

Media Release

Thousands of children experience the joy of live traditional music at Celtic Connections' free school concerts

Over 7,000 school pupils have enjoyed performances from some of Scotland's best traditional musicians at Celtic Connections 2025.

The festival's free school concert programme is open to schools across Scotland. It gives young people the opportunity to experience live music in the iconic Main Auditorium of the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

This year, pupils from schools all over Scotland have been treated to spectacular performances from some of the festival's favourite acts.

Western Isles wonders Peat and Diesel, the iconic Blazin' Fiddles, the much-loved contemporary folk band Breabach and the outstanding Kinnaris Quintet have all performed as part of the 2025 programme.

Alongside the concerts, traditional musicians have also led in-school workshops for every primary 7 class in Glasgow. The sessions, in partnership with Glasgow CREATE, aim to develop musical skills and introduce children to Scottish traditional music.

They include workshops in Scots and Gaelic song, pipe band drumming, bodhran, fiddle and Scottish stepdance.

Donald Shaw, Creative Producer for Celtic Connections, said: "It's wonderful to see our learning programme continue to bring thousands of children and young people together, giving them the chance to enjoy and learn about Scotland's musical heritage. The festival's school concerts are all about introducing young people to live traditional music, which can encourage a lifelong love of music and inspire the next generation of musicians. Celtic Connections is a festival for everyone, and we want to make sure as many people as possible experience the magic of traditional music."

Aultmore Park Primary and St Cuthbert's Primary in Glasgow were two of the schools which attended the concerts.

Primary six pupil Chanya, from Aultmore Park Primary School, said: "I enjoyed dancing, and I saw lots of music and other people dancing as well. I saw the violin, the guitar and the piano, and I liked the piano because it sounds good and makes the music sound good as well."

Eight-year-old Nico, from St Cuthbert's Primary School, said: "The best part was all the dancing and the Scottish instruments, I've not seen a couple of them, but I liked it. My favourite were the bagpipes because it's just my favourite and I liked the sound of it. I was up dancing, I was just jumping about crazy."

Primary four pupil Carly, from St Cuthbert’s Primary School, said: “My favourite bit was seeing the Blazin’ fiddles and the loud music they were playing. I was just dancing about crazy. I liked the fiddle, they make good noise and they look cool. It was really fun, it was really cool and I loved to see all the people dancing.”

Celtic Connections first began in 1994 and has grown in size and ambition ever since, building an international reputation and making an unmatched contribution to the prominence of folk, traditional and world music.

Celtic Connections 2025 runs until Sunday 2 February. Visit www.celticconnections.com.

ENDS

From Niall Murray
Communications Officer
Glasgow Life
Phone 07824663987
Email niall.murray@glasgowlife.org.uk

For media accreditation, please apply [here](#).

Notes to Editors

Celtic Connections began in 1994, when it offered 66 events at one venue. Since then it’s grown more adventurous, experimental and diverse each year and now offers thousands of events in locations across Glasgow.

Celtic Connections is delivered with funding from **Glasgow City Council** through **Glasgow Life**. The festival receives invaluable support from **Creative Scotland**, **The Scottish Government Festivals Expo Fund** and **CalMac**.

Glasgow Life is a charity working for the benefit of the people of Glasgow. We believe everyone deserves a great Glasgow life and we find innovative ways to make this happen across the city’s diverse communities.

Our programmes, experiences and events range from grassroots community activities to large-scale cultural, artistic and sporting events which present Glasgow on an international stage.

Our work is designed to promote inclusion, happiness and health, as well as support the city’s visitor economy, in order to enhance Glasgow’s mental, physical and economic wellbeing.

For more information, see www.glasgowlife.org.uk

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports culture and creativity across all parts of Scotland, distributing funding provided by the Scottish Government and The National Lottery. Further



16 Jan – 2 Feb 2025

information at creativescotland.com. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#). Learn more about the value of art and creativity in Scotland and join in at www.ourcreativevoice.scot

Innis & Gunn: Since the company was founded in 2003, Innis & Gunn has been determined to do things differently in the world of brewing. Starting with innovative oak cask maturation for our flagship beer, 'The Original', we have gone on to create a whole line up of boundary-pushing beers, including distinctive, limited edition and rare beers, and the Innis & Gunn Lager Beer which recently won gold at the World Beer Awards.

Innis & Gunn is now one of the UK's most successful beer brewers. Still pioneering, still innovating and still doing things differently, to excite and intrigue beer lovers all over the world. Innis & Gunn is the official beer sponsor of many iconic events including the Royal Highland Show, Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Celtic Connections and Belladrum music festival in Inverness.

Glasgow 850 is a yearlong celebration in 2025 marking the 850th anniversary of Glasgow's establishment as a burgh in 1175. Throughout the year the city will mark its 850th birthday by delivering, with partners, a yearlong, citywide, programme that celebrates and reflects on our recent past, our present and future. The programme of new signature events, enhancements to existing festivals, and community-based activities is being curated in a way that lets all those with a connection to Glasgow, at home and abroad, get involved to tell their stories, honouring our rich heritage, reflecting on our transformational growth, and inspiring ambitious change for the city's next fifty years. Marking this milestone acknowledges the contributions of generations who have shaped the city, gives a platform to grow a shared sense of belonging and invites people to guide our future. It also helps raise Glasgow's profile on the global stage and encourage visitors to explore our unique city. For more information and to get involved visit glasgow850.com