.co.uk



Tommy Smith at Jazz at the Blue Lamp, photo: Colin Black

Glitch41

Glasgow

GLITCH 41 is a night of improvised groove music at The Rum Shack, from some of Glasgow's finest musicians from the jazz scene and beyond. A blend of hip-hop, jazz, soul, grime, jungle and more.

[f/therumshackglasgow](https://www.facebook.com/therumshackglasgow)

Jazz at Hospitalfield Arbroath

Arbroath

Dedicated to contemporary art and ideas, Hospitalfield is a superb place to visit, work, learn and enjoy. For the last 30 years, Jazz at Hospitalfield has presented monthly jazz concerts in this unique environment.

[f/Jazz-at-Hospitalfield-Arbroath](https://www.facebook.com/Jazz-at-Hospitalfield-Arbroath)

Jazz at The 78

Glasgow

Featuring live jazz every Sunday in Glasgow's West End, Jazz at The 78 promises an evening of superb musicians and a buzzing atmosphere.

[f/jazzatthe78](https://www.facebook.com/jazzatthe78)

Jazz at the Blue Lamp

Aberdeen

Jazz at the Blue Lamp is a weekly series run by a group of jazz fans from Aberdeen who came together to present the best of jazz from Scotland, the UK and around the world. The Blue Lamp is considered by many as one of the finest jazz venues in the UK for both its wonderful atmosphere and its natural sound enhanced by a first-rate sound system. Known for the friendliness and enthusiasm of the audience and the atmosphere of the club, the many world class musicians who have played here include Georgie Fame, Kenny Garrett, Peter King, Arild Andersen and Mike Stern.

jazzatthebluelamp.com

Watch on [Youtube](#)

Jazz at the Butterfly and the Pig

Glasgow

Live Jazz every Wednesday night at the Butterfly and the Pig on Bath Street in Glasgow's city centre, featuring different musicians every week and a jam in the second set.

[f/JazzAtTheButterflyAndThePig](https://www.facebook.com/JazzAtTheButterflyAndThePig)

Jazz at the Old Toll Bar

Glasgow

Home to fortnightly jazz gigs in Glasgow city centre, the Old Toll Bar offers fantastic live jazz in one of Glasgow's oldest bars.

[f/theoldtollbarglasgow](https://www.facebook.com/theoldtollbarglasgow)

The Jazz Bar

Edinburgh

Scotland's longest-standing independent jazz venue, The Jazz Bar in Edinburgh presents a daily mix of excellent, multi-genre live music with an ever-changing creative buzz. Alongside jazz, audiences are also treated to acoustic, blues, roots, funk, soul and electric in a diverse programme of year-round live gigs at this multiple award-winning venue.

thejazzbar.co.uk

Jazz Nairn

Nairn

Established in 2014, Jazz Nairn is a promoter which brings nationally and internationally renowned jazz musicians to the Highlands of Scotland.

jazznairn.org

Langtoun Jazz

Kirkcaldy

In addition to their annual festival, Langtoun Jazz hosts two concert series in Spring and Autumn in Kirkcaldy, Fife. They present top quality Scottish and UK acts, and work in partnership with venues to support tours by leading European musicians. Recent and upcoming acts include Fergus McCreadie, Seonaid Aitken's Rose Room, Laura MacDonald, Helena Kay/Pete Johnstone, Ali Affleck and Richard Michael.

langtounjazz.co.uk

Watch on [Youtube](#)

Linlithgow Jazz

Linlithgow

Linlithgow Jazz is West Lothian's premier venue for listening to live jazz. Hosting monthly events featuring a range of styles, Linlithgow Jazz includes evenings of traditional, big band, swing, vocals and instrumentals.

linlithgowjazz.co.uk

Lyth Arts Centre

Lyth

Lyth Arts Centre is the UK's most northerly mainland arts centre in the heart of Caithness, Scotland. Every year from February to December, they present a programme of live performances from touring companies including jazz, folk, classical, world music and more.

lytharts.org.uk

Moray Jazz Club

Elgin

Hosting a regular series, the Moray Jazz Club presents weekly music nights featuring local musicians alongside guest artists from further afield performing a variety of jazz and blues. The night is open to members and new visitors alike.

