



CCC  
Children's  
Classic Concerts

SEASON REPORT  
2023/24

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# ARTISTIC SUMMARY 2023/24

Children's Classic Concerts (CCC) are delighted to report on another extremely rewarding Season of exhilarating orchestral performances for families across Scotland.

During 2023/24, we have taken audiences on captivating journeys: back in time to medieval days; inside the imaginative mind of Roald Dahl; into outer space; across Europe with 'Django the Cat'; within the tale of Peter and the Wolf, and along the way, we've encouraged young people to enjoy the freedom of creating their own musical stories.

We're confident that relatable themes such as these, have helped us to reframe the stereotype of classical music. Unique programming and plots for each concert, together with plenty of audience participation and humour, has captured imaginations - evidenced in feedback received.

CCC has commissioned and premiered 7 new arrangements including 3 medleys by Paul Campbell, bringing lesser known classics together with film and TV scores.



# MOST POPULAR PROGRAMME PIECES

*according to our audience*

Jupiter (from *The Planets*)

Flying Music (from *E.T*)

Dance of the Hours - Galop

Greatest Showman Medley

Aquarium (from *Carnival of the Animals*)

Ski Sunday

Holst

John Williams

Ponchielli

arr. Paul Campbell

Saint-Saëns

Sam Fonteyn





Longstanding partnerships with the RSNO (and its Youth Chorus), Manor School of Ballet, and the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) were further strengthened this Season, and we have nurtured newer relationships; with Education Scotland and rising composer, Aileen Sweeney – who re-worked her Percussion Concerto for Owen Gunnell and our Essential Orchestra. Professional collaboration has been identified as one of five Aims in our Business Plan to 2028, which we have amended over the past few months. Additional aims are: recognition and aspiration; cohesive programming; digital integration and audience connection.

Regarding the latter, we've already made progress with two successful Family Forum meetings online and our first in-person gathering has been arranged for September 2024. It's been a real pleasure hearing about the CCC experience from different perspectives.



Owen Gunnell and Aileen Sweeney



*"It's almost impossible to pick out my CCC highlights from over the last year. The mix of music we play and people we meet is so varied - everyday is different. The islands tour was particularly special (even spotted Otters on Mull) and finishing up with a packed hall in Shetland was such a treat."*

**Owen Gunnell, Artistic Director and Presenter**



*"We started the season with some Medieval mayhem in Glasgow and finished with some mind-blowing magic tricks in our first ever visit to St Andrews – it's been quite a year! Looking ahead to our 2024/25 season, we are delighted to be working with Scottish composer Aileen Sweeney, who will be creating a bee-themed showcase piece for our Essential Orchestra."*

**Catherine Earnshaw, Creative Director**



*"It's been such an exciting year for CCC seeing our live activities going from strength to strength. We are thrilled to be reaching more families and young people through the integration of our digital activity into our core season and are delighted by the creativity this strand offers the organisation."*

**Pippa Barnwell, Chief Executive**



# 2023/24 IN NUMBERS

**TOTAL** **15,167**  
**AUDIENCE**



4.8 stars out of 5 for enjoyment

**99%**  
**EXPRESSED**  
**INTEREST**  
**TO RETURN**

**21%**

**WERE NON-WHITE**  
**SCOTTISH/BRITISH\***

**26**  
**PERFORMANCES**

**116**  
**PERFORMERS** **UNDER 16**
















**33** **FREELANCE**  
**MUSICIANS**  
**ENGAGED**

**56**  
**WORKSHOPS**

**7** **NEW**  
**ARRANGEMENTS**  
**COMMISSIONED BY CCC**

\* Including African, Arab, Caribbean, Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups, White European and White Irish

# TIMELINE

2023/24	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY
<b>STRAND 1:</b> CONCERTS WITH THE RSNO												
<b>STRAND 2:</b> ESSENTIAL ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES												
<b>STRAND 3:</b> SMALL ENSEMBLE TOURING										 		
<b>STRAND 4:</b> DIGITAL ACTIVITY												
<b>STRAND 5:</b> SCHOOLS' ENGAGEMENT			 					 				

See Appendix for full details of performances.

# SOCIAL MEDIA

2023/24

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

## Facebook

Reach

5,500

18,800

22,100

59,100

19,900

22,900

46,500

97,000

3,900

44,600

11,443

5,448

Content Interactions

138

120

532

607

541

106

244

273

58

217

300

119

## Instagram

Reach

415

596

800

1,200

1,100

2,600

7,400

3,800

429

1,200

890

508

Content Interactions

-

-

-

52

239

26

70

102

19

103

43

26



Just back home from the 1pm performance in Glasgow. Loved the show! The orchestra, the ballet dancers, the incredible children's choir - it all added up to the truly festive atmosphere. Our five year old daughter most loved the percussion piece by the Chief Elf. Looking forward to seeing you next year, and thank you for the wonderful experience!



