



ADELE NAMED THE UK'S OFFICIAL BEST-SELLING FEMALE ALBUM ARTIST OF THE CENTURY

AS NATIONAL ALBUM DAY ANNOUNCES ITS 2021 THEME: "CELEBRATING WOMEN IN MUSIC"

NATIONAL ALBUM DAY 2021 – SATURDAY 16TH OCTOBER

Monday 8th March 2021 – **National Album Day** will return for its fourth edition on **Saturday, 16th October** and this year will take as its theme ***Celebrating Women in Music***, shining a light on the huge contribution made by women and female-identifying artists to our music and culture through the art form of the album.

To coincide with the announcement, National Album Day today also reveals the Top Ten women album artists since the start of 2000 according to *Official Charts Company* data, with **Adele** named the best-selling women album artist of the century. The list also features such icons as **Amy Winehouse, Kylie, Madonna** and **Britney Spears**.

Between them the Top Ten artists have sold in excess of **72 million albums** (including streamed album equivalents), with three of the artists British – **Adele, Dido** and **Amy Winehouse**.

The Official Charts data also reveal the Top Ten albums by women over this period, with Adele featuring no less than three times. Each of her seminal albums has been *BRIT Certified* at least 8x Platinum in the UK, with 2011's *21* shifting just shy of 6 million copies in the UK alone. The most successful album of this period was Adele's *21*, followed by Amy Winehouse's *Back To Black* (marking its 15th anniversary in October) and fellow Brit Leona Lewis' *Spirit* was the fourth best-selling album.

This year's ***Celebrating Women in Music*** themed **National Album Day** creates the perfect opportunity to revisit iconic and influential albums by best-selling women and female-identified artists; from the unique, diverse and contemporary acts of the present day and throughout the history of recorded music, spanning all genres and decades. It will also point to the exciting women artists of tomorrow, and highlight the role of women within the wider music community, including songwriters and producers, as well as featured artists and performers.

Geoff Taylor, Chief Executive BPI, and Kim Bayley, Chief Executive Entertainment Retailers Association, the organisations behind National Album Day, said jointly:

“We are delighted that National Album Day is returning for a fourth edition, shining a light this year on the tremendous contribution women make to music through the album format, supported by our official partners Bowers & Wilkins and BBC Sounds.

“While the ways in which fans enjoy music constantly evolve, the album remains central to artists’ self-expression and to fans’ understanding of what an artist has to say. National Album Day is an opportunity for artists and fans alike to celebrate this much loved artform and remind ourselves of its continuing power to tell stories, influence and inspire.”

Top 10 Women Album Artists: 2000-2021 (up to week 6) Based on Official Charts Company data.

1. Adele
2. P!nk
3. Madonna
4. Rihanna
5. Dido
6. Amy Winehouse
7. Kylie Minogue
8. Beyoncé
9. Britney Spears
10. Lady Gaga

Top 10 albums by women artists: 2000-2021 (up to week 6) Based on Official Charts Company data.

1. Adele ‘21’
2. Amy Winehouse ‘Back To Black’
3. Adele ‘25’
4. Leona Lewis ‘Spirit’
5. Lady Gaga ‘Fame’
6. Dido ‘No Angel’
7. Dido ‘Life For Rent’
8. Norah Jones ‘Come Away With Me’
9. Adele ‘19’
10. Emeli Sandé ‘Our Version Of Events’

National Album Day is organised jointly by the **BPI** – the UK independent and major labels association (The BRIT Awards and Mercury Prize) – and the **Entertainment Retailers Association** (Record Store Day). Presented in partnership with official audio partner **Bowers & Wilkins**, the event is supported across broadcast partner the **BBC** with highlights available to listen to on **BBC Sounds**, along with the UK’s recorded music community including **AIM** and other trade associations, retailers and digital/streaming services, and album platforms such as **Classic Album Sundays** and **The Record Club**.

Renowned audio brand, Bowers & Wilkins, continues its support for National Album Day as official audio partner. Built on a passion for music, Bowers & Wilkins has been on an unrelenting pursuit of the highest quality listening experiences for music fans for over 60 years, always delivering sound that remains true to how the artist intended their album to be heard.

Giles Pocock, Vice-President, Brand Marketing, Bowers & Wilkins said: *“We’re proud to continue our support for National Album Day, whilst reaffirming our commitment to celebrating the art and craftsmanship of the album format. This year’s theme is particularly pertinent, shining a light on the contribution and exceptional talent of women involved in the creation of music in all its forms.”*

Based on **Official Charts Company** data, 155.4 million albums or their equivalent were purchased, downloaded or streamed in 2020 – up 8.2% on the previous year. Even during the first six months of a Covid-hit 2020, album equivalent sales rose by 6.8%. The album format does particularly well on vinyl, with around 5 million LPs purchased in 2020 – marking 13 years of consecutive growth – and even the humble cassette is now finding favour again, with over 150,000 sold in 2020, the highest level since 2003.

Since its launch in 2018, National Album Day has been supported by a diverse range of artists and musicians including **Lewis Capaldi, Mark Ronson, La Roux, Elbow, Paloma Faith, Blossoms, Kim & Marty Wilde, Billy Ocean, Alice Cooper, Novelist, Tom Odell, Mahalia, Toyah Willcox, Jazzie B** and **Orbital** among many others, and has hosted a variety of events and activities including Classic Album Sunday and Tape Notes events, in-store artist appearances, record store promotions, and two Network Rail exhibitions in major cities across the UK.

Further announcements will be made periodically, including details of the artist ambassadors who will be supporting National Album Day this year, and the product titles that will be realised to coincide with the event.

Keep track of the [National Album Day](#) website for more news and how to get involved over the coming months.

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Notes to Editors

About National Album Day - www.nationalalbumday.co.uk

Following its launch in 2018 and a successful event last year that celebrating the albums of the 1980s, National Album Day is set to return for its fourth annual edition on Saturday, 16th October. Organised jointly by UK independent and major record labels association, the BPI, and ERA (Entertainment Retailers Association), representing the nation's music retailers and digital/streaming platforms, and with the active participation of AIM (Association of Independent Music), National Album Day has the backing and input of the wider music community. The annual event is presented in partnership with official audio partner Bowers & Wilkins and official broadcast partner BBC Sounds.

This year taking 'Celebrating Women in Music' as its inspiration, following the themes of the 1980s and 'Don't Skip' in previous years, the music and artist community will come together with the support of album platforms such as Classic Album Sundays and The Record Club for a series of events and activities in the lead up to 16th October that will celebrate the UK's love of the album and the craft that goes into making this culturally significant body of work.