# Elio Pace to honour Billy Joel’s legacy with UK tour amid the singer’s health battle



Elio Pace, a seasoned musician, is gearing up for a UK tour celebrating the legacy of the legendary singer-songwriter Billy Joel through "The Billy Joel Songbook," a show that has been over a decade in the making. Pace credits Joel's music with shaping his entire career, saying that it taught him not only how to play piano and sing but also how to connect with an audience. The upcoming tour includes dates in Yorkshire at venues such as York Barbican and St George's Hall in Bradford, spanning October 2025 and continuing into early 2026.

Pace's commitment to celebrating Joel's work comes amidst difficult news: the iconic musician's recent diagnosis with normal pressure hydrocephalus (NPH), a brain condition that affects hearing, vision, balance, and can lead to neurological symptoms. This diagnosis forced Joel to cancel all his scheduled concerts, disappointing fans worldwide and causing significant disruption to public appearances. Joel, aged 76, is currently undergoing physical therapy and has been advised by doctors to refrain from performing during his recovery. He expressed regret over disappointing his audience but showed gratitude for their understanding and support.

The news of Joel's condition hit Pace hard, describing it as "so, so sad" to hear that his musical hero was facing such a serious brain disorder. Despite initial uncertainty about how to respond, Pace found reassurance in the outpouring of support from fans, both online and in person at his own shows. He emphasises that the purpose of his upcoming tour is to celebrate Joel's artistry and body of work, suggesting that this kind of tribute has never been more important. He insists that The Billy Joel Songbook is not a traditional tribute act but a heartfelt celebration presented in his own style, dedicated to honouring the music and legacy of one of the greatest singer-songwriters of all time.

Since starting the show in 2013, Pace has carefully curated a setlist that respects the original spirit of Joel's music while now refreshing it with new arrangements and song choices, continuing to evolve the concert experience. The tour also seeks to shine a light on some lesser-known Joel classics that audiences may have forgotten or not realised were his compositions. Pace passionately advocates for Joel's recognition, underscoring the increasing popularity of the artist's music in the UK over the past decade and the importance of keeping this musical heritage alive.

Medical experts and advocacy groups have highlighted the significance of Joel’s openness about his NPH diagnosis. Normal pressure hydrocephalus is frequently underdiagnosed, especially in older adults, and can mimic symptoms of dementia. The Hydrocephalus Association applauds Joel for raising awareness of the condition, emphasising the need for early detection and intervention to improve patient outcomes. Joel's public revelation has brought attention to the often-overlooked impacts of the disorder and inspired conversations about brain health.

Billy Joel himself has spoken candidly about his condition, describing the challenges with balance and cognition, likening his balance problems to feeling as though he is on a boat. Though the cause of the disorder remains unclear, Joel says he feels generally well and is focused on treatment. While he has not given a timeline for his return to live performance, the musician remains optimistic about future possibilities, even hinting at potential new songwriting collaborations.

