

Five things you need to know today



Choose your soundtrack – Harry Benson’s portrait – Concert at St Giles – Edinburgh International Magic Festival – Big discounts on the Festival Wheel

The Edinburgh International Festival is almost upon us. In anticipation of the luxury of classical music which will be offered in August EIF would like you to experience the grand spectacle of a festival concert. We will allow you for once to pull up the Full Screen view and sit back with the sound turned up! (then come straight back here...)

Tickets are still available for some events. [Have a look here.](#)

There was a great deal of action in Edinburgh yesterday when Her Majesty the Queen hosted her annual garden party, and Cheryl Cole jetted in to watch auditions at the Assembly Rooms.

This was the birthday girl with fellow judge Simon Cowell on a pretty small private jet.

.[@CherylCole](#) posts a selfie with [@SimonCowell](#) in a blue PARTY HAT on the way to Edinburgh for [@TheXFactor](#) auditions. pic.twitter.com/qaWghDkjeg

– Just Simon Cowell (@JustSimonCowell) [June 30, 2014](#)

✘ But The Edinburgh Reporter met the real VIP in town yesterday when she met world renowned photographer, Harry Benson. He was genuinely lovely and is someone who has shaped photography over the last 50 years.

Saturday 5 July 2014 at 7.30pm

Inchcolm New Music Ensemble

This concert is a cycle of Scottish music compositions all recently composed, punctuated and inspired by some of the 'Inchcolm Antiphoner', the plainchant written over 1000 years ago by the monks of Inchcolm, an island in the river Forth.

Commissioned and performed by the 'Inchcolm New Music Ensemble', the new music group of Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh.

Plainchant Inchcolm Antiphoner
Harrold *A Night Piece*
Murphy *Sweeten Evil and Bitter Things*
Harper *Os Mutorum*
King *Love Song*

Admission £6 at the door

The Edinburgh International Magic Festival continues today.

Have a read at the full programme here. The Festival runs till 4 July 2014.

<http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Magic-Fest-2014.pdf>

- If you have an EH postcode then you can get a discount on the Festival Wheel.

Tickets have gone on sale for the newest addition to the Edinburgh Festival season.

Located in the heart of the city centre at East Princes Street Gardens, the Underbelly observation wheel will give unrivalled views of Edinburgh during the summer months. The Wheel returns to the City after a very popular run at Edinburgh's Christmas which allowed over 120,000 people to enjoy it over six weeks.

Families will be able to buy a family ticket (for two adults and two children) and the Council has ensured that residents who can prove they have an EH postcode will get a discount of 20% off all ticket. Click [here](#) to visit the bookings website.