**PRESS RELEASE**

**John Grant to perform at his festival of contemporary Nordic music as part of Hull 2017**

* Full line-up announced for ***John Grant’s North Atlantic Flux: Sounds from Smoky Bay***, taking place at the end of April
* Tickets on sale now at [www.hull2017.co.uk](http://www.hull2017.co.uk)

Musician **John Grant** has today confirmed that he will perform live at ***North Atlantic Flux: Sounds from Smoky Bay***, the four-day music festival he is curating as part of Hull UK City of Culture 2017.

Taking place over **Mayday Bank Holiday weekend** (28 April to 1 May), John Grant will play at Hull City Hall on Sunday 30 April. He joins previously announced headliners, the Icelandic dance collective **GusGus**, who are playing on Friday 28 April, and Norwegian producer **Lindstrøm**, who is appearing on Saturday 29 April. **Wrangler**, the band made up of Stephen Mallinder, Tunng's Phil Winter and producer Benge are also playing during the weekend.

Tickets are now on sale for the one-off festival, which celebrates Hull’s Nordic and international links and features musicians from Hull, the UK and overseas, including Norway, Denmark and Iceland, where John Grant lives.

Bringing some of the best in electronica, contemporary classical and experimental music, *John Grant's North Atlantic Flux: Sounds from Smoky Bay* is produced by Hull 2017 in partnership with Curated Place. Audiences can expect to catch exclusive collaborations between musicians over the four days.

Announced today, the line-up now includes experimental-Icelandic post-punk outfit **Fufanu**, whose new album *Sport* has just been released; electronic dance outfit **Sykur**; **Prins Póló**,featuring singer-songwriter and experimental artist Svavar Pétur Eysteinsson; and award-winning **Mugison**, aka Örn Elías Guõmundsson, whose music ranges from gentle pop to flamboyantly blues inspired rock.

Other performers include **Tonik Ensemble**, led by **Anton Kaldal Ágústsson**, who fuse electronica, classical stylings and analogue sounds; singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist **Sóley**; **Ragga Gisladottir** who is performing her *Dandelion Symphony*; .and award-winning **Nordic Affect**, period musicians who are creating a contemporary classical sound.

Also performing is Norwegian singer-songwriter **Susanne Sundfør**, who has worked with the likes of Röyksopp, and the artist **Nils Bech**, who straddles pop, dance and performance art and released his latest album *Echo* last October on James Murphy's influential DFA Records.

British artists include the inimitable **Steve Cobby and Russ Litten**, whose album *My People Come From The Sea* was released to acclaim last year; **Tom Kay,** who has just released his *Wither and Bloom* album; the trumpet soloist **Simon Desbruslais**; **Jez Riley French,** the sound and visual artist whose work responds to location and the environment around him; and **James Orvis**, who has worked with Hull theatre company Middle Child, was a founding members of electronica act Paris XY and is now to be heard pumping out his own brand of electronic dance at live events around the country.

Poet and writer **Adelle Stripe**, who is based in West Yorkshire is working with Icelandic composer **Halldór Smárason**, on their latest work, *Humber Star*, which responds to the tempestuous nature and savage beauty of the North Sea. This work is a lament to one of the biggest tragedies in Hull’s history, when 108 men were lost on one day. Liverpool based Norwegian musician **Kaya** will also be taking forward the musical experiments she has been developing with **Science of the Lamps**.

Meanwhile, Danish composer **Eyvind Gulbrandsen** is already working with musicians from the **Royal Northern College of Music**, creating a new musical work and performance that will be presented for the first time at the festival.

Festival events are taking place at a number of venues around the city, including **Hull City Hall**, **Jubilee Central** and **Gate Nº5** and weekend tickets are available now at £89 (£82 concessions). This covers all four days and offers entry to all venues.

**Sam Hunt, Executive Producer Hull 2017,** said: "We're thrilled to be welcoming John Grant to the city. He's put together a brilliant line-up of musicians, all coming together to create a really special festival and one you're unlikely to experience anywhere else."

**Andy Brydon, Director of Curated Place,** added: "The opportunity to work with John Grant and Hull 2017 has allowed us to create an event that takes exciting steps outside the normal constraints of the music festival, bringing together some of the best artists from the UK and the Nordic countries across a broad spectrum of genres and style. Their common ground is a shared desire to push the boundaries of music. North Atlantic Flux is shaping up to be one of the most exciting and unique events we’ve ever produced."

*John Grant’s North Atlantic Flux: Sounds from Smoky Bay* takes place from 28 April until 1 May 2017 at venues across Hull city centre.

