

PRESS RELEASE - 12/6/2023

1st & 2nd July 2023 - A celebration of Scottish Heritage, Music, Culture and European ties in the South of France

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Europe for Scotland (<https://europeforscotland.com/>) and Scotland in Europe (<https://scotland-in-europe.com/>) are delighted to have teamed up to attend the **Festival Ecosais 1782** (<https://www.festivalecosais1782.com/en/>) in south-east France, on the beautiful grounds of the **Château de St Andiol** near Avignon.

The yearly festival, in its second edition, will run on the **1st and 2nd of July 2023** and aims to bring awareness of Scottish culture and traditions to a French audience, inviting locals and day-trippers to discover the common history between France and Scotland, which formed the oldest alliance in the world: "the Auld Alliance". The two-day event will be packed with exciting entertainment for all ages such as Scottish folk music, pipe bands, a Men in Kilt competition, Highland dancing, Highland games, tasting sessions and much more! (full programme here: <https://www.festivalecosais1782.com/2023/>).

France has an established tradition of celebrating its Celtic and Scottish ties, notably at the large *Festival Interceltique de Lorient* on the west coast and in Aubigny-sur-Nère, the famous *Cité des Stuarts*, south of Orléans. But **Festival Écosais 1782 organisers Marie-Nadège and Erik** (pictured above), two passionate friends of Scotland, are focused

on fostering French fervour for Scotland in the southern region of the country: *“With our Festival, we want people in the south-east of France - where there is still much to learn about Scotland - to discover and enjoy the breadth of its cultural offerings.”* And there is a taste for it, judging by the thousands – dressed in kilts, tartans, and plaids – who thronged to last year’s first edition, according to members of Europe for Scotland who attended.



Europe for Scotland is a pan-European civil society initiative that brings together citizens from all across Europe who want to express solidarity with Scotland post-Brexit. It is a grassroots campaign, unaffiliated with any political party or institution. Working with Scottish writer and broadcaster Billy Kay, it produced the film, [At the Heart of Europe: a Celebration of Scotland's European History](#). It also organises events marking important dates for both Europe and Scotland, like [Europe for Scotland - The light is still on: why Scotland matters to Europeans](#), which live-streamed from locations around Europe on the anniversary of the UK’s official exit from the EU.

Nina Jetter and **Andrea Pisauro** from **Europe for Scotland’s** steering committee add: *“Since launching our campaign we have witnessed first hand the enduring bond between Scotland and France. We are excited that our French national team - part of a network of teams active in 15 EU countries - have again been invited to attend the Festival Écossais 1782 in St Andiol. They will provide information about our campaign actions and [our petition](#) to EU leaders - already signed by 15,000 citizens across Europe - and run fun quizzes and other activities each day - look out for their colourful stand!”*



Scotland in Europe is a grassroots, not-for-profit organisation bringing together a collective of artists who are passionate about creating and maintaining links with the European continent. Their line-up at this year’s St Andiol 1782 festival will include a roundtable with Scottish poets Lesley Benzie and Linda Jackson ([seahorsepublications.com](#)), during which French festival goers can appreciate a contemporary expression of what binds Scotland and France. Linda Jackson, also a singer-songwriter, will perform her work accompanied by musicians.

Scotland in Europe founder Helen Kyle highlights how cultural and artistic ties have a way of bringing countries together: *“Scotland in Europe’s core mission is to use the arts to engage with communities within Scotland and across Europe. Taking part in this Franco-Scottish festival chimes with our ambition to continue to build on our cultural alliances in Europe despite the difficulties caused by Brexit. I am certain that Lesley and Linda’s style of contemporary Scottish music and poetry will go down a treat with the French crowds!”*

END

Further information:

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