morayjazzclub.com



Edinburgh Jazz Festival Orchestra

PCL

From early talent development to stadium shows, for decades independent promoters PCL have hosted hundreds of world-class shows each year in Scotland, across genres. Their Stag & Dagger Festival is a key cultural event in Glasgow and now Edinburgh. They operate their own award-winning venues, Sneaky Pete's and Broadcast, as well as working with most of the notable venues around the country.

pclpresents.com

Pianodrome

Edinburgh

Pianodrome is a playable, community-centred sculpture venue made entirely from otherwise disused pianos. As part of a large network of makers, artists, performers and volunteers, Pianodrome is also home to a programme of inspiring festivals, one-off events and educational experiences. Pianodrome aims to showcase Edinburgh's diverse, rich musical tapestry through its many different strands of programming.

pianodrome.org

Playtime

Pathhead and Edinburgh

Playtime is a musicians' collective featuring saxophonist Martin Kershaw, guitarist Graeme Stephen, bassist Mario Caribé and drummer Tom Bancroft. Since 2014 they have presented a bi-weekly music event featuring the very best of the vibrant Scottish jazz scene at The Outhouse in Edinburgh. They kept working during COVID-19 and collaborated virtually with musicians from around the world in a weekly livestream.

playtime-music.com

The Queen's Hall

Edinburgh

The Queen's Hall is Edinburgh's premier independent mid-sized live music venue, hosting world-class artists from all musical fields including classical, jazz, folk and roots, rock, pop and Americana.

thequeenshall.net

Soundhouse

Edinburgh

Soundhouse are a passionate promoter of live music, programming fantastic concerts, festivals and events, including Edinburgh Tradfest and the Soundhouse Choir.

soundhouse.org.uk

Tolbooth

Stirling

Located in the heart of the old town, the Tolbooth is Stirling's venue for live music and the arts.

stirlingevents.org

Whighams

Edinburgh

Established in 2009, Whighams jazz club continually attracts some of the biggest names in jazz from around Scotland, the rest of the UK and internationally. As well as showcasing musicians across a range of styles, the club also promotes young up and coming jazz instrumentalists. The club has played host to world renowned acts such as vocalists Liane Carroll and Anita Wardell, guitarist Jim Mullen, pianist Brian Kellock, saxophonist Konrad Wiszniewski and trumpeter Colin Steele, and has earned its reputation as one of the most discerning venues for jazz in the UK.

whighams.com/live-music

Touring in Scotland

Importing Scottish artists or exporting your own artists to Scotland is easier than you think. Scotland is well connected to Europe's continent and islands via air and sea, and to England and Wales via rail and road, enabling a circuit of touring. We've collated a range of resources below to help you get started.

Arts Infopoint UK

Arts Infopoint UK is a pilot initiative developing and sharing resources to guide you through some of the administrative stages of coming to the UK as an artist, cultural professional or organisation. Whether it is questions relating to short term paid work in the UK, moving instruments and kit, or checking social security obligations, Arts Infopoint UK runs events, collates resources, and answers enquiries to assist those planning a creative visit to the UK.

Arts InfoPoint is delivered by Creative Scotland in partnership with the other arts councils and agencies of the four UK nations (Wales Arts International, Arts Council England and Arts Council Northern Ireland).

linktr.ee/ArtsInfopointUK

Chamber Music Scotland

Chamber Music Scotland supports a national network of 70 concert series across Scotland who collectively promote over 400 concerts each year. They work to cultivate a distinctive, innovative and inclusive chamber music sector in Scotland, one which celebrates our culture, people and place. They explore what chamber music means in the 21st century and collaborate with artists from across musical genres and artforms to create and platform new chamber music.

chambermusicscotland.com

North East Arts Touring

North East Arts Touring programmes a wide range of professional live performances (including music) and film screenings aimed at children, family and adult audiences. Their venues range in size from small village halls to larger town halls or small scale arts centres. Some performances are held in school halls, church halls and even pubs and clubs. If you're a professional artist or company and wish to tour to the North East of Scotland then North East Arts Touring would like to hear from you.

neatshows.co.uk/touring

The Touring Network

The Touring Network exists to promote rural touring and live performances of the highest level, and to support people as promoters, performers and audiences to create vibrant places to live, work and visit. Their venues cover more than half the area of Scotland.

thetouringnetwork.com

Resources and organisations

Creative Scotland

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. They enable people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. They distribute funding from the Scottish Government and The National Lottery.

