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Photos are available [here](#)

Queen's Hall Arts Centre announces Summer programme

The Queen's Hall Arts Centre in Hexham has announced a sizzling Summer programme celebrating the local community. Special events for the Queen's Jubilee, Hexham Book Festival and Tynedale Community Choir's 20th Birthday, alongside live music, theatre, dance, stand-up comedy and family shows, including a new adaptation of *The Secret Garden* set in Northumberland, commissioned by Queen's Hall Arts and premiering at the Hexham Book Festival.

Artistic Director Katy Taylor said, "*Summer is the season we traditionally offer up our spaces to the local community. From Hexham Book Festival to a whole host of exciting events celebrating the Queen's Jubilee and Tynedale Community Choir's 20th Birthday event, this year is certainly no different! We're delighted to finally share the beautiful music created by Bridie Jackson and performed by North East musicians, celebrating the Unsung Heroes who made a difference in our local community during the pandemic. Rehearsals are already underway for a new adaptation of The Secret Garden, set right here in Northumberland. And we've got more live performances throughout the summer with something for audiences of all ages to enjoy.*"

Summer highlights include:

The Secret Garden (12 June) - families are invited to discover the magic of *The Secret Garden* as writers Lisette Auton and Becci Sharrock join forces to bring an enchanting newly adapted version of this classic tale set in Northumberland.

Telling the true story of Harry Clasper - the greatest sporting superstar the North East has ever seen, ***Hadaway Harry*** (17 June) by Ed Waugh is a moving and humorous play that follows Harry's journey from working class pitman in Jarrow to Rowing Champion of the World.

Shakespeare's Globe present ***Julius Caesar*** (24 June) - the Bard's brutal tale of ambition and revolution comes to Hexham Abbey Grounds this summer with a special outdoor performance; Ancient Rome has never felt so close to home.

Unsung Heroes (21 July) celebrates local people who made a difference in their community during the pandemic. North East singer songwriter Bridie Jackson created beautiful new songs about people nominated by the public, and will perform live with local musicians to launch this augmented reality project and exhibition by international multimedia artists Davy & Kristin McGuire.

Popular North East company Eliot Smith Dance return with ***Life & Other Stories*** (23 June) - four diverse contemporary dance pieces filled with physical movement, passion and excitement.

SING! Hexham Day of Song (25 June) will see Hexham come alive with singing workshops and performances to celebrate the Tynedale Community Choir's 20th Birthday.

Live music includes ***The Quo Experience*** (3 June) - five decades of hits in the UK's number one Status Quo tribute show; ***The Katatsitsi Drummers*** (4 June) - a group of traditional drummers, dancers and singers from the Ga tribe of Southern Ghana; ***Alistair McGowan*** (7 June) brings a new show combining his talents as a master impressionist and comedian with his new-found talent

as a classical pianist; and **The Floyd Effect** (29 July) features a complete performance of the iconic *Dark Side of the Moon* album, as well as other much-loved tracks from Pink Floyd's catalogue.

For comedy fans, TV household name **Ed Byrne** is back on 8 June with *If I'm Honest* - a brand-new masterclass in observational comedy that's selling fast. Plus a double helping of stand-up comedy on 10 June, with a show especially for kids at 4.30pm followed by the **Funny Words Gala** as part of the Hexham Book Festival, with special guest Rhys James who has appeared on *Mock the Week* and Russell Howard's *Stand Up Central*.

Family shows include **HEDGE** (16 June) - a brand-new show for children aged 4+ that combines dance, beautiful costumes, innovative props and puppetry to create an imaginative space for little ones to explore and enjoy. **The Tortoise and The Hare** (4-6 August) - an interactive story for under 6s and their grownups with live music and puppetry from Kitchen Zoo, the family theatre company that brought us *Wolf!* and *Bumbling About*.

The Queen's Hall continues to have Covid safety measures in place to keep audiences, artists and staff safe including encouraging face coverings, hand sanitiser stations, extra cleaning and e-tickets to avoid congestion at the box office.

For more information or to book tickets visit www.queenshall.co.uk or call the box office on 01434 652 477.

ENDS

Contact

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Images are available [here](#), please see filenames for captions and photographer credits

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Online booking at www.queenshall.co.uk

Notes to Editors

Queen's Hall Arts (QHA) is a registered charity and multipurpose arts centre based in the heart of Hexham. We develop and deliver a vibrant arts programme offering a wide range of shows, exhibitions, concerts and special events, support professional and aspiring artists, provide opportunities for our community to take part in the arts and offer a valuable creative resource to our local area. Through the arts we make life better, having positive impacts on our community and the individuals who live and work within it. Queen's Hall Arts (QHA) is the company that manages the Queen's Hall Arts Centre venue within the Queen's Hall, Hexham. The Queen's Hall building is a magnificent early Victorian building which faces Hexham Abbey (dating from 647AD). From its christening as an arts centre in 1983 until the hand over to the charitable organisation, Queens Hall Arts, in 2001 the building was under local authority control. Queen's Hall Arts Centre boasts a 350-seat theatre and two galleries managed by Queen's Hall Arts. Queen's Hall has established itself as a strong base for an extensive range of artistic activity, attracting the best international and national artists from music, drama, dance and national touring comedy to non professional shows put on by local community groups. In addition to activity in the building, QHA delivers an extensive outreach programme bringing workshops and performances to communities throughout Northumberland. www.queenshall.co.uk

Hexham Book Festival

Friday 10 – Sunday 19 June

Hexham Book Festival is back in the Queen's Hall with events to delight all ages and all palates: There's brand new fiction with Sarah Hall, Heather Morris and Kasim Ali. A spread of politics with

Peter Hain, Sebastian Payne and Gavin Barwell, Crime with Val McDermid, Louise Welsh and LJ Ross. Not forgetting Poetry with a welcome return from Hollie McNish, plus Biography from Hermione Lee and John Suchet, Memoir with Jenni Murray and Brenda Hale and Art from Franny Moyle. All in all over sixty events with many more authors, so join us and be inspired by nine days of back to back events. www.hexhambookfestival.co.uk

StoryLand

Friday 10 – Friday 17 June

Welcome to StoryLand, where dreams and reality collide! A fun packed festival of events where you'll find comedy, circus, bubble shows, author events, draw-alongs, lego workshops, summer festival vibes and much more! You can join storyteller Liz Frost for some classic Elmer fun, author and illustrator Jim Smith for an hour of stories, belly laughs and burps – or if Circus Skills are your thing – come along to the Aerial Circus workshop and learn how to hang upside down! With Llama Dramas and Underpants of Chaos we think we've got everyone covered! Take a look at our website and choose from over 45 FABULOUS events! storyland.org.uk