

Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival 2018

Location: Marquee in Custom House Square
Set up: Tuesday 1st May and Wednesday 2nd May
Event dates: Thursday 3rd – Sunday 13th May
Take down: Monday 14th May

Now in its 19th year, the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival has become an integral part of the arts and cultural events calendar in Belfast. Each year the festival delivers an eleven day, world class programme of local, national and international music, literature, comedy and drama. With the kind support of public sector bodies including Belfast City Council, NITB and ACNI, the festival is able to stage high quality events for nominal ticket prices, making the events accessible to communities from across the entire city and attractive to out of state visitors.

In addition to using arts and cultural venues across the city centre, the festival erects a beautiful marquee in Custom House Square. This has quickly become one of the most popular venues in the festival programme staging memorable folk and world music concerts and unforgettable stand-up comedy shows.

The marquee is managed by an experienced event management team with reliable and trusted suppliers. During the planning stages we work closely with regulatory bodies and local residents and businesses.

In 2018, CQAF plans to host the following events in the festival marquee:

Date	Day	Show	Doors open:	Finish time:
03/05/18	Thurs	Comedy Night (tbc)	7.45pm	11pm
04/05/18	Fri	The Go! Team	7.45pm	12am*
05/05/18	Sat	Nightmares on Wax	7.45pm	12am*
06/05/18	Sun	Jimmy Webb	7.45pm	11pm
07/05/18	Mon	London African Choir	7.45pm	11pm
08/05/18	Tues	Kate Rusby	7.45pm	11pm
09/05/18	Wed	Bridget Christie	7.45pm	11pm
10/05/18	Thurs	Joanne Shaw Taylor	7.45pm	11pm
11/05/18	Fri	Ben Folds	7.45pm	11pm
12/05/18	Sat	Roisin Murphy (tbc)	7.45pm	11pm
13/05/18	Sun	Fairport Convention (tbc)	7.45pm	11pm

Rationale for Late Licenses

The two weekends of the festival are undoubtedly the busiest evenings at the marquee in Custom House Square. This is when we see the majority of our visitors from outside the city and out of state attending festival events. In order to provide our visitors with a memorable festival experience and value for money, we would like to be able to extend the evening entertainment until 12am on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th May. This allows visitors to 'make a night of it' by going for dinner in the local area and still being able to see a full concert/show. We want the visitors to our festival/Belfast to have an experience which is

comparable to (or indeed exceeds) what they would have at cultural events in other UK or European cities.

Having an extra hour on weekend nights also enables us to add a local artist to the bill each evening. Being able to support a headline festival act is a priceless opportunity for local bands and performers, helping them to reach new audiences, build experience and ultimately achieve greater success.

Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival has been instrumental in the regeneration of the Cathedral Quarter area over the last 18 years. The festival is wholly committed to the continued economic and cultural development of the city.

Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival is committed to providing a safe, well managed festival experience for visitors, the management team work closely with local businesses and residents to ensure the events are delivered with as little disruption as possible to the neighbours of Custom House Square.

In previous years we have requested 5 late licenses, this year we are just requesting 2 late nights to 12am, the rest of the shows will finish before 11pm.