

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Image Credit: Creative Edinburgh

GIG SERIES AT THE QUEEN'S HALL WINS INCLUSION AWARD

Popular ongoing gig series AMPLIFI, created by [The Queen's Hall](#) and [We Are Here Scotland](#) and funded by The City of Edinburgh Council and Creative Scotland, won the Inclusion Award at the [Creative Edinburgh Awards](#) on Friday 18 November at Summerhall.

The series exists to provide a platform for Black musicians and musicians of colour in Scotland, with each gig featuring a triple bill of rising artists. The second season of gigs kicked off earlier this month with a rousing show by headliner **Danny Cliff**, with support from **Rosé Chrissy** and **Eyve**.

The shows have featured artists from across multiple genres, carefully curated by **Arusa Qureshi** and **Halina Rifai** of We Are Here Scotland, and included BBC Radio Scotland Scottish Act of the Year **Bemz** and SAY Award nominees **AiiTee** and **Hen Hoose**.

The Creative Edinburgh Awards are hosted by Creative Edinburgh who, since 2012, have been celebrating the city's creative community, highlighting the projects, people and places that flourish across Edinburgh and working to ensure its place on the cultural map, nationally and internationally. The Inclusion Award celebrates projects and organisations that have worked hard for their work to reflect the diversity of the city.

The next AMPLIFI gig is on Wednesday 7 December and features **Queen of Harps, Stephanie Lamprea** and **Sagnick Mukherjee**. Tickets are available here: <https://www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on/amplifi-3> Subsequent lineup announcements are coming soon.

Co-curator **Arusa Qureshi** said: "Working with the Queens Hall on AMPLIFI has proven to us what we've always firmly believed: that contemporary music in Scotland is varied, vibrant and packed with talent that deserves recognition. We've had artists involved from a range of backgrounds and genres, some just starting out and others more established, but each gig has been special because of the sense of community the series fosters. We hope that AMPLIFI can continue to be a warm, welcoming and safe space for audiences to discover and enjoy new artists and we can't wait to invite more of our favourite musicians to take part!"

Evan Henderson, Chief Executive of The Queen's Hall said: "Our new performance space is tailor made to showcase talent in an intimate environment while welcoming entirely new audiences to our venue. The future of Scottish music is diverse and exciting, and I'm pleased The Queen's Hall is playing a part in that."

Alan Morrison, Head of Music at Creative Scotland said: "There's so much talent in Scotland that doesn't get a chance to shine on our bigger stages. With expert curation and a true passion for music, AMPLIFI has broken down barriers and brought an inspiringly diverse set of artists to one of the capital's most prestigious venues. The purpose of Creative Scotland's funding support for AMPLIFI was to build new audiences and create new opportunities, and it's heartening to see that reflected in this award. Congratulations to Arusa, Halina and all the artists who have taken part."

Beata Skobodzinska, Diversity Officer at City of Edinburgh Council, said: "We are beyond excited that this joint endeavour led by Arusa Qureshi and Halina Rifai has become a great new platform for profiling local diverse talent. AMPLIFI has enabled us to better engage with emerging artists, increase access to professional performance spaces and offer our local and visiting audiences a new exciting homegrown live music experience that promotes greater representation of genders, genres and generations in the arts and culture sector. We are looking forward to seeing how this initiative develops and contributes to reviving and transforming opportunities for performing arts in our city."

--

For further information and hi-res images please contact:

Adam Knight, Marketing Officer, The Queen's Hall adamk@queenshalledinburgh.org

NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Queen's Hall (Scottish Charity No SC012294) is a unique and valuable resource in Edinburgh's cultural life having been a key venue for international music, comedy, and spoken-word acts, and as a home for the city's many festivals and local amateur and professional groups since 1979. It was set up by, and is the current home of, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. An independent charity managed by a Board of Trustees, the Hall and has successfully emerged from a lengthy period of closure during the pandemic with a very busy schedule for 2022 and beyond.

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland distributing funding provided by the Scottish Government and The National Lottery. Further information at creativescotland.com. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Learn more about the value of art and creativity in Scotland and join in at www.ourcreativevoice.scot

Arusa Qureshi is an award-winning writer, editor and speaker with a passion for music, diversity and accessibility within arts and culture. Her book about women in UK hip hop, 'Flip the Script', is out now via 404 Ink. She has bylines in The Guardian, NME, Clash, Time Out, The Forty-Five and The Scotsman, and is part of the We Are Here Scotland team, supporting and amplifying the voices of creatives of colour in Scotland. <https://www.arusaqureshi.com/>

Halina Rifai is a podcast producer, music writer, PR & digital marketer. She founded music site Podcart in 2009 and has gone on to become a podcast producer, working with the likes of BBC Scotland, The Big Light, Mental Health Foundation, Fringe of Colour and more. She works within PR & Marketing with Scottish Women Inventing Music and Dardishi, a creative platform for Arab & North African women and gender minorities. She is also Communications Co-Manager for We Are Here Scotland, a space aimed at supporting and raising the voices of Black people and people of colour artists and creatives across Scotland. <https://www.halinarifai.com/>

The City of Edinburgh Council's [Cultural Strategy Diversity Programme](#) is a bespoke series of activities and initiatives developed to better understand and respond to the needs and ambitions of local ethnically diverse artists and creatives. These have offered networking, exchange, collaboration and professional development opportunities for over 800 individuals and organisations who have attended monthly meetings, online gatherings and training sessions since September 2019. The programme also provides guidance and training to local arts and culture organisations to support them in their efforts in creating more diverse and inclusive boards, teams and working environments. It continues to build platforms for dialogue and partnership working between ethnically diverse artists and creatives, arts and culture, and community organisations. The three main programme strands include Projects, Engagement and Networking Opportunities, Diversity and Inclusion Fund, and Professional Development Programme.