Brilliant concert!



So much fun!



Absolutely fantabidozie concert for children and adults alike.



A wonderful performance. Well done to all! Gets better every concert! The choir were outstanding! Looking forward to Elf Games. 🥰

45w Love Reply Hide



The Edinburgh show was fantastic - our three (2, 5, and 9) all loved it! Such an engaging way to get little people interested in classical music. We especially appreciated the time the ladybird cellist took to talk to kids at the end 🙌🙌

2 Love Reply Hide







**AUDIENCE:** 7,677

*"Your events are special. 5-stars – genuinely. Loved all that was going on."*

# STRAND 1: CONCERTS WITH THE RSNO

## MYTHS & MONSTERS and THE ELF GAMES

Equivalent to 51% of CCC's total reach in 2023/24, our flagship RSNO performances delighted once again. The medieval-inspired programme welcomed guest actor, Ryan Ferrie (a Royal Conservatoire of Scotland graduate) and featured the symphonic premiere of Paul Campbell's 'Jabberwocky' (originally commissioned by CCC for our Essential Orchestra in 2021) - with Paul in the Edinburgh audience. This piece was narrated by Ryan, along with expressive British Sign Language interpretation provided by Paul Whittaker OBE.

*"I was delighted to see the BSL – that's important to me."*

'The Elf Games' marked the 16th festive production of our partnership. Gold-medal worthy performances were given by the RSNO Youth Chorus (many members on stage with the orchestra for the first time) and Manor School of Ballet dancers - taking part in a third of the programme each, and facilitating the storytelling and comedy moments beautifully. 208 free tickets were offered via our network of social inclusion charities and 67 % (139) were taken up on the day – the highest percentage yet.

*"We've been bringing our daughter from age 1...She's now telling us [age 5] she's going to be on stage playing one day."*





**AUDIENCE:** 3,158

*"Loved the interactive nature with conductor/musicians, "asteroids" [giant balloons] were so fun!"*

## **STRAND 2: ESSENTIAL ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES**

### **THE THREE LITTLE PIGS and OUT OF THIS WORLD**

The Essential Orchestra format is CCC's sweet spot – large enough to make an impressive sound, but compact enough to afford musicians flexibility to create an atmosphere that truly engages.

'Out of this World' was the new addition this year for our collection of Essential Orchestra programmes and attracted the highest number of evaluation survey responses of the Season. Families from CCC's Residency School, Dunard Primary (see Strand 5) attended a dress rehearsal as VIP guests.

*"So great to see what happens behind the scenes. It was a great lesson for the kids...things not always working out, having a laugh and carrying on."*

*"Getting my daughter's wheelchair in was a doddle...It raised her spirits so much she kept squealing, something she hasn't done in months!"*  
[Parent, Charlie House]



*"No other concert series I've played in provide such a great mix of humour and quality music performance."*

Andy Connell-Smith, Trumpet

**AUDIENCE:** 2,070

# STRAND 3: SMALL ENSEMBLE TOURING

## THE THREE LITTLE PIGS ON TOUR, DJANGO'S JOURNEY and BIG TOP BRASS

Kicking off the Season, we made a first-time appearance at Fringe by the Sea Festival, reaching an audience of 696, which is a record-breaking inaugural figure for us. This has led to a 3-year commitment to visiting East Lothian and building a base in a new area for CCC.

Through our Gypsy Jazz 'Django's Journey' project, Seonaid Aitken (award-winning violinist), enabled children to hear the fiddle out with the Traditional Scottish folk music context (often a focus for island communities). Seonaid won the Leonard Friedman Award at Mendelssohn on Mull in 1996 at age 18 and was gifted a violin with a small map of Mull painted on its scroll. It's still her instrument today – a unique connection to the island and local children who listened to her play.

'Big Top Brass' was another fresh programme for 2023/24 and didn't disappoint. Colourful staging matched the vibrancy of the musical performances by Thistle Brass Quintet, CCC's Artistic Director / Presenter, Owen Gunnell and guest percussionist and magician from the Magic Circle, Patrick King. Owen and Patrick are old friends and this translated into their amusing and natural presentation, instigating lots of laughter from the audience. Live magic tricks were hugely entertaining, creating a real buzz, yet they didn't overshadow the music.

