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LINE UP REVEALED FOR TOWERSEY FESTIVAL 2022

**TOM ODELL**

**DEL AMITRI | BILL BAILEY**

**TURIN BRAKES | KATE RUSBY | ANAÏS MITCHELL  
HOWARD JONES ACOUSTIC TRIO | THIS IS THE KIT | THE LONGEST  
JOHNS | SKERRYVORE | HACKNEY COLLIERY BAND | ROB DERRING  
| YIDDISH TWIST ORCHESTRA + MUCH MORE!**

**MUSIC, COMEDY, DANCE, GHOST WALKS, STORYTELLING, CHILDREN'S  
ACTIVITIES AND OVER 24 HOURS OF CEILIDH**

*"One of the most bravely adventurous festivals in the folk and world music  
calendar" - The Guardian*

**26-29 August, 2022**

**Stunning NEW location:** Claydon Estate, Buckinghamshire

**Tickets on sale now:** <https://www.towerseyfestival.com/>

**Towersey Festival**, the UK's longest-running independent festival, is delighted to reveal its 2022 line-up. The festival, set to take place in the **stunning new location** of Claydon Estate, Buckinghamshire over the August Bank Holiday weekend, will welcome, for the first time, BRIT and Ivor Novello award-winning singer-songwriter, **Tom Odell**. Across the four-day event, he will be joined by Scottish alt-rock legends **Del Amitri**, Barnsley folk royalty **Kate Rusby**, acoustic indie trailblazers **Turin Brakes**, Grammy and Tony Award-winning singer-songwriter **Anaïs Mitchell**, comedy legend and *Strictly Come Dancing* star **Bill Bailey**, along with 80s pop icon **Howard Jones** who will be performing a fresh take on his best-known hits as part of the Howard Jones Acoustic Trio.

Other confirmed additions to the music and comedy line-up include Scottish singer-songwriter **Eddi Reader**, alt-folk artist **This Is The Kit**, folk band and instigators of the Tik Tok sea shanties phenomenon **The Longest Johns**, Scottish rock band **Skerryvore**, Celtic folk-punk band **Ferocious Dog**, comedian **Rob Deering**, folk band **Talisk**, the Americana-influenced **Police Dog Hogan**, contemporary Highlands fiddle band **Blazin' Fiddles**, folk singer-songwriter **Kris Drever**, London's **Hackney Colliery Band**, Peter Knight's **Gigspanner Big Band**, a mighty comedy-beatbox show from **Jarred Christmas & Hobbit The Beatboxer**, London-based songwriting duo **Ferris & Sylvester**, comedian **Laura Lexx**, English roots band **Edward II**, festival favourites **The Langan Band**, 'bloke-folk' band **Faustus** and **over 50 more music and comedy acts across 10 stages and venues.**

Over at the Festival Dance House, there will be swing & jive dancing, along with ballroom, ballet, contra, a silent disco, music from the **Yiddish Twist Orchestra**, DJs playing Afrobeat, roots reggae and blues and **over 24 hours of ceilidh.**

Much more than just a music, comedy and dance festival, there will also be a host of workshops across the four days, as well as circus & theatre shows, storytelling, outdoor games, history & ghost walks, a fun run, forest school, campfires and music jams, alongside a new "Evolving" young people's area launching in 2022, which will feature everything from crafts to discos.

**Towersey Festival** is the UK's longest-running independent festival. Established in 1965 as a one-day event to raise funds for the repair of Towersey Village Hall, the festival has grown to become one of the major arts and music festivals of the year, with previous headliners including The Proclaimers, The Shires, Bellowhead, Big Country and Chas and Dave. Staying true to its ethos of creating a true community of music, creativity, friendship, and fun, Towersey Festival is very much a family festival, having been run by three generations of the same family (with a fourth in training) since its very first iteration. In 2022, it will move to its new home of Claydon Estate, Buckinghamshire, where it is delighted to encourage even more festival-goers to act like children, sing their hearts out, learn new things and dance like no-one is watching, whilst enjoying the comforts of an immaculate Buckinghamshire site, just an hour on the train from London.

**Festival Director, Joe Heap, said:** "I am so excited to welcome such an incredible line-up to Towersey Festival next summer. After two years of cancellations due to the pandemic, Towersey is back, bigger and better than ever, in our beautiful new home of Claydon Estate in Buckinghamshire. With a packed line-up of music, dance, comedy, workshops, food, real ale, crafts, games, workshops, ghost walks - you name it! - Towersey Festival 2022 is set to be the most exciting yet, a worthy testament to my grandad who founded the festival back in 1965. With a pristine new site, incredible line-up and our much-loved community atmosphere, we can't wait to welcome attendees young and old to join our Towersey Festival family in August 2022"

**Full line-up information and tickets available from: [www.towerseyfestival.com](http://www.towerseyfestival.com)**

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Further press information

For further press information, images and interview requests, please contact Sophie Stott on [sophie.a.stott@gmail.com](mailto:sophie.a.stott@gmail.com) | 07596 922457

Towersey Festival will take place at Claydon Estate, Buckinghamshire from 26-29 August 2022

<http://www.towerseyfestival.com> | #Towersey2022

## ABOUT THE HEADLINERS

### TOM ODELL

Tom Odell has been working as a musician in the public eye since he was 21 when self-penned debut album *Long Way Down* earned him a number 1 album, a top 10 single (*Another Love*) and a Brit.

