

Unner embargo til 10:00 BST 05/10/2021

Final leet ae airtists annooned fur Cymru - Wales 2022 spotlight



The sax airtists waled tae perform at Showcase Scotland an Celtic Connections in Februar 2022 hae been annooned as Wales busks itsel fur the spotlight event as international pairtners.

As pairt ae the lowsins ae the Celtic Connections 2022 festival programme, Wales Airts International are richt blythe tae kythe tae aa the sax Cymru Wales spotlight airtists fa will perform in heidline concerts at Celtic Connections an at the industrie facin Showcase Scotland in 2022, far it's Wales' twalmonth tae be the featured international kintra. It's 15 twalmonths syne Wales wis last featured as an international pairtner at the event.

The final leet o **Cymru Wales Spotlight 2022** airtists are:

[Cynefin](#) – Carmarthen

The creative veesion o Wast Wales native Owen Shiers, Cynefin traivels throu the local musical landscape, unearthin sangs an stories, sam niver afore recorded, and gien thaim new life i the present.

[Eve Goodman](#) – Gwynedd

A two-leidit musician fae North Wales, Eve Goodman's music is rooted in her sense o place, cairried by a clear vyce. Eve weaves in the natural world an the beauty surroondin her, and her lyrics reveal whit it is tae be human in thir times.

[N'famadyKouyaté](#) – Cardiff / Guinea

A maister musician fae Guinea (Conakry), N'famadyKouyaté fuses the vibrant soonds o Mandingue African an Wast European jazz, pop, indie an funk influences. The mesmerisin soonds o the balafon brings joy tae aa o his creations.

[No Good Boyo](#) - Cardiff

Trad-influenced fuul throttle band NoGood Boyo experiment wi rock, pop and EDM beats files shreddin the auld traditional Welsh tunes, bringin the pairty fariver they ging. Ging lood or ging hame!

[Pedair](#)– North Wales

Pedair's live performances hae captured the hairts ae mony. Their harmonies, frish interpretations o the Welsh fowk tradition, an intimacy ae sangscreivin bring thegither their unique gifts as sang-tellers, takin inspiration fae Wales an ayont.

[The Trials of Cato](#)– Wrexham

Wi stampin tunes an captivatn stories, by-named the "The Sex Pistols of folk" (J Davis), The Trials of Cato pay clear homage tae tradition in their soond, files twistin auld banes intae samthin febrile an modren.

The final leet wis pit forrit by Airtistic Director o Celtic Connections **Donald Shaw**, fa cried "Ah've been blawn awa by the quality an diverssitie o application by musicians fae Wales an luik forrit tae seein thaim perform in Celtic this year.

As 2022 lowsers the UN decade fur indigenous leids we luik forrit tae listenin tae an makin space fur indigenous leids."

The spotlight event at Showcase Scotland takin place oan **5th February 2022**, coincides wi Dydd Miwsig Cymru, a day tae heize up the best o music in the Welsh leid.

2022 also marks the stairt ae the **UN Decade of Indigenous Leids** filk heichlichts the emergency facin sam ae the world's maist minoritized leids. As a nation far oor indigenous Welsh leid is protected by legislation, Welsh airtists and cultural organisations are collaboratin wi ither minoritized cultures an leids around sustainin and decolonising attitudes tae leids and minority cultures the world ower. Music is a powerfu medium throu filk tae transmit leids an tae explore thir issues, as is reflected by these sax airtists throu their multi-leidit practices.

Eluned Hâf, Heid ae Wales Arts International, cried “Wur unco blythe tae be warkin wi sic talented airtists oan this important showcase opportunitie. Bein the featured kintra in 2022 is an opportunitie tae step intae the spotlight as a Celtic nation wi a bauld, diverse an excitin modren identity an leids.”

“Mony ae the airtists find direct inspiration fur their music fae their surroondin environments, connectin lyrics an soonds tae the dialect an history ae their local region, its relationship wi the warld an explore myths an legends filk influence their sang scribevin.”

“As weel as leadin tae career development an mair tourin opportunities fur the airtists, the legacy ae this programme will lead tae closer collaboration aroond addressin global culture an linguistic issues atween airtists in Wales an ither Celtic nations, takin in Scotland, Ireland an Brittany an aa.”

“The urgent need fur us tae seek solutions fur a mair sustainable futur an the important role o music an the airts hae tae play will be at the forefront ae folk's minds, wi the UN Climate Chynge Conference (COP26) takin place in Glesca ainly twa month afore Showcase Scotland.”

The walin process wis highly competitive an demonstrated the vibrancy, braidth an excellence o warld, folk and roots music in Wales, wi 42 airtists applyin fur the shawcase opportunity.

A shortleet ae 15 airtists wis draan up throu a twa-stage assessment process by a panel chaired by Airts Coonsil ae Wales Portfolio Manager Lisa Matthews-Jones fa cried: “As weel as identifyin sax fantastic airtists fa will present Welsh music tae the warld at Showcase Scotland, this walin process also demonstrated the incredible qualitie, dyversity, and vibrancy o music bein created by musicians across a variety ae genres in Wales the day.”

The walin panel comprised o Deborah Keyser (Tŷ Cerdd), Andy Jones (Focus Wales), Danny Kilbride (trac) Gareth Iwan Jones (BBC Radio Cymru), Helen Needham (BBC Radio Scotland), Keith Harris OBE (Board Memmer of EFEx) an airtists Eädyth Crawford, Emma Daman-Thomas (Islet), singer Aleighcia Scott, Eluned Hâf (Wales Arts International), Antwn Owen-Hicks (Arts Council of Wales) an Judith Musker Turner (Wales Arts International). The final walin wis then made by Donald Shaw, Airtistic Director ae Celtic Connections.

Fur mair information an comment, please get in tow wi

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[Follae Wales Airts International](#)

[Notes tae editors:](#)

Celtic Connections is a kenspeckle annual folk, roots an world music festival at celebrates Celtic music an its connections tae cultures aroond the world, held in venues across Glesca durin January.

Showcase Scotland is a five-day showcase an international music trade event featuring talent fae Scotland plus an annual international pairtner. Showcase Scotland is the maist muckle international music industry event in Scotland and attracts buikers, festivals promoters, event organisers, agents an music industry professionals fae aroon the world. Showcase Scotland taks place ilka year durin the Celtic Connections Festival.

Wales will be heidin tae Showcase Scotland unner the Welsh Government's Cymru Wales brand, co-producin digital media assets wi the artists fur yaise at the shawcase an ayont.

A consortium ae Welsh music organisations are pairtners in the Cymru Wales Spotlight 2022 programme, includin Focus Wales, Neuadd Ogwen, Butetown Arts & Culture Association, BBC Cymru Wales, Welsh Government, British Council, TheatrMwldan, trac, TŷCerdd, Pyst an National Eisteddfod.

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