



Thursday 14 to Sunday 31 January 2016

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Education at Celtic Connections 2016

Up to **11,400 children** will take part in **Celtic Connections Education Programme for schools** during the 2016 festival.

Through free schools concerts at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall which see thousands of children attend free morning concerts, experiencing live music from Scotland and further afield, and an outreach programme where professional musicians give free workshops in schools throughout Glasgow, the programme aims to educate and enhance the lives of children.

A range of **more than 60 public workshops** open to all ages and abilities and running over the course of the festival will also take place.

At Celtic Connections 2016 there will be **five free schools concerts** which up to **9,000** children will be able to enjoy. For a number of the children this will be their first experience of live music, and an exciting and enjoyable introduction to Scottish music and its links to musical cultures from across the world.

Details of the schools concert programme will be announced later this year. In 2015 schoolchildren enjoyed a fantastic programme including, **Shooglenifty, Carlos Núñez, Le Vent du Nord, The Dohl Drummers of Rajasthan** and **Blazin' Fiddles**.

As part of this year's outreach programme around **2,400 Glasgow schoolchildren** will enjoy free in-school workshops where they can try out traditional Celtic instruments such as the bodhran, fiddle, clarsach and whistle with some of the best experts in the business – professional Celtic musicians – on hand to share their experience and skills. For many of the

children this will be a first opportunity to play one of these instruments. There will also be chances to join in with Scots song and Scottish step dance.

All outreach workshops are free of charge and are completely inclusive, engaging equally with young people who have special needs and those who have English as a second language.

Teachers whose pupils attended schools concerts and took part in workshops last year praised both:

“The musical experience was excellent and enjoyed by all. It was nice to get the children involved which all the performers did really well. It was all perfect and we can't praise the Concert Hall staff highly enough for their efficiency.”

“A wonderful experience - the children loved having the opportunity to play a variety of instruments and the musicians were inspiring. The children loved every minute of this exciting and valuable learning experience.”

Since 1999 the Celtic Connections Education Programme has delivered projects to over **80 per cent** of Glasgow schools, with **over 90 per cent** of that figure being in primary schools, and a total of over **90,000** children and young people benefiting from the programme in Glasgow alone. Nationally, that figure rises to over **185,000** children and young people from all over Scotland.

At the start of October this year the Celtic Connections schools concerts also played a leading role in the **celebrations for the 25th anniversary of the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall**. 1,800 schoolchildren packed out the Main Auditorium for a concert by **Treacherous Orchestra** to begin a weekend of special events wishing a happy 25th birthday to a much loved venue.

In addition to the schools workshops, there will be over **60** public workshops for all ages and abilities from dawn until dusk over each of the 3 weekends. Highlights include the **Ukulele School** hosted by **Finlay Allison** and **The Fiddle Village** hosted by **Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas**.

Celtic Connections runs from 14 to 31 January 2016. 2,500 musicians from around the world will descend on Glasgow for 18 days of concerts, ceilidhs, talks, art exhibitions, workshops, free events, late night sessions and a host of special one-off musical collaborations.

The Public Workshops will go on sale on Friday 23 October please visit www.celticconnections.com or call 0141 353 8000

Full details of the Education Programme will be announced later this year.

Ends

For further information, images, or to request an interview with any of the acts performing at Celtic Connections 2016, please contact:

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