Tom recently released his new single 'monster v.1. and his fourth album, 'monsters' which charted at number 4. With the sky-scraping chorus "you're just a monster and I'm not scared" a self-help mantra for Odell's ongoing battle with anxiety.

Tom's new found love of DIY electronic pop chimed with the pandemic's arrival and songs were crafted in a more threadbare way around instruments he had at hand, like Moog synths. It was a move underpinned by both necessity and a desire to explore. In this strangest of times this new music represents the start of chapter two in Odell's ongoing musical journey.

### DEL AMITRI

Del Amitri are a Scottish alternative rock band formed in Glasgow in 1980. Between 1985 and 2002, the band released six studio albums, with five of these reaching the Top 10 in the UK. In 2014 and again in 2018, the band embarked on sell-out UK reunion tours. Almost two decades on from their last album, *Fatal Mistakes* is their first collection of new songs in 18 years, it was recorded "pretty much live" in three quicksmart weeks with producer Dan Austin (Biffy Clyro, You Me At Seven), and it's the brilliant sound of a 35-years-young recording band settling into what they do best: melodic rock songs with lyrical bite, soulful comfort, heart-swelling uplift and the occasional just-the-right-side-of-gnarly guitar solo.

### BILL BAILEY

Bill Bailey is a multi-award-winning British comedian, songwriter, musician, actor, presenter and animal welfare campaigner. His 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 panelist 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.

"Bailey cuts a world-beating swathe all of his own... absolutely genius on so many levels." – Evening Standard

### KATE RUSBY

Kate Rusby is often hailed as the 'first lady of folk'. Announcing herself to the music press in 1999 with a nomination for the Mercury Music Prize, she has forged an impressive 30-year career, breaking records and headlining everywhere from the Royal Albert Hall to Cambridge Folk Festival.

A remarkable interpretive singer, Kate's soulful vocals resonate with the wistful beauty of an earthbound angel. Inhabiting a lyric with unforced conviction – no matter how old or how modern – she has that rare ability to transport her audience, touching them emotionally and making each tune live vividly within their experience and imagination.

Audiences are sure to be thoroughly entertained by Kate's choice of much-loved classics from her back catalogue stretching over the past 30 years of music making, together with a selection of fresh new songs from her most recent albums and new releases.

As ever, she will be joined on stage by her band, each a virtuoso in their own right and including her husband and producer Damien O' Kane. They will be sure to delight you with their exceptional talents

### TURIN BRAKES

Turin Brakes released their eighth studio album through Cooking Vinyl in 2018 followed by a UK & European tour.

After seven studio albums and a million records sold worldwide, Turin Brakes might've been excused a bit of downtime, however... 2016 saw them return to national radio playlists with all 3 singles from the critically acclaimed album 'Lost Property,' coupled with 18 months touring across the UK, Europe and Australia, with a plethora of festival appearances in

between. But along the way new songs just kept on bubbling through. The band (Olly Knights, Gale Paridjanian, Rob Allum and Eddie Myer) along with co/producer Ali Staton made a hasty return to the legendary Rockfield Studios in Wales (where Queen recorded Bohemian Rhapsody) to strike while the inspiration was buzzing.

The music starts as it has since the beginning - with voices and guitars, and evolves outwards from there

### **ANAÏS MITCHELL**

Anaïs Mitchell is a Vermont-based singer-songwriter, and the Tony and Grammy award-winning creator of the Broadway musical *Hadestown* for which she wrote the book, music and lyrics. She was named to TIME's prestigious TIME100 list in 2020, and her first book, *Working on a Song – The Lyrics of Hadestown* was published by Penguin/Plume in the same year.

Dubbed by NPR as "one of the greatest songwriters of her generation", Mitchell's new self-titled album will be released on January 28<sup>th</sup> 2022. Produced by Josh Kaufman, it was made with close collaborators from Bon Iver, The National and her own band Bonny Light Horseman, and is Mitchell's first collection of all-new material under her own name since 2012's *Young Man in America*. Mitchell will debut the new songs during her headline tours in the U.S. and Europe in 2022, at which she'll be accompanied by players from the album.

"The most engaging, and in some ways, most original artist working in the field of new American folk music" - *Independent on Sunday*

### **THE LONGEST JOHNS**

The Longest Johns, the trailblazing band at the forefront of the recent transatlantic resurgence of sea shanties – being the instigators of the TikTok phenomenon and chart hit, Wellerman

Moving fluently from powerful acapella arrangements to traditional accompanying instrumentation (banjo, whistle, harmonium), encompassing rousing numbers that make it impossible not to sing along – such as Don't Forget Your Old Shipmate and Hog Eye Man to the melancholy Wayfaring Stranger and Downed and Drowned – here, The Longest Johns demonstrate their authenticity and unflinching allure once again.