*"I'll never forget twirling like a ballerina, and trying to do the Can Can, along with my 10-year-old Grandson."*

# STRAND 4: DIGITAL ACTIVITY

## MUSIC SPARKS



Garfield Weston  
FOUNDATION



FOYLE FOUNDATION

2023/24 marked a shift in the shape of the CCC Season. Concert films that proved hugely popular in 2020/21, when we were forced to cancel live events, have now paved the way to a more 'hybrid' approach. Our aforementioned 'Digital Integration' aim has begun to be realised, with the creation of a concert film (Django's Journey) and 2 accompanying learning resources in addition to our live activity.

Crucial in the development of the resources has been our new partnership with Education Scotland (ES), allowing us to create content that fulfils experiences and outcomes linked to Expressive Arts; Literacy; Social Studies; and Health and Wellbeing areas of the Curriculum for Excellence. They will shortly both be available to every Primary School in Scotland via the 'Practitioner Resources' tab on the ES website – a trusted location for teachers.



★ 'Roving Reviewers' contains ready-to-use, imaginative activities, that will empower young people to rate their cultural experiences and express their opinions.

★ 'Django's Journey' maps-out the Gypsy Jazz genre with imaginative games and geographical quizzes, contributing to children's inter-cultural understanding.

***"Education Scotland is delighted to support Children's Classic Concerts. CCC resources are eye-catching and aim to support and encourage teachers to extend their practice, to teach in an innovative and creative way."***

**Neil Millar, Senior Education Officer - Expressive Arts**

The Django's Journey concert film was recorded at Clockwork Studios during February 2024 by CCC consultant, Scott Mackenzie, assisted by 19-year-old Max McGregor, an emerging filmmaker (winner of the Generation Z Young Filmmaker of the Year Award, 2018), who grew up attending CCC concerts. Students from UWS created animations, benefiting from the experience as a complementary component to their studies. The film is due to be launched in September 2024.

***"We very much value the opportunity Children's Classic Concerts provides to our students...engaging with film makers and producing content in teams has strengthened the overall cohort identity by providing a shared experience."***

**Dr Mark Carey, Programme Leader, Computer Animation Arts, UWS**





*"The music made me happy."  
[Child, age 9]*

## STRAND 5: SCHOOLS ENGAGEMENT

**DJANGO'S JOURNEY, MYTHS & MONSTERS, OUT OF THIS WORLD,  
MUSIC TELLS A STORY, ACORNS TO OAKS, PETER & THE WOLF  
and BIG TOP BRASS**

We supported 350 young people facing socioeconomic disadvantage through Year 1 of our Residency at Dunard Primary School, located in an SIMD1 area (Maryhill, Glasgow). CCC musicians delivered 21 sessions – and 8 enthusiastic pupils were selected to work with professional reviewer, Kelly Apter, to produce a 10-minute film that forms an integral part of the Roving Reviewers resource.

CCC was trusted to be present while HM Inspectors of Education (HMIE) were in school. There was also a separate visit from the current Minister for Culture while our musicians were delivering sessions. We are keenly interested in supporting pupils throughout their primary school experience, endeavouring to measure any changes in behaviour / morale and positive impact on wider learning while we are resident.

*"From a Headteacher's point of view, it's been exceptional to have world class music in our building. The impact on our children is massive. Genuinely can't say this enough."*

**Mrs Annemarie Connolly – Headteacher**

*"The musicians had a kind and friendly manner with the children, they set expectations in a clear way and the children had an excellent time."*

*"Had a number of children very engaged who are often very quiet in class and don't volunteer answers."*



# SCHOOLS ENGAGEMENT

**REACH:** 7,677

56 SESSIONS

## WITH DUNARD PRIMARY SCHOOL, MARYHILL, GLASGOW

Django's Journey	4 Workshops (P4/5)	26 October 2023
Django's Journey	3 Concerts (full school)	27 October 2023
Myths & Monsters	P2/3 Trip to Glasgow Royal Concert Hall	28 October 2023
Out of this World	Dress rehearsal open to full school	9 March 2024
Music Tells a Story	Workshops (P6/7) x 12 sessions	14, 15, 21, 22 March 2024
Acorns to Oaks	2 sessions - Nursery - P1 Transition Support with new P7 buddies	6 June 2024

