



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

## *News Release*

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### **Concert hall steps back in time for one last dance...1940s style**

Swing dancers, jazz musicians and vintage hairstyles are set to transform the University of Edinburgh's St Cecilia's Hall into its 1940s ballroom setting as part of a three-day series of events this May (16-18).

The building – Scotland's oldest purpose-build concert hall – will once again become the Excelsior Ballroom for One Last Dance, an evening of dancing and live music from the University of Edinburgh's Jazz Orchestra.

The weekend extravaganza – part of the Festival of Museums – will also include a variety of creative workshops exploring fashion at the time, the era's scientific and cultural developments and 1940s-inspired entertainment.

Event organisers are also inviting anyone who remembers dancing at the Excelsior to share their memories at a drop-in session on 17 April from 10am-2pm. Their accounts will be recorded to ensure this aspect of the building's history is not lost.

Stories and pictures gathered from this memory project may also be used for an exhibition which will be on show throughout the weekend.

Other events include a 1940s jewellery making class, a make do and mend dress-making workshop, a vintage hair and make-up session and a swing dance class from the University of Edinburgh swing society.

Edinburgh's medical history, the growth of popular printing and the birth of the electric guitar will also be explored in talks and there will also be a family tea party with wartime children's games and toy making sessions.

Event organiser Sarah Deters said: "St Cecilia's Hall has taken many forms over the past 250 years, and we are incredibly excited to discover and share this part of its story. The building is due to close for redevelopment this summer, so these events offer people the chance to visit St Cecilia's Hall and learn a little about the history of that time, while having a lot of fun."

Further information and event details can be found here:

<http://onelastdancefom.wordpress.com/>

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