[creativescotland.com](https://www.creativescotland.com)

Jazz Nights

Hosted by Seonaid Aitken, Jazz Nights on BBC Radio Scotland presents monthly concerts, artist profiles and jazz from across its sub-genres.

[bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk)

New Music Scotland

New Music Scotland (NMS) was set up to help generate a vibrant and thriving new music sector. It exists to connect, enable and support makers of innovative experimental music, sound artists, composers, promoters and producers in Scotland. Its objective is to increase the profile and visibility of new music in Scotland. They host the annual Scottish Awards for New Music event. Their website has a directory of member profiles, with catalogues of their works, sample score pages, recordings, details of education and community projects and more.

[newmusicscotland.co.uk](https://www.newmusicscotland.co.uk)

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland is a national and international centre of excellence for performing arts education. Established in 1847 as a national academy of music, it is now one of the world's best multi-disciplinary conservatoires, offering teaching in dance, drama, music, production and film. RCS ranks fifth in the world in the QS World Rankings. The Jazz department, led by Dr Tommy Smith OBE, internationally-renowned saxophonist and major force in European jazz, is vibrant and energetic, and continues to produce successful musicians and new voices within the UK jazz scene.

rcs.ac.uk

Scottish Jazz Awards

The exceptional talent within Scotland's burgeoning jazz scene is celebrated at the Scottish Jazz Awards across seven categories, including Best Vocalist, Best Band and Rising Star. Public votes are cast for the nominees while the Services to Scottish Jazz and Lifetime Achievement Awards are selected by a panel of industry specialists, including press and promoters from across the UK.

jazzfest.co.uk/awards

Scottish Music Centre

Scottish Music Centre is an excellent music resource and home to a collection of over 30,000 rare scores and recordings. It is central in promoting Scotland's vibrant music culture and supports musicians through its membership programmes, youth music projects, training and advice sessions and a range of services to the music community at home and internationally.

scottishmusiccentre.com

Scottish Music Industry Association

Scottish Music Industry Association (SMIA) is a membership organisation that works to strengthen, empower and unite Scotland's music industry in order to increase its value on the world stage: economically, socially and culturally. SMIA also works in partnerships across all music genres to host the prestigious Scottish Album of the Year (SAY) award.

smia.org.uk | sayaward.com

Scottish National Jazz Orchestra

The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra (SNJO) is considered by many to be one of Europe's foremost contemporary big bands. Established in 1995, its core values are versatility, discipline and expression. The SNJO is dedicated to promoting jazz as a pre-eminent art form through performances, original compositions, recordings, and educational outreach programmes.

snjo.co.uk

Wide Days

Wide Days is an annual convention which takes place in Edinburgh every year. It combines a conference programme, curated showcase of emerging talent and networking opportunities for Scottish music businesses and artists to connect with the international industry.

widedays.com

WW Glasgow

DJ, record collector and composer Rebecca Vasmant hosts guests who play an influential part in developing the sonic identity of Glasgow. Available on Worldwide FM.

worldwidefm.net/collection/ww-glasgow

Thank you

Thank you to the jazzahead! 2022 Advisory Group for their expertise and support:

Fiona Alexander, Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival

Sophie Bancroft, musician

Marco Cafolla, musician

Agnese Daverio, Booking Agent at Music Works International / Independent Consultant and Producer

Keith MacRae, Jazz Scotland

Sue Mckenzie, musician

Brian Molley, musician

Richy Muirhead, Scottish Alternative Music Awards

Michael Lambert, Wide Days

Jill Rodger, Glasgow Jazz Festival

Don Sharples, Jazz at the Blue Lamp

Tommy Smith, Scottish National Jazz Orchestra

Simon Thacker, musician

Paul Tracey, Chamber Music Scotland

Coralie Usmani, Jazz Scotland



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April 2022