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NEWS 19

# Benedetti to work in harmony with orchestra as new patron

## **AMBASSADOR:**

Renowned Scottish violinist takes over role from the Queen's composer who died last year

#### **CAROLINE LINDSAY**

Dundee Symphony Orchestra (DSO) have just appointed internationally-renowned violinist Nicola Benedetti as a new patron.

The Scottish musician takes over from the Queen's composer Peter Maxwell-Davis who died last year.

Ian Jarvis, president of DSO, is thrilled to have the high profile Scottish musician on board.

"Nicola Benedetti is a great ambassador for Scottish music generally and although she's not quite a local lass, she has played in Dundee several times and does a lot to promote music in the community. This fits in perfectly with our profile as we are a community-based orchestra," he said.

So can we expect to see Nicola on the SDO's programme in the near future?

"She's a busy lass but I hope there will be some collaboration in the future," Ian said.

"Peter Maxwell-Davis came and performed with us few years back which was great – it's a nice way for the patron to get involved with the orchestra."

DSO, an amateur orchestra, is more



than 100 years old and Ian is proud that it is enjoying what he describes as "a golden era".

"We have more than 60 members ranging in age from 16-year-olds to people who are retired, and the wind and brass section is particularly strong at the moment, while we have a full complement of violinists, and a waiting list of more, which is unusual," he said.

Dundee Symphony Orchestra president Ian Jarvis hopes there will be some collaboration with Nicola Benedetti, above, in the future. DSO's Facebook comment reads: "We are delighted to announce that we have appointed a new patron for Dundee Symphony Orchestra. Nicola Benedetti has kindly agreed to fill this role. We can't promise we'll be performing with her soon, but it's a privilege to have our name associated with such a talented musician. Thanks Nicky."

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#### TRANSPORT

# £3m will benefit rail passengers

An extra £3 million of funding for railways will be spent on improving passenger facilities and increasing accessibility on trains and in stations, Transport Scotland has announced. The cash was awarded by the Scottish Government earlier this month.

Transport minister Humza Yousaf said the investment will help towards "improving accessibility and passenger experience across the rail network".

Equipment will be installed on trains to help target overcrowding on trains.

#### **NORTH SEA**

# Oil spill moves off

An oil spill from a North Sea platform is heading away from land, BP says.

Its Clair platform was shut down on Sunday following the leak.

BP has not yet revealed how much fuel has escaped from the structure, which is 46 miles west of Shetland.

It has, however, confirmed oil is visible on the surface of the water and appears to be moving north.

The firm believes that allowing the oil to disperse naturally at sea is the best way to deal with the spill.

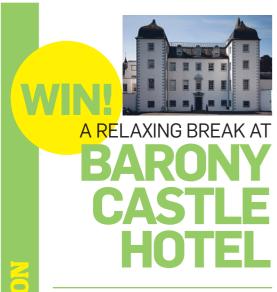
#### **AONACH MOR**

# Fall climber dies

A climber has died after falling in the Grampian mountains.

The emergency services were alerted after Kieran Shaw, 21, from Helensburgh, Argyll and Bute, fell near the east gully of Aonach Mor. The accident occurred at about

The accident occurred at about 3.30pm on Sunday. Kieran was taken to hospital but died from his injuries.



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iwo nights' accommodation in a double or twin room. Full Scottish preakfast on both mornings Dinner on the first evening - £28 per person allowance towards dinner (food only) 30% off pre-booked spa treatments - subject to availability. Stay date is valid for 6 months from when competition winner is selected. (subject to availability excluding periods of high demand and festive season)