## WITH VARIOUS OTHER PRIMARY SCHOOLS and ORGANISATIONS

Peter and the Wolf	Ardgowan Primary School, Greenock	25 April 2024
Django's Journey	Poolewe & Aultbea; Lewis; Stornoway; Skye; Mull	8 - 15 May 2024
Big Top Brass	12 schools across Perth & Kinross	13, 16, 20, 23 May 2024
Django's Journey	5 schools on Shetland	10-12 June 2024





# COMMITMENTS

## EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

- British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation was given at 6 performances, where narration / song featured.
- Audio Description was delivered at a performance of each RSNO concert.
- Applicable events were listed on the Access Scottish Theatre Calendar website.
- We showcased female talent through all strands – composers, performers and workshop leaders.
- Ticket prices remained comparatively low – our audience survey rated our affordability 4.2 out of 5.
- 696 free tickets were offered via our social inclusion network of charities, including for Ukrainian refugees and family members with mental health conditions.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- 53% of our surveyed audience travelled either by walking / cycling, public transport, or hybrid/electric car.
- 1,291 miles were covered 'sustainably' by CCC staff / musicians – by Ferry or Train, for our Highlands and Islands touring.
- In April 2024, our Environmental Impact Policy was updated to include a child-friendly version.

## FAIR WORK

- We value everyone who works for and with CCC and provide a supportive environment enabling creativity to thrive. We regularly review our rates of pay for freelance musicians ensuring they meet with the Musicians' Union rates and have taken a full appraisal of staff roles and salaries to ensure we meet industry standards.  
*"It's easy to play well when you're having a lovely time! Thank you for looking after us. It's a rare thing to be paid properly, treated properly and have everything so well organised."* Emma Roche, Essential Orchestra Musician



# WHAT'S NEXT:

## CCC'S 30th ANNIVERSARY IN 2024/25

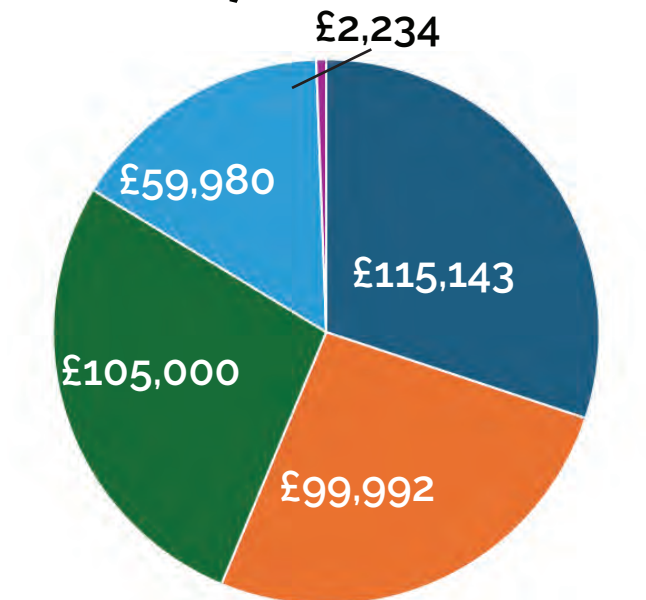
- Commemorating 30 Years of CCC, we intend to revisit some of our best projects, with fresh twists. RSN0 performances will comprise a live version of our popular 2020 film, 'The Haunted Concert Hall', and the festive offering will celebrate CCC's past, present and future by way of 'A Christmas Carol'.
- Another new film and 2 resources are due to be created, solidifying the enhanced 'hybrid' look of CCC's Season.
- We aim to extend our accessible format provision beyond Strands 1 and 2.
- Composer, Aileen Sweeney, will be commissioned by us to write a fully original piece for the Essential Orchestra as the focal point of a new programme; 'Honey, I Shrunk the Orchestra'. Entitled, 'The Waggle Dance', the piece will take inspiration from bees, and how they work together – with Owen set to spread melodies to each section of musicians (worker bees), echoing the "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra".

*"Having attended and LOVED the Children's Classic Concerts as a kid myself, it feels slightly surreal to have been asked to compose music for the organisation, it will be a real pleasure."*  
Aileen Sweeney