250 early bird tickets have sold out, but tickets covering the whole weekend are now available at £89 (£82 concessions). A final batch of tickets is due to be released in March 2017, priced at £119 (£108 concessions). Ticketholders will have access to all venues hosting festival events over the four days, subject to capacity at each.

The festival is a key event in Hull 2017's second season, **Roots & Routes** (April – June), which highlights the city's links to the world and its role as a place of transmigration. Hull's international partner cities include Reykjavik in Iceland and Aarhus in Denmark.

**For more information please go to:** [**www.hull2017.co.uk/johngrant**](http://www.hull2017.co.uk/johngrant)

The best way to keep up to date with this and other Hull 2017 events and activities is to register at [www.hull2017.co.uk/signup](http://www.hull2017.co.uk/signup).

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**Image Download** [**Here**](http://www.thecornershoppr.com/downloads)

**Username: johngrant Password: northatlanticflux**

For further media information, photos, interviews and press ticket enquiries about the event please contact –

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**GENERAL FESTIVAL INFORMATION**

(subject to change)

**DATES:** Friday 28 April – Monday 1 May 2017

**VENUES:** Hull City Hall, Queen Victoria Square, Carr Lane, Hull HU1 3RQ

Gate Nº5, Wincolmlee, Hull, HU2 0PZ

Jubilee Central, 62 King Edward St, Hull HU1 3SQ

**ARTISTS**

**John Grant**

John Grantis an American singer-songwriter. He began his career with Denver-based alternative rock band The Czars before launching his solo career in 2010. His first solo album was named Best Album by Mojo magazine in 2010. *Pale Green Ghosts* won Rough Trade Record’s Album of the Year in 2013. His third studio album *Grey Tickles, Black Pressure,* released in 2015,featured artists including Tracey Thorn of Everything but the Girl and Amanda Palmer and received critical acclaim. Recently, he has co-written and featured in the track *I Don’t Want to Hurt You* from the November 2016 Robbie Williams album *Heavy Entertainment Show.* He was nominated for a Best International Male Solo Artist award at the 2014 BRITS alongside Eminem, Justin Timberlake, Bruno Mars and Drake. He has toured worldwide and performed on BBC’s *Later with Jools Holland.* Currently, Grant lives and works on his music in Reykjavík, Iceland.

**GusGus**

GusGus was initially formed in 1995 as a film/music collective. This spawned a short film and a critically acclaimed bestselling album in Iceland. After striking a deal with 4AD in 1996 they became one of the most sought after electronic music acts out of Iceland. With the release of Polydistortion (4AD/Warner) in 1997, GusGus solidified their worldwide status to sold-out shows all over the world. GusGus has had a span of nearly two decades in which they have done nearly every style of electronic influenced music. From techno to trip-hop, from house to progressive house/trance to pop, this collective has made each style their own.

The current line up consists of founding members: Biggi Veira and Daníel Ágúst along with Icelandic indie prodigy Högni Egilsson (also a member of indie band Hjaltalín).

**Lindstrøm**

Raised on country and western music in the outskirts of the Norwegian oil town Stavanger, Hans-Peter Lindstrøm now lives in Oslo where he is making contemporary disco and running his Feedelity label. Claiming that "Hans-Peter Lindstrom is closing in on Henrik Ibsen and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer as being Norway's poster boy of choice" (quoting an article on Piccadilly Records website) is obviously quite an overstatement, but nonetheless his original approach to dance music is currently causing quite a stir.

**Wrangler**

Over the last three years **Wrangler** have toured the UK, Europe and Japan and played at the Royal Albert Hall as special guests of John Grant last June. They also joined forces with the US singer at an October 2016 show in the Barbican, London, where Grant and Wrangler played a unique new collaborative set as part of Rough Trade's 40th anniversary celebrations.

Thesupergroup formed on the fringes of electronic and feature Cabaret Voltaire's Stephen Mallinder, Tunng’s Phil Winter, and producer plus frequent John Foxx collaborator Benge. The project was announced in late 2013 with a simple “Hello” posted to Wrangler’s website, then in early 2014, the group entered Benge’s London-based studio Memetune. That same year, the group’s debut effort, LA Spark, was released on the Memetune label.

**Susanne Sundfør**

Norwegian singer/songwriter Susanne has been prominent in the Norwegian music scene since 2005. Having collaborated with Röyksopp, M83, Madrugada, Jaga Jazzist and Christian Wallumerød, her works have topped the Norwegian charts and won her a Spellemanprisen (Norwegian Grammy).

**Sóley**

Sóley is an Icelandic singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. Also a member of indie acts Sin Fang and Seabear, Sóley Stefánsdottir performs delicate electronic pop as a solo artist inspired by Scandinavian acts such as Sigur Rós and Múm.

