



EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Media Information

ABERDEEN STANDARD INVESTMENTS OPENING EVENT: LA Phil at Tynecastle

CONDUCTOR GUSTAVO DUDAMEL AND LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC TO OPEN 72ND INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL AT TYNECASTLE STADIUM

- Incredible opening of Edinburgh's summer festival season sees world-leading orchestra, the LA Philharmonic with the legendary conductor Gustavo Dudamel perform a spectacular outdoor orchestral concert
- Celebrating some of the world's best-loved film music, from the iconic John Williams scores to classic tracks from Hollywood's Golden Age.
- This new format of Opening Event at Tynecastle Stadium creates a spectacular free concert experience for Edinburgh residents and visitors inspired by the LA Philharmonic's concerts at the Hollywood Bowl.
- The concert welcomes all ages of music fans – with an early evening start time of 7pm, families and younger audience members can experience the Opening Event.
- 20 members of the Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles (YOLA) will travel with the orchestra to Edinburgh.
- Scotland's Big Noise and YOLA, both inspired by El Sistema and with a strong relationship with Gustavo Dudamel to play together during orchestra's visit to the Festival.
- 2019 is the first in a new three-year partnership with leading global asset manager, Aberdeen Standard Investments, continuing to build their profile and engagement seen across previous Opening Events the Edinburgh based business has supported.
- EventScotland continues its support stand-alone events at the International Festival, by funding the Opening Event for the fifth year

For the first time in over 15 years the LA Phil is set to wow International Festival audiences, at the same time making its first appearance here with their superstar conductor Gustavo Dudamel, now their music and artistic director for 10 years.

Famous for their outdoor concerts at the Hollywood Bowl, Dudamel and the LA Phil will be marking their Edinburgh residency by opening the festival in a free performance for 15,000 people at Tynecastle Stadium, the year-round home of Hearts football team.

Starting at 7pm, the Aberdeen Standard Opening Event, which welcomes families, and people young and old to experience first-hand this incredible orchestra, will include favourites by John Williams from Star Wars, Harry Potter and E.T. alongside music from Hollywood's Golden Era.

The following two nights Sat 3 Aug and Sun 4 Aug the LA Phil and Dudamel will appear at the Usher Hall with fantastic programmes which include the world-premiere tour of John Adams's new piano concerto for the pyrotechnic Yuja Wang *Must the Devil have all the Best Tunes?*

The LA Phil celebrates 100 years in 2019 with a world tour which so far has taken in Seoul and Tokyo, will travel to Edinburgh for these performances and then in November completes its journey with performances in London, Mexico City and New York.

Working with Tynecastle's Big Hearts and Tynecastle High School as well as local primary schools, the International Festival's Outreach Team is set to work with the local community to spread the word about this world-class cultural event on their doorstep in a series of events through the summer.

Classical music has always been core to the International Festival's programme and showcasing this world class and incredibly popular orchestra with real star appeal in a football stadium in the West of the city offers an entry point to the many young people now turning to classical music, those young people from across the city who attended last year's Opening Event and those engaged through the Festival's outreach work.

Gustavo Dudamel said: 'To be at the Edinburgh International Festival is always an honour, it's a symbol of Scotland and a privilege to be part of it. The Festival is one of the first places I visited, first with the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and then with the Simon Bolivar Orchestra, and now together for the first time with the LA Phil. It's an outstanding festival and a perfect setting to continue our centennial celebrations. We are bringing three magnificent programs – including Mahler 2, a masterpiece; a program featuring music from John Williams, a very important member of our family; and the European premiere of John Adams' new piano concerto with Yuja Wang – which show the flexibility of the orchestra and we are excited for the audience to be part of these performances.'

Keith Skeoch, CEO of Aberdeen Standard Investments said: 'We're proud to support the Edinburgh International Festival's Opening Event for the fourth year running. Together Aberdeen Standard Investments and the International Festival share a rich heritage and vision. This year we will be celebrating a truly spectacular visit from the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra on what is their 100th birthday. We're sure that Gustavo Dudamel and the LA Phil will bring the event to life in breath-taking fashion.'

Paul Bush OBE, VisitScotland's Director of Events, said: 'EventScotland is delighted to be continuing its support of the Aberdeen Standard Investments Edinburgh International Festival Opening Event. Since its inception in 2015, the event has continuously pushed the boundaries by finding fresh and exciting ways to engage new audiences. This year's combination of the LA Phil dazzling performance of John Williams movie scores conducted by the legendary Gustav Dudamel at Tynecastle Stadium is a wonderful evolution of the event and will certainly open up the world of classical music to a new audience who previously may not have considered it for them. Scotland is the perfect stage for events and the Edinburgh International Festival is a wonderful showcase of Scotland's position as a world-leading deliverer of bold, dynamic and innovative cultural events.'

Event Partners:

Edinburgh International Festival

Edinburgh International Festival is an unparalleled, city-wide, celebration of the performing arts for three weeks each August in Scotland's capital. Created in 1947 to celebrate the human spirit and bring people together through art, the International Festival remains dedicated to creative excellence and as a point of annual cultural exchange for a global audience exceeding 400,000 per year.

Committed to virtuosity and innovation, the International Festival presents some of the finest performers and ensembles from the worlds of dance, opera, music and theatre. It also connects with local artists and communities through a range of programmes year-round. The current Festival is curated by Festival Director Fergus Linehan and takes place from 2-26 August 2019.

The International Festival Curatorial team includes Fergus Linehan (Festival Director), Roy Luxford (Director of Programming), Andrew Moore (Head of Music), Kate McGrath (Curator, You Are Here), Bryn Ormrod (Curator, Contemporary Music) Caroline Donald (Head of Learning and Engagement), Emma Hay (Planning Administrator) and Wezi Mhura (Programme Associate).

Aberdeen Standard Investments:

Aberdeen Standard Investments (ASI) is a leading global asset manager dedicated to creating long-term value for our clients and is a brand of the investment businesses of Aberdeen Asset Management and Standard Life Investments.

With over 1,000 investment professionals we manage £505 billion (US\$643 billion, as at 31 December 2018) of assets worldwide. We have clients in 80 countries supported by 50 relationship offices. This ensures we are close to our clients and the markets in which they invest.

We are high-conviction; long-term investors who believe teamwork and collaboration are the key to delivering repeatable, superior investment performance. We are resolute in our commitment to active asset management.

ASI is the asset management business of Standard Life Aberdeen plc, one of the world's largest investment companies.

Standard Life Aberdeen plc is headquartered in Scotland. It has around 1.2 million shareholders and is listed on the London Stock Exchange. The Standard Life Aberdeen group was formed by the merger of Standard Life plc and Aberdeen Asset Management PLC on 14 August 2017.

EventScotland:

EventScotland is working to make Scotland the perfect stage for events. By developing an exciting portfolio of sporting and cultural events EventScotland is helping to raise Scotland's international profile and boost the economy by attracting more visitors. For further information about EventScotland, its funding programmes and latest event news visit www.EventScotland.org. Follow EventScotland on Twitter [@EventScotNews](https://twitter.com/EventScotNews).

EventScotland is a team within VisitScotland's Events Directorate, the national tourism organisation which markets Scotland as a tourism destination across the world, gives support to the tourism industry and brings sustainable tourism growth to Scotland. For more information about VisitScotland see www.visitscotland.org or for consumer information on Scotland as a visitor destination see www.visitscotland.com.