

Are you enjoying Scotland Day in Qatar?

“Scotland Day has been fantastic, I’ve been overwhelmed by the response from everyone. From the David Batchelor exhibition this afternoon to this evening’s performance Scotland Day in Qatar is looking stronger than ever.

It’s good to see that Scotland day has been given its own space as the finale of the British Festival. I would say that the best has been kept for last but then again I am biased. Scotland Day is a wonderful opportunity to show Qatar as little bit of Scottish hospitality and I’m delighted to be here and lend my support in any way I can.”



Are you looking forward to seeing Scottish and Qatari artists perform together? In your opinion, what role can music play in cultural relations?

“It’s always interesting to catch something new and seeing the Breabach team up with local Qatari musician Mohamed Al-Saegh is going to be unique. Scottish artists are always experimenting with musical influences, both modern and old. I think it’s down to Scotland’s musical tradition and welcoming nature.

“I’m sure Breabach and Mohamed will learn something new from each other, who knows where it might lead.”

“At the heart of cultural relations is the idea that we are here to learn from each other and find ways to work together. Music is supposed to be shared, it brings people together and teaches something about the culture and the soul of nation. Music can be found in all cultures and I think it’s an important part of diplomacy”

This is not your first time in Qatar or your first time working with the British Council. What in your opinion, are the some of the British Council’s strengths?



“The team at the British Council have surpassed all of my and the team at the Scottish Government’s expectations. Every time I am in Qatar (or indeed any other foreign territory) we rely on the British Council for their local insight and contacts. They can make things happen at such short notice and are passionate about promoting the strengths of Great Britain and all the home nations. They understand the character of Scotland and why it is such a great country to come to visit, live, work, invest and study in.”

Where do you hope to see 'Scotland Day' and your relationship with the British Council going in the future?

"This was my second Scotland Day, I was here two years ago to see the inaugural event and I am so impressed by how the event has grown and been shaped not just through the enthusiasm of Scottish diaspora but how it has engaged with local people as well. I hope the British Council keeps up the good work to showcase Scottish traditions and the contemporary side of Scotland to more and more people."

"I look forward to working with the British Council again, I've had some excellent discussions while in Qatar and as always the Scottish Government is here to help the British Council in any way we can."