**Steve Cobby & Russ Litten**

The legendary producer Steve Cobby and formidable author Russ Litten have teamed up combining Litten’s spoken words weaving intricate stories into Cobby's world of mechanical sound. It is music from another dimension, and it is also multidimensional.

**Sykur**

Consisting of Icelanders Agnes, Halldór, Stefán and Kristján, Sykur (translation: Sugar) began in 2009 and quickly established a reputation for packing out parties with girls and boys looking for good times. The band released their first album, Frábært eða Frábært in October 2009 to much critical acclaim and commercial success. They’ve shared stages with international acts such as Mt. Eden, Peaches, Familjen, Casiokids, Juvelen, Kleerup and Junior Boys.

**Fufanu**

Widely acclaimed experimental-post-punk outfit Fufanu started out in Reykjavik as Captain Fufanu, making obscure techno music and bewildering audiences.

Launching themselves as Fufanu at 2014’s Iceland Airwaves they became a hotly-tipped emerging band, made their UK live debut at the capital’s JaJaJa night and supported Damon Albarn at the Albert Hall - winning the approval of Brian Eno into the bargain. The band were praised by the press, who compared them to Neu!, Joy Division and Bauhaus. In 2015 they signed to On Little Indian records.

**Prins Póló**

Svavar Pétur Eysteinsson is an Icelandic singer songwriter and experimental artist and founder of alternative rock band Skakkamanage. As one of Iceland’s most quirkily unique artists Svavar performs solo as Prins Póló with charismatic and theatrical live performances.

**Mugison**

Iceland’s Mugison (aka Örn Elías Guõmundsson) makes music that ranges from gentle laptop pop to heavy, flamboyant rock. Mugison began recording songs on his laptop in 2001 and after moving to London, he created the glitch-pop songs that become 2003’s Lonely Mountain, which was released on Matthew Herbert’s Accidental label. He has supported Super Furry Animals, Fantômas and Ghostdigital.

**James Orvis**

James is one of the two founding members of electronica act Paris XY. James’ new musical engagement bears more emphasis on the live and energetic aspects of electronic music. Combining the core driving elements of House and Techno with the complex organic atmospheres and euphoric melodic arrangements that were prominent in his previous works.

**Nils Bech**

Signed to DFA Records, Nils Bech is a Norwegian singer and performance artist who explores the tensions between art and dance, contemporary music and pop music.

A busy stage actor and singer already well known in his native Norway for three albums released on Oslo’s Fysisk Format. The keys to the sea change lie with Bech’s new collaborator, the young underground DJ, producer and beatmaker Drippin, known for his work with American rap artists such as LE1F and Cakes Da Killa. As a result, where his previous work was strange, ethereal and otherworldly – completely and utterly unique – Echo throbs with a renewed sense of vigour and urgency, without losing any of the idiosyncratic beauty which marked Bech’s work out before.

**Jez Riley French**

Using intuitive composition, field recording, improvisation and photography, Jez has been exploring his enjoyment of and interest in detail, simplicity and his emotive response to places and situations for over 3 decades.

Alongside performances, exhibitions, installations, he lectures and runs workshops around the world on field recording and the act and art of listening. He also curates the ‘engraved glass’ label and the ‘a quiet position’ series of online releases / forums exploring the broad ideas surrounding field recording as a primary art of sound / sound art.

Recent work includes commissions for Tate Modern (UK), Artisphere (USA) and for organisations in Italy, Iceland, Japan, Spain and the UK. A section of his piece for Tate Modern was also chosen to be part of the ‘500 years of British Art’ series at Tate Britain.

**Tonik Ensemble**

Tonik Ensemble is an electronic act led by Anton Kaldal Ágústsson. Blurring the gap between sound and sight, colour has a strong influence on the end result, exploring the various ends of the electronic spectrum while maintaining a strong signature sound: rich and stripped bare, minimalist and intricate, finely crafted and yet very instinctive.

**Adelle Stripe & Halldór Smárson**

The latest work by poet Adelle Stripe and composer Halldór Smárason is ‘The Humber Star’ which is part of a body of work that responds to the tempestuous nature and savage beauty of the North Sea. It is set in the winter months following one of the biggest maritime tragedies in Hull’s history, where 108 men were lost on one day.

**Sweaty Records**

Sweaty Records is an electronic record label from Reykjavik and Berlin. Three of their acts Kosmodod, Volruptus and ThizOne will perform exclusively for one of the exciting North Atlantic Flux after-parties.