For Elio Pace, the power of music transcends these health challenges. He firmly believes in music as a form of medicine and healing, and through his performances, he aims to keep the spirit of Billy Joel’s work thriving. As the tour approaches, Pace is honoured to be the custodian of this revered songbook, ensuring that fans old and new can continue to experience the magic of Billy Joel’s music, especially at a time when the artist himself is unable to take the stage.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/arts-and-culture/elio-pace-celebrates-billy-joels-legacy-ahead-of-yorkshire-tour-dates-his-music-changed-my-career-and-my-life-5259811), [[2]](https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/arts-and-culture/elio-pace-celebrates-billy-joels-legacy-ahead-of-yorkshire-tour-dates-his-music-changed-my-career-and-my-life-5259811)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/billy-joel-cancels-concerts-after-brain-disorder-diagnosis-2025-05-23/), [[4]](https://www.npr.org/2025/05/24/nx-s1-5410463/billy-joel-cancels-tour-dates-after-diagnosis-what-to-know-about-the-brain-condition), [[7]](https://www.forbes.com/sites/antoniopequenoiv/2025/05/23/billy-joel-cancels-all-scheduled-concerts-over-brain-condition-diagnosis/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/arts-and-culture/elio-pace-celebrates-billy-joels-legacy-ahead-of-yorkshire-tour-dates-his-music-changed-my-career-and-my-life-5259811), [[2]](https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/arts-and-culture/elio-pace-celebrates-billy-joels-legacy-ahead-of-yorkshire-tour-dates-his-music-changed-my-career-and-my-life-5259811), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/billy-joel-cancels-concerts-after-brain-disorder-diagnosis-2025-05-23/), [[7]](https://www.forbes.com/sites/antoniopequenoiv/2025/05/23/billy-joel-cancels-all-scheduled-concerts-over-brain-condition-diagnosis/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/arts-and-culture/elio-pace-celebrates-billy-joels-legacy-ahead-of-yorkshire-tour-dates-his-music-changed-my-career-and-my-life-5259811)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/arts-and-culture/elio-pace-celebrates-billy-joels-legacy-ahead-of-yorkshire-tour-dates-his-music-changed-my-career-and-my-life-5259811)
* Paragraph 6 – [[6]](https://www.hydroassoc.org/billy-joels-diagnosis-nph/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[5]](https://www.aarp.org/entertainment/celebrities/billy-joel-discusses-his-brain-disorder.html)
* Paragraph 8 – [[1]](https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/arts-and-culture/elio-pace-celebrates-billy-joels-legacy-ahead-of-yorkshire-tour-dates-his-music-changed-my-career-and-my-life-5259811), [[2]](https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/arts-and-culture/elio-pace-celebrates-billy-joels-legacy-ahead-of-yorkshire-tour-dates-his-music-changed-my-career-and-my-life-5259811)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/arts-and-culture/elio-pace-celebrates-billy-joels-legacy-ahead-of-yorkshire-tour-dates-his-music-changed-my-career-and-my-life-5259811> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/arts-and-culture/elio-pace-celebrates-billy-joels-legacy-ahead-of-yorkshire-tour-dates-his-music-changed-my-career-and-my-life-5259811> - Elio Pace, a musician and long-time admirer of Billy Joel, reflects on how Joel's music has profoundly influenced his career and life. He discusses the upcoming 'The Billy Joel Songbook' tour, which includes performances in York and Bradford in October 2025. Pace shares his initial shock upon learning of Joel's diagnosis with Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus, a condition affecting the brain, and expresses his commitment to celebrating Joel's music through the tour. He emphasises the importance of music as a form of healing and personal expression.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/billy-joel-cancels-concerts-after-brain-disorder-diagnosis-2025-05-23/> - Billy Joel, the renowned 76-year-old singer-songwriter, announced the cancellation of all his upcoming concerts following a diagnosis of normal pressure hydrocephalus, a brain disorder. The condition, which leads to fluid buildup in the brain, has caused issues with hearing, vision, and balance. Joel is undergoing physical therapy and has been advised to refrain from performing during his recovery. He expressed regret over disappointing fans and conveyed gratitude for their understanding. The tour, initially scheduled to begin in February, had already been postponed to July due to undisclosed medical issues.
4. <https://www.npr.org/2025/05/24/nx-s1-5410463/billy-joel-cancels-tour-dates-after-diagnosis-what-to-know-about-the-brain-condition> - Billy Joel, the celebrated musician, has cancelled his summer tour dates after being diagnosed with normal pressure hydrocephalus, a brain condition that affects hearing, vision, and balance. The condition is treatable but often underdiagnosed. Joel is undergoing physical therapy and has been advised to refrain from performing during his recovery. He expressed gratitude for the support from fans and looks forward to returning to the stage in the future. The announcement has raised awareness about normal pressure hydrocephalus and its impact on individuals.
5. <https://www.aarp.org/entertainment/celebrities/billy-joel-discusses-his-brain-disorder.html> - In a recent interview, Billy Joel, 76, discussed his diagnosis of normal pressure hydrocephalus, a brain disorder that affects balance, cognition, and memory. He compared the sensation to being on a boat, describing his balance as 'sucks.' Despite the diagnosis, Joel expressed that he feels generally well and is undergoing treatment. He dismissed alcohol as a potential cause, despite his past drinking habits, and mentioned that doctors have not yet determined the origin of the condition. Joel gave no timeline for resuming live performances but shared insights about potentially collaborating with a songwriting partner.
6. <https://www.hydroassoc.org/billy-joels-diagnosis-nph/> - The Hydrocephalus Association has acknowledged Billy Joel's diagnosis of normal pressure hydrocephalus (NPH), a condition involving fluid buildup in the brain. The association highlights that NPH is often underdiagnosed, especially in older adults, and can lead to symptoms similar to dementia. They commend Joel for bringing attention to the condition and emphasise the importance of early detection and intervention. The association wishes Joel a full and swift recovery and looks forward to his return to the stage.
7. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/antoniopequenoiv/2025/05/23/billy-joel-cancels-all-scheduled-concerts-over-brain-condition-diagnosis/> - Billy Joel has cancelled all his scheduled concerts after being diagnosed with normal pressure hydrocephalus, a brain condition that impacts hearing, vision, and balance. The 76-year-old singer expressed regret over disappointing fans and conveyed gratitude for their understanding. He is undergoing physical therapy and has been advised to refrain from performing during his recovery. The announcement has raised awareness about normal pressure hydrocephalus and its impact on individuals, especially older adults.