

Celtic CONNECTIONS 2012

Sponsored by



CELTIC CONNECTIONS HOSTS SCHOOLS CONCERTS, WORKSHOPS & COMMUNITY CONCERTS

"It is a wonderful opportunity for children to participate in this international festival. It is important that children experience a wide variety of different kinds of music and instrumentation as part of their music and social education.

The Celtic Connections Education Programme provides an excellent context to develop these aspects of a child's education and gives opportunity for new experiences which children may not otherwise have outside of school." **Class teacher, St Stephen's Primary School**

Up to **10,000** children will enjoy **5** free schools concerts at Celtic Connections this year, with a further **1,500** children benefiting from **35** free in-school workshops thanks to the festival's hugely successful **Education Programme**.

Celtic Connections 2012 will host 5 free concerts for schools and home educators at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall featuring acts performing at the festival. For many of the children in attendance, this will be their first experience of live music. Although the 2012 festival's schools concert programme is still to be announced, pupils can look forward to seeing highly acclaimed festival artists, with previous year's school concert line-up featuring Bobby McFerrin, Naturally 7 and Treacherous Orchestra amongst others.

Crowned Best Educational Event at the 2011 Scottish Event Awards, the Celtic Connections Education programme has reached over **180,000** children from all over Scotland (including pupils from over 80% of schools in Glasgow and children taught by home educators) since it began in 1998. Participants attend free workshops, concerts and other events in an initiative designed to celebrate and build their awareness of their cultural heritage.

Professional Celtic musicians will also give free **workshops** in Glasgow schools. These workshops provide children with a vital opportunity to become actively involved with traditional Scottish music. Delivered free of charge, they are completely inclusive, involving young people with special needs and those who have English as a second language. The festival will also host workshops in Scots and Gaelic song for Primary 3 pupils, some of whom will perform on stage at an education concert in January.

Celtic Connections is delighted to once again work in collaboration with principal sponsor **ScottishPower** to host the third **ScottishPower Powerful Performance** competition. ScottishPower's unique competition complements the festival's Education Programme by encouraging secondary school pupils across Scotland to celebrate their musical heritage by competing to perform at the festival. The winner will perform on the festival's Main Stage in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall as part of a **Celtic Connections Education Concert**, and will also win a slot to perform on the prestigious and highly competitive **Danny Kyle Open Stage**.

Celtic Connections is strongly committed to encouraging children to enjoy Scottish culture, but without the support of funders the festival would not be able to create so many vital opportunities for thousands of school children across Scotland. The education programme is supported by **Creative Scotland** and **Friends of Celtic Connections**.

ENDS

If you would like to review a schools concert, or would like further information on our Education Programme please contact:

Celtic Connections Press Office

Tel: 0141 353 8070

www.celticconnections.com/media

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