

EIF 2021 – extra show featuring Damon Albarn – tickets on sale now

**Exciting news today from the
Edinburgh International Festival as
an additional show
from Damon Albarn is announced as
part of its 2021 contemporary music
programme.**

Following high demand for tickets for his first show, the Blur and Gorillaz frontman will give two appearances at **Edinburgh Park** for the world's leading performing arts festival on Tuesday 24 August, with one at 5pm and a further show at 8.30pm.



The pavilion at Edinburgh Park is under construction Photo Martin P McAdam

Accompanied by his band and a string quartet, the Edinburgh International Festival performances mark a rare solo appearance for **Damon Albarn**, who presents tracks from his extensive songbook, including his forthcoming new album *The Nearer the Fountain, More Pure the Stream Flows*. Originally intended as an orchestral piece inspired by the landscapes of Iceland, during this last year Albarn has returned to the music in lockdown and developed the work to 11 tracks which further explore themes of fragility, loss, emergence and rebirth. The result is a panoramic collection of songs with Albarn as storyteller. The album title is taken from a John Clare poem *Love and Memory*.



Damon Albarn

Other highlights of the International Festival's contemporary music programme include soulful singer **Laura Mvula** with

material from her new album *Pink Noise* and one of **Neu! Reekie!**'s distinctive cross-culture experiences headlined by Orange Juice front man and Scottish singer-songwriter royalty **Edwyn Collins**.

Anna Meredith returns to Edinburgh to perform her second album *FIBS*, **Nadine Shah** performs her latest album *The Kitchen Sink* and **Kathryn Joseph** joins the bill with her haunting, beautiful balladry. Jazz artists include female-led music collective **Kokoroko**, producer-drummer **Moses Boyd** and London's **The Comet is Coming**.

Edinburgh-based Scottish/African choir **Shona the Music Choir** present original songs from *Shona the Musical*, bringing alive the vibrancy, splendour and joyous harmonies of Africa with an eclectic western twist.

Northumbrian musician **Richard Dawson** performs tracks from his concept albums *Peasant* and *2020*, and multi-disciplinary artist and composer **Erland Cooper** performs music from his Orkney trilogy: *Solan Goose*, *Sule Skerry* and *Hether Blether*. **The Unthanks** perform their poetic mixture of folk music and storytelling and indie folk sister trio **The Staves** play songs from their new album *Good Woman*.

Art rock four-piece **black midi** make an appearance, while fellow Londoners **Black Country, New Road** play tracks from their debut album *For The First Time*.

Electronic artists on the line-up include **Floating Points**, combining his classically trained background with UK garage, spiritual jazz and broken-beat influences, and Canadian electronic artist Dan Snaith, AKA **Caribou**, with his latest LP *Suddenly*.

International artists include Malian singer-songwriter, guitarist and acclaimed actress **Fatoumata Diawara** with material from her *Wassoulou* and Mali blues influenced back

catalogue. Californian art-pop duo **Tune-Yards** perform material from their latest album *sketchy*.

The programme also includes West Lothian indie heroes **The Snuts**, whose debut album became the first by a Scottish band to top the Official Album chart in 14 years, and Glasgow-based four-piece **Tide Lines** with their trademark anthemic folk rock.

A full line-up can be found at www.eif.co.uk/contemporarymusic.

Tickets for Damon Albarn's additional performance on Tuesday 24 August, 5pm are on sale now at www.eif.co.uk/events/damon-albarn