

# Celtic CONNECTIONS 2012

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## YOUNG MUSICIANS TO PUT ON A POWERFUL PERFORMANCE

Young musicians from across Scotland are being presented with an exciting opportunity this year to perform live on stage at the 2012 Celtic Connections festival.

For the third year running, festival sponsor **ScottishPower** is holding its **Powerful Performance** contest – an initiative to encourage youngsters to celebrate their traditional musical heritage.

Groups of S1 - S6 pupils across the country have been invited to submit a short recording of traditional music using instruments, vocals, or a mixture of both. The closing date for entries is Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October, before an expert panel judges the entries and decides on a winner.

Over the past two years, the contest has proved to be extremely popular, with talented youngsters from all over the country taking part.

**Ann Loughrey, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at ScottishPower** said: "This is our sixth year as Principal Sponsor of Celtic Connections and the third year we have offered secondary school pupils throughout Scotland the opportunity to participate in this celebration of Celtic music. Not only will the ScottishPower Powerful Performance winners have the privilege of performing at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall as part of the final Education Concert of the festival, they will also get the chance to play on the Danny Kyle Open stage.

"The 2011 winners of Powerful Performance, Montrose Academy, were an excellent addition to last year's celebrations and we anticipate another great competition this year."

**Donald Shaw, Celtic Connections Artistic Director**, said:

"Celtic Connections is dedicated to offering school pupils across Scotland the opportunity to experience and enjoy Scottish cultural heritage. The ScottishPower Powerful Performance complements our education work perfectly, and we have been proud to feature the winners as part of the festival over the past two years. We're delighted that ScottishPower are continuing to support the festival in 2012 and very much look forward to hosting the Powerful Performance once again."

ENDS

**For further information on the ScottishPower Powerful Performance please contact:**

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**Notes to editors:**

ScottishPower became Principal Sponsor of Celtic Connections in 2007. Through the sponsorship, the company encourages its staff and the communities it works within to experience and enjoy the arts. ScottishPower's partnerships reflect the company's belief in the importance of enabling culture to be accessible for all. For background on ScottishPower log onto [www.scottishpower.com](http://www.scottishpower.com)

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