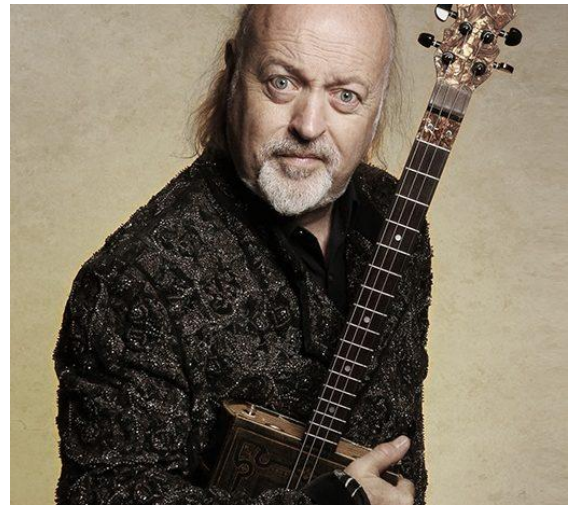


Thursday, 20 February 2020

Bill Bailey announced to headline Towersey Festival 2020

Multi-award-winning British comedian, songwriter, musician, actor and presenter **Bill Bailey**, is confirmed to headline the 56th Towersey Festival, from 28-31 August 2020, in Buckinghamshire's stunning Claydon Estate, in Middle Claydon.

Bill's extensive career ranges from international stand-up comedy tours to performing on television, film and radio, duetting at HRH Prince Charles' 60th birthday with Robin Williams, and performing at the Royal Albert Hall with a full BBC Concert Orchestra. He played Manny in the BAFTA award-winning *Black Books*, and he was for many years team captain on the popular BBC music panel show *Never Mind the Buzzcocks*. He is a regular panellist on the hit BBC panel show *QI*, along with writing and presenting numerous TV wildlife documentaries and has recently filmed the comedy-drama 'In The Long Run' created by Idris Elba. Bill Bailey will headline Towersey on Saturday 29 August.



Also confirmed for Sunday 30 August at Towersey is **Gruff Rhys**, the prolific and inventive Welsh musician, well known as the singer and main songwriter for **Super Furry Animals**. Gruff's music encompasses a range of styles, including psychedelia, folk and electro-pop. His third album, *Hotel Shampoo*, won the Artrock Album of the Year award and the Welsh Music Prize in 2011. In 2014, Gruff released *American Interior*, an album, book, film and app, exploring the life of John Evans, who left Wales for North America in 1792 in search of a lost tribe of Welsh-speaking Native Americans. Then in 2016, despite a busy schedule touring again with the Super Furies, he found time to compose the soundtrack album for Andy Goddard's film *Set Fire To The Stars*. His most recent release, 2018's *Babelsberg*, was recorded with the 72-piece BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

Joining these music greats at Towersey are **Ferris & Sylvester**, who are on an unstoppable upward trajectory and winning hearts across the world with their distinctive blend of blues, folk and Americana, and BBC Young Folk Award Winner 2019 **Maddie Morris**, who recently completed an EU joint headline tour with activist CHUCK SJ.

www.towerseyfestival.com

Festival Office

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Other confirmed artists joining the line-up include English roots band **Edward II**; award-winning musical geniuses **Tim Edey & Ross Ainslie**; unhinged and musically extravagant **The Langan Band**; 11-strong women's shanty crew **She Shanties**; energised folk-rock band **Merry Hell**; London-based big band **Yiddish Twist Orchestra** and acappella singing and traditional dance group **Black Umfolosi**, from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. These artists are joining the previously announced big line-up (see full listing below).

Towersey is the UK's longest-running independent music festival in the UK, with eight venues featuring an extensive music programme, over 30 hours of ceilidh and dance and a packed schedule of daily workshops. 2020 will feature many of the regular favourites plus the introduction of new circus shows and workshops, well-being and mindfulness activities and outdoor experiences.

Tickets for Towersey Festival, which runs from **Friday 28 to Monday 31 August 2020** at Claydon Estate, Middle Claydon, Buckinghamshire (claydonestate.co.uk), are now available from £144 (adult), £134 (concessions), £70 (young person 5-17). Day tickets are also available. For more information go to www.towerseyfestival.com

FULL LINE-UP (ANNOUNCED TO DATE):

Friday 28 August:

Steeleye Span (steeleyespan.org.uk)

Show of Hands (showofhands.co.uk)

Ferris & Sylvester (ferrisandsylvester.com)

Laura Cortese & The Dance Cards (thisislauracortese.com)

Yiddish Twist Orchestra (yiddishtwistorchestra.com)

Whapweasel (whapweasel.com)

Merry Hell (merryhell.co.uk)

Honey and The Bear (honeyandthebear.co.uk)

Forest of Fools (forestoffools.com)

Black Umfolosi (blackumfoliosimusic.com) – also playing Saturday 29 August

Saturday 29 August:

Bill Bailey (billbailey.co.uk)

This Is The Kit (thisisthekit.co.uk)

The Trials of Cato (thetrialsofcato.com)

Talisk (talisk.co.uk)

The Langan Band (thelanganband)

Jackie Oates & John Spiers (jackieoates.co.uk) (squeezyjohn.com)

Midnight Skyracer (midnightskyracer.com)

She Shanties (sheshanties.com) – also playing Sunday 30 and Monday 31 August

Maddie Morris (maddiemorris.co.uk) – also playing Sunday 30 August

Smith and Brewer (smithandbrewer.com)

Sunday 30 August:

Gruff Rhys (gruffrhys.com)

Kate Rusby (katerusby.com)

Hackney Colliery Band (hackneycollieryband.co.uk)

The London Welsh Male Voice Choir (londonwelshmvc.org)

Tim Edey (timedeey.co.uk) & Ross Ainslie (rossainslie.com) – also playing Monday 31 August

Ranagri (ranagri.com)

Jez Hellard & The Djukella Orchestra (jezhellard.com)

Monday 31 August:

Grace Petrie (gracepetrie.com)

Edward II (edwardthesecond.co.uk)

The Magpie Arc (TheMagpieArc)

Matthew Byrne (matthewbyrne.net)

Circocentric – **EXCLUSIVE TO TOWERSEY!** A newly created Circus show by The Chipolatas and The Pirates of the Carabina! (piratesofthecarabina.com) (chipolatas.com)

TICKETS:

Weekend Tickets with camping (4 days)

Standard: Campsite access from 9am on Friday 28th August.

Adult £169; Conc £159; Young Person (5-17yrs) £85; under 5s FREE.

Weekend Tickets without camping (4 days)

Standard: Site access from 9am on Friday 28th August.

Adult £144; Concession £134; Young Person (5-17) £70; under 5s FREE.

Day Tickets without camping

Fri Adult £45; Young Person (5-17) £30; under 5s FREE.

Sat/Sun Adult £50; Young Person (5-17) £35; under 5s FREE.

Mon Adult £35; Young Person (5-17) £25; under 5s FREE.

Day ticket camping Adult £15; Young Person (5-17) £10; Under 5s FREE

Box office: **0115 807 7900**

Web: www.towerseyfestival.com

Twitter: [@towersexfesti](https://twitter.com/towersexfesti) #Towersey2019

Facebook: [TowerseyFestival](https://www.facebook.com/TowerseyFestival)

Instagram: [towersey_festival](https://www.instagram.com/towersey_festival)

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