Over the past decade the four friends from Bristol have gone from singing sea shanties and folk songs in pubs to raising the roof to a jam-packed tent of adoring fans at Latitude 2021, appearing on the prestigious BBC Sounds Stage, and garnering 250 million combined streams. The Longest Johns will bring an incredible year to a close with a sell-out UK tour in December, taking their electrifying live show across the country and beyond, as they tour the US in March 2022, due to unprecedented demand.

The world-renowned musicians' innovative approach to communicating with the public, and ever-increasing popularity, reaches far beyond the stage. They have shaken up the music world by utilising their entrepreneurial skills, sharing these traditional songs in a completely new way – via gaming and social media platforms – and cementing their position as protest singers of the 21st century.

### **FEROCIOUS DOG**

They've been hailed as "a representation of our gut feeling, savage and merciless" and at the same time, called "folk in the grand tradition of it being the peoples sound."

Ferocious Dog, however are all those things.

More than a band, they are a family. "To listen to the Ferocious Dog as it snarls and growls at the world is to show responsibility" said a Louder Than War review of their brilliant, recently released and Fake News And Propaganda album, but this is an outfit that shows compassion too.

And that, in a world where the lines of truth are blurred by the rich, powerful and corrupt, is priceless.

*"Ferocious dog are a very socially conscious band and their music and lyrics are designed not only to make you smile and sing along but also to make you feel something."* – *Folk-Metal.NL*.

With Bonsall and Booth and Carter combining and John Leonard playing just about everything with strings, while the rhythm section of Alex Smith and John Alexander bring the power and energy, you have a whole greater than the sum of its parts.

### **HOWARD JONES ACOUSTIC TRIO**

*The acoustic trio will feature Howard Jones on electric piano, guitarist Robin Boulton (Roger Daltrey, Dave Stewart, Fish) and Nick Beggs (Kajagoogoo, Belinda Carlisle, John Paul Jones) on chapman stick.*

It was in 1983 that Howard Jones first burst upon the contemporary music scene with his very English songwriting, pioneering synthesizers and thought provoking lyrics. He set out his manifesto in his very first single 'New Song'. The lyrics called on the listener to challenge their preconceived ideas, to see both sides and 'throw off your mental chains'. New Song was recently used in a pivotal scene in 'Breaking Bad' where Aaron Paul's character Jessie Pinkman questions if he wants to 'play by the rules'. New Song peaked at number 3 in the UK singles charts.

Along with 'New Song', The first two albums, 'Humans Lib' and 'Dream into Action', brought Howard a host of hits including 'Things Can Only Get Better', 'What is Love?', 'Pearl In The Shell', 'Like to Get To know You Well', 'Hide And Seek' (performed at Live Aid), 'Look Mama' and 'No One Is To Blame', which reached No.1 in the US. Howard has sold over 8 million albums across the globe and is one of a select group of British artists who have comprehensively 'broken America'.

Howard Jones has earned a reputation within the music industry for pioneering the 'independent artist DIY' approach, developing the essential connection between artist and fans. Howard was the first artist to make a recording of that nights gig available on CD to purchase. The CD would even feature digital artwork of photos taken during the gig. His latest project 'Engage' is entirely music fan funded with money raised via studio visits, the creation of personalised 'Piano Solo's' composed specifically for fans and a unique "arthouse" interactive book.

Howard Jones continues to tour across the world every year performing to many hundreds of thousands of music fans.

The acoustic shows will highlight a fresh take on Howard's best-known hits and will provide a rare and intimate opportunity for the audience to hear first-hand about the inspiration behind Howard's beloved material, plus fascinating recollections from his international touring career.

### **SKERRYVORE**

Over the last 15 years, Skerryvore have brought their performances to audiences across the globe, from their early days in Scottish West Coast halls and bars, to Festival crowds in USA, Canada, Australia and throughout the UK and Europe. Picking up Scottish traditional music's 'Live Act of the Year' twice on the way – in 2011 and again in 2016 – the band's wide range of influences and talent produce a musically expansive, high energy set that excites and captivates audiences.

With a mix of fiddle, accordions, pipes and whistles, alongside guitar and vocals, underpinned by driving bass, drums and keys, Skerryvore represent the best in contemporary Scottish traditional music. Their 6 studio albums demonstrate the wide range of influences the individual musicians bring to the mix – a unique fusion of folk, trad, rock and Americana, with even some jazz in there!

The band celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2015 by launching their own 6000 capacity 'Decade' festival, following this up with successful 'Oban Live' events over each of the next four years. In 2020, their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary event, featuring some of the musicians and friends who have shared part of Skerryvore's journey, was due to be held against the stunning backdrop of Inveraray Castle. The impact of the Covid-19 crisis has decimated the band's touring and performing calendar for 2020, and well into 2021. Skerryvore have explored and developed alternative performance possibilities, including live streaming and virtual performances.

The band's single, 'Everyday Heroes,' recorded from home, and aided by a variety of musicians from across the country, reached number one in the official Scottish charts and, so far, has raised several thousands of pounds for NHS staff charities.

*"A great bunch of guys and superb live – really infectious and hard not to get swept up in what they do" - Mark Radcliffe, BBC Radio 2*