**Science of the Lamps**

Quite appropriately ‘The Science of the Lamps’ was discovered by Kaya in an off the beaten track restaurant in the fairy-tale darkness of the city of Prague in December 2010, she just didn’t know what it was yet. Since then, the experiment has gradually been hypothesized and carried out in uncontrolled environments in collaboration with Liverpool & international talent such as, Grethe Borsum, Luke Moore, Mark Brockelsby, Grammy Award winner Greta Svabo Bech and many others.

**Tom Kaye**

Tom blends ambient electronic landscapes with honest singer-songwriting to create a distinctive sound that has led him to share the stage with Gill Landry (Old Crow Medicine Show), Simon McBride, Tony Moore (Cutting Crew), The Dunwells and The Shires. His latest album 'Wither & Bloom' is a collaboration with producers Pat Dooner and Carl Conway-Davis (The Broken Orchestra)

**Nordic Affect**

Nordic Affect have been hailed for their “affectionate explorations” (BBC Music Magazine) and “commitment to their repertoire” (Classical Music). Recently described as a “gem in Iceland’s musical life” by critic Jónas Sen, Nordic Affect have created a highly unique voice, which has earned them international recognition. In 2014 they were nominated for the Nordic Council Music Prize and in the same year they were named Performer of the Year at the Iceland Music Awards.

Nordic Affect was formed by a group of period instrument musicians who were united in their passion for viewing familiar musical forms from a different perspective and for daring to venture into new musical terrain.

Ragga Gisladottir

*The Dandelion Symphony* is a piece of music consisting of four movements. A new poem written by Kristín Ómarsdóttir about the plant, is performed by singers accompanied by musicians.

**Simon Desbruslais**

Simon Desbruslais is a British trumpet soloist, whose performances have been critically acclaimed as ‘steel-lipped’, ‘musically compelling’ and possessing ‘supreme confidence and flair’. He came to international prominence with the first ever recording of Hertel’s Third Trumpet Concerto on the natural trumpet. This was followed by new trumpet concertos from John McCabe, Robert Saxton and Deborah Pritchard, all recorded for Signum Classics, and David Bednall’s ground-breaking Christmas Cantata, for solo trumpet, choir and organ. Simon has given live broadcasts and recordings of contemporary British music for BBC 1 Television and BBC Radio 4 to millions of viewers worldwide.

**Eyvind Gulbrandsen and The RNCM**

Starting from January over the course of four months, composer Eyvind Gulbrandsen will work closely with RNCM musicians to develop both a new musical work and performance for North Atlantic Flux at Hull2017 – UK City of Culture.

Through a series of workshops a new piece will emerge as a result of a close collaboration between the Aarhus based composer and the musicians involved. His main inspiration is the people he works with, the raw material for each piece being stories, objects or melodies regarding a certain topic or theme. Whichever route he explores his inspiration is most often the collected narratives of musicians’ lives seeing his pieces often being presented as a combination of a concert, intervention and installation; more an event, or happening, than a conventional performance.

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**About Hull UK City of Culture 2017**

Hull secured the title of UK City of Culture 2017 in November 2013. It is only the second city to hold the title and the first in England. The vision of the Hull 2017 Culture Company, the delivery organisation of the project, is “to deliver 365 days of transformative culture in 2017 through a range of diverse and high-profile events and projects”.

The Culture Company is an independent organisation with charitable status, funded both publicly and privately. It has raised £32 million to deliver the programme, with key contributions coming from: Host City – Hull City Council; Principal Partners - Arts Council England, BBC, Big Lottery Fund, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, KCOM, KWL, Spirit of 2012, Yorkshire Water and the University of Hull; Major Partners –Associated British Ports, Arco, BP, the British Council, Hull Clinical Commissioning Group, MKM Building Supplies, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Sewell Group, Smith & Nephew and Wykeland Group.

Hull 2017’s International Partners are: Aarhus, Denmark, which is European Capital of Culture 2017; Reykjavik, Iceland; Rotterdam, The Netherlands; and Freetown, Sierra Leone (twinned with Hull).

[www.hull2017.co.uk](http://www.hull2017.co.uk)

**Curated Place** is an arts-led production company with bases in Manchester, Edinburgh and Reykjavik working internationally to deliver events, festivals and residencies that create and showcase international quality music and artwork.

At the heart of the business is an ethos of calculated risk, innovation and collaboration. Curated Place establishes new artistic channels in and out of the UK, connecting partners in Scandinavia, Europe, and Asia, developing and delivering pilot projects that have the capability of being rapidly rolled out to scale.

They are the founders and driving force behind the EU spanning Moving Classics European Network for New Music, the ENLIGHT Light Art Expression Network, and curate and direct Aberdeen’s SPECTRA Festival - recent winner of the 2016 Scottish Festival of the Year Award at the Scottish Event awards.

More information can be found at [www.curatedplace.com](http://www.curatedplace.com)