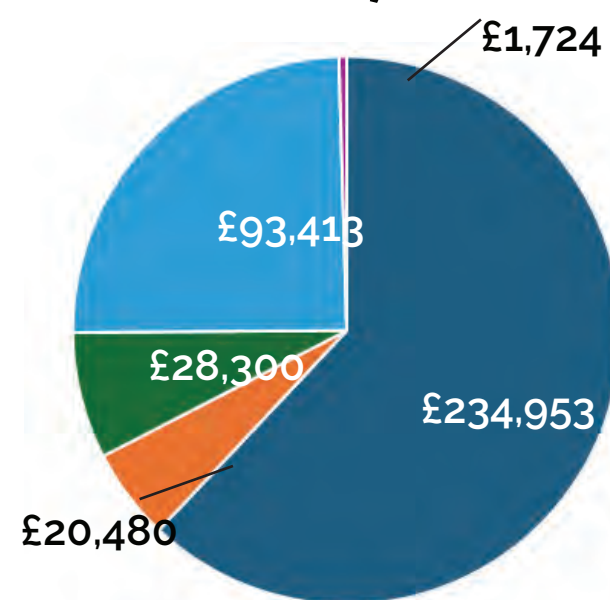
# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## INCOME: £382,349



- Box Office / Performance Fees
- Trusts / Donations
- Creative Scotland
- Creative Industries Tax Relief
- Other

## EXPENDITURE: £378,870



- Performance Fees and Production Costs
- Marketing
- Administration Costs
- Project Management / Staff Salaries
- Governance and Other



# OUR SUPPORTERS

In addition to Creative Scotland funding (2023/24 was Year 1 of a 2-year Extended Programme Fund Grant), we are hugely thankful for generous donations from the following Trusts and Foundations:

Cruden Foundation  
D C Thomson Charitable Trust  
EIS - Sponsorship of the Arts  
Foyle Foundation  
Garfield Weston Foundation  
Gordon Fraser Charitable Trust  
James T Howat Charitable Trust  
Lady Eda Jardine Charitable Trust  
Miss Jean Ryeburn Stirrat's Charitable Trust  
Saints and Sinners Club of Scotland  
Scops Arts Trust  
Scott Davidson Charitable Trust  
The David and June Gordon Memorial Trust

The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust  
The Gannochy Trust  
The Hugh Fraser Foundation  
The Jennie S. Gordon Memorial Foundation  
The John Mather Trust  
The Maurice & Nicola Taylor Charitable Trust  
The McGlashan Charitable Trust  
The Murdoch Forrest Charitable Trust  
The Ronald Miller Foundation  
The Society of Deacons and Free Preses of Glasgow  
The Stevenston Charitable Trust  
The W. A. Cargill Fund  
Ye Cronies



LOTTERY FUNDED

## CCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lady Joyce Caplan (Chair)	Jane Gordon
David Ballantine	Michael Beeston
Lord Donald Graham	Joan McDowall
Michael Samuel	Catriona Yates
Ian Mills	

## CCC TEAM

Owen Gunnell	Artistic Director and Presenter
Catherine Earnshaw	Creative Director
Pippa Barnwell	Chief Executive
Jemma Stewart	Development Manager
Riitta Koljonen	Project Manager
Catherine Ward	Marketing Manager

*Photography by Sally Jubb, Fraser Band, Richard Frew and Max McGregor*

*CCC Artwork by Rebecca Pitt*



# PERFORMANCE TIMELINE

## STRAND 1: CONCERTS WITH THE RSNO

<b>Myths &amp; Monsters</b> <i>Halloween</i>	Glasgow Royal Concert Hall Usher Hall, Edinburgh	28 October 2023 29 October 2023
<b>The Elf Games</b> <i>Christmas</i>	Usher Hall, Edinburgh Glasgow Royal Concert Hall	3 December 2023 9 December 2023 (x2)

## STRAND 2: ESSENTIAL ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES

<b>The Three Little Pigs</b> <i>Roald Dahl Stories</i>	Eden Court Theatre, Inverness Usher Hall, Edinburgh	23 February 2024 24 February 2024
<b>Out of this World</b> <i>Space</i>	Glasgow Royal Concert Hall Music Hall, Aberdeen	9 March 2024 (x2) 10 March 2024

## STRAND 3: SMALL ENSEMBLE TOURING

<b>The Three Little Pigs On Tour (Wind Quintet)</b> <i>Roald Dahl Stories</i>	Fringe by the Sea Festival Eastwood Park Theatre, Giffnock Tolbooth, Stirling	11 August 2023 23 March 2024 24 March 2024
<b>Django's Journey</b> <i>Gypsy Jazz, cultural influences</i>	An Lanntair, Stornoway LAS Theatre, Portree, Skye Mull Theatre, Tobermory Mareel, Lerwick, Shetland	11 May 2024 12 May 2024 13 May 2024 9 June 2024
<b>Big Top Brass</b> <i>Magic, the circus (the bizarre / unexpected!)</i>	Perth Theatre Laidlaw Music Centre, St Andrews	25 May 2024 26 May 2024