

TRANSCENDING BORDERS

FROM THE BASQUE TO THE BIG COUNTRY

*- A JOURNEY INTO THE CULTURAL EXPERIENCES
OF TWO SMALL NATIONS WITHIN A WIDER EUROPE*

27 & 28 AUGUST 2022

BEYOND BORDERS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
TRAQUAIR HOUSE

FUNDED BY CREATIVE SCOTLAND



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TRANSCENDING BORDERS FROM THE BASQUE TO THE BIG COUNTRY

A JOURNEY INTO THE CULTURAL
EXPERIENCES OF TWO SMALL NATIONS
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Transcending Borders at Beyond Borders International Festival will bring together writers, poets, and musicians from the Basque Country and Scotland together at the Festival to run a series of teaser events and workshop discussions that enable Basque and Scottish creatives to map-out and stress-test a wider programme of collaboration to be rolled out across Edinburgh and San Sebastian in 2023.

The initiative will explore and celebrate the synergies between the two nations including forms of co-existence and co-operation emanating from a wider national and European identity.

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TRANSCENDING BORDERS

FROM THE BASQUE TO THE BIG COUNTRY

SATURDAY 27TH AUGUST

11.15-11.45

THE CHAPEL

BASQUE LITERATURE & POETRY TALK

Edorta Jimenez discusses Basque literature and presents his project Armiarma - a free online portal for Basque literature that anyone can access and contribute to.

12.00

THE CHAPEL

BASQUE COUNTRY AND FREEDOM, A LONG ROAD TO PEACE FILM SCREENING

Basque Country and Freedom, a long road to peace, presents the history of the Basque conflict from the Spanish Civil War to the unilateral disarmament of the ETA political-military organisation in April 2017 and its definitive dismantling on the 3rd of May, 2018, in an unprecedented light. Directed by Thomas Lacoste, 2020
Duration 52'
UK Preview

14.00-14.45

MEETING POINT,
WALLED GARDEN

POETRY WALK

Join an intergenerational group of local poets and Basque writer and poet Edorta Jimenez on a walk around the woodlands as they share their poetry.

18.05-19.00

CLOUDS MARQUEE,
WALLED GARDEN

OUTLAND TRIO X BIDAIA LIVE MUSIC

Iconic Basque band Bidaia and Outland Trio come together create a musical fusion of Scottish and Basque traditional music.

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SUNDAY 28TH AUGUST

12.00

THE CHAPEL

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MEETING POINT,
WALLED GARDEN

POETRY WALK ACCOMPANIED BY BIDAIA

Join an intergenerational group of poets drawn from near and afar on a walk around the woodlands as they share their poetry. Basque writer and poet Edorta Jimenez shares his work, and Caroline Phillips and Mixel Ducau of music group Bidaia join the promenade with traditional instruments from the Basque Country.

15.55-16.40

WALLED GARDEN

THE BASQUE TABLE FOOD & DRINK TASTING

Join Cook and Author, Marti Buckley as she shares her story about her love of the little known area of Spain where sun and sangria is replaced by a light drizzle and txakoli wine.

17.00-17.50

MAIN TENT MARQUEE,
WINEGLASS LAWN

FROM THE BASQUE TO THE BIG COUNTRY: WHERE NOW FOR DEMOCRATIC POLITICS IN EUROPE?

MAIN TENT TALK

Join Allan Little as he talks to Urko Aiartza Azurtza, Merryn Somerset Webb, and Gerry Hassan about how to deal with populism and demands for constitutional change in Europe. Tim Phillips gives a US perspective.

URKO AIARTZA AZURTZA

Urko Aiertza Azurtza is the Director of the Olaso Dorrea Foundation and its "TM eLab", a laboratory of ideas in the Basque Country, where he was born and lives. Urko previously served as a senator (2011-2015) in Madrid. He also served as Spokesperson in the Justice, Foreign Affairs, Iberoamerican and Standing Senate Committees. He is a member of the Gipuzkoa Bar, and has represented many human rights' groups and individuals in his role as a lawyer at national and international courts and institutions, including the ECHR and UN. He has been deeply involved in seeking peace in the Basque Country. During recent years, he has engaged in consultancy work on peace and mediation in various locations, including Kurdistan, Moldavia, Ukraine, Ethiopia and Mindanao.



MIXEL DUCAU

Mixel Ducau is the musical genius behind Bidaia's unique sound, both a composer and arranger he also writes some lyrics in Basque. On vocals, guitars, flutes, ttun-ttun and alboka... A native of the Basque Country (France) and founder of the very successful Basque contemporary rock group Errobi.

Both musician and artistic director, Mixel decided to study traditional Basque music on the alboka, ttun-ttun and acoustic guitar. His musical experience is forged through collaboration with the Compagnie Bernard Lubat and Joseba Tapia (diatonic accordion). His talent as a powerful vocalist, a tradition in the Basque Country, only enhances his appeal as a composer and excellent musician. Mixel plays so many instruments that the phrase "what DON'T you play?" frequently arises in conversations...



CAROLINE PHILIPS

Caroline Phillips plays hurdy-gurdy and sings. A founder of the group BIDAIA, she contributes to the composition and recording process. Born to a family of Greek, Persian and Scottish origins, she received musical training from a very young age and studied classical piano and voice.

Committed to vocal study, she studied in Paris for four years, then turned to jazz and other vocal styles (East Indian and Moroccan). Throughout her years as a professional musician, she regularly performed in jazz clubs and toured with her one-woman show in the Caribbean and North Africa. She began composing at an early age, in a Prince-meets-Kate-Bush-style that could only be attributed to her affinity for the 70's. She moved to the Basque Country in 1992 and after hearing Clemencic Consort, became immediately smitten with the Hurdy-gurdy.

Although she continues to play the piano, in 1998 she began to compose and interpret Bidaia's compositions on the hurdy-gurdy. She has spoken and performed at TED Global in Oxford and at other conferences including Thinking Digital (UK).



EDORTA JIMÉNEZ

Edorta Jiménez Ormaetxea born in Mundaka in 1953, is a Basque writer. He studied Professional Training in Electronics and Teaching on Basque Philology and has gone through various trades: sailor, teacher, television and film scriptwriter, translator and journalist. He started writing a long time ago, and in recent years he has devoted himself fully to literature. He has a long career, cultivating all genres: children's and youth literature (George L. Steer. He was a journalist in Gernika), chronicle (across European borders), essay (Hemingway and the Basques in the secret services), narration (Praise and Gunpowder), novel (The sea of beasts trilogy) and poetry, in the latter with the heteronym of Omar Nabarro.



MARTI BUCKLEY

Marti Buckley is an American journalist and cook from Alabama who has lived in San Sebastián since 2010. She is the author of the acclaimed cookbook, *Basque Country* (Artisan, 2018), which won Best International Book at IACP 2019. It was also named Best Publication by the Basque Academy of Gastronomy (Academia Vasca de Gastronomía). She co-authored the *Wallpaper* City Guide Bilbao/San Sebastián*. Her blog is travelcookeat.com, where she has written about food and Basque Country since 2007. Marti also contributes on food and travel to countless media outlets, from *Food & Wine*, *Afar* and *National Geographic Traveler* to *The Telegraph*. She lives in San Sebastián with her two daughters, finishing her second cookbook, on pintxos, slated for fall 2023.



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