# Co-op Live Arena Opens to Elbow Performance Amid Structural Delays



### Co-op Live Arena Opens with Elbow Performance After Multiple Delays

The £365 million Co-op Live arena in Manchester officially opened on May 14, 2024, with a performance by the rock band Elbow. This follows a series of delays related to structural issues that caused the cancellation of previous shows.

The arena, now touted as the largest in the UK, faced significant challenges, including parts of its ventilation system falling from the ceiling during tests and soundchecks. These issues initially surfaced during a Rick Astley test event in April and affected scheduled performances by artists such as Peter Kay, Olivia Rodrigo, A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie, and Keane.

Elbow's concert marks the successful launch of the venue after extensive inspections and repairs. Tim Leiweke, CEO of Oak View Group, which operates the venue, expressed confidence in the safety of the arena, describing it as "the safest building in the world."

Fans, despite being apprehensive, remained hopeful. As early ticket holders including John Thomson and Neville Lawson attended the event, they shared mixed feelings of excitement and concern over the venue's previous issues.

Upcoming performances at the Co-op Live include rescheduled dates for Peter Kay and The Black Keys, as well as a headline show by Travis Scott on July 13, 2024. The arena is a joint venture between Oak View Group and City Football Group, with involvement from several high-profile investors including musician Harry Styles.