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## OVERVIEW



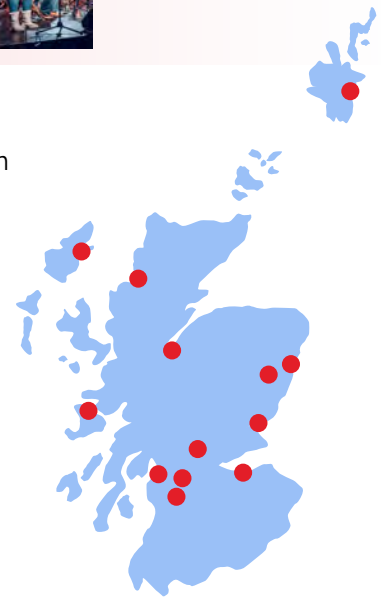
Children's Classic Concerts (CCC) has come to the end of another extremely rewarding year, making high-quality orchestral music fun and accessible for families in Scotland - from Glasgow to Shetland.

14,724 people reached

20 concerts

82 workshops

25 locations



Launching into 2022/23 with enthusiasm for evaluation, we created a newly formatted digital survey that our audience could access in the foyer (made available following our maiden *Space Invasion* concerts) which has produced the following key results across the Season:

**47%**

of families  
were new  
to CCC

**23%**

of respondents  
were *not* White  
Scottish/British

**4.7**

our average  
rating for overall  
enjoyment  
(5 being maximum)

**99%**

said they'd like  
to experience a  
future CCC  
performance

*In a survey of 152 families (on average consisting of 4 in each)*

We also feel fortunate to have gathered a wealth of anecdotal feedback indicating the positive impact our activity has made. Examples can be found throughout, alongside summaries of each project. Our work this year, from large-scale Symphony Orchestra concerts, to intimate school workshops, has fulfilled the aims we set. These were to:

- **re-establish a presence post-COVID** (attendance was up 35% from 2021/22)
- **develop programmes** transferrable for use with smaller ensembles (examples, below)
- **promote equal access** (see pg. 13)

*"We blasted off into Space; celebrated Christmas; found ourselves in Wonderland; explored Roald Dahl's imaginary world; toured Europe with 'Django the Cat' and had brilliant reactions from the audience - what's not to like!"*

Owen Gunnell, CCC's Artistic Director,  
Presenter and Percussionist

*"We are thrilled that our post-Covid activity has seen us thrive, expand, and share the power of classical music with children and families in more locations than ever before. It has been a joy seeing the smiles on the faces of our young audiences (and musicians)! With more innovative projects and partnerships in the pipeline for 2023/24, we are now looking ahead to another busy and exciting Season."*

Catherine Earnshaw,  
CCC's Creative Producer



## CONCERTS WITH THE ROYAL SCOTTISH NATIONAL ORCHESTRA (RSNO)

These flagship performances showcased young artists, performing alongside the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, on major national concert platforms. 89 RSNO Children's Chorus members, 12 dancers from The Manor School of Ballet, as well as 32 students on the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) animation degree course, made remarkable contributions.



Saturday 29 October 2022, 3pm  
**Glasgow Royal Concert Hall**

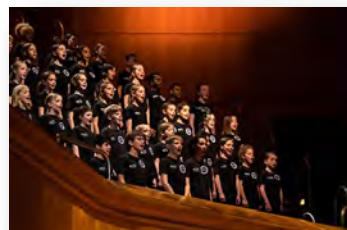
Sunday 30 October 2022, 3pm  
**Usher Hall, Edinburgh**

**TOTAL AUDIENCE**  
**2,699**



- The stage was transformed for this Season's Halloween concert into a 'CCC Enterprise' spacecraft. Owen Gunnell, CCC's Artistic Director and Presenter, navigated as pilot, alongside (Captain) Kellen Gray, the RSNO's Assistant Conductor.

4 budding actors (age 6-11), selected through an open call on social media, featured on a large screen above the orchestra in pre-recorded material, assuming the role of 'Space Commanders'. They helped initiate lift-off to Strauss' *Also Sprach Zarathustra* – opening.



- 62% of the RSNO Children's Chorus were performing for the first time alongside an orchestra. Their repertoire featured female composers; Savourna Stevenson and Claire McCue. The latter was commissioned to write an original song for them; 'There's an Alien in My Spaceship' featuring sound effects representing an alien intruder.



- UWS students brought to life children's 'galactic battle' drawings, set against the music of John Williams' *Duel of the Fates* from *The Phantom Menace*.

- The programme also included *Jupiter* from Holst's *The Planets*, an improvised audience participation piece (to revive the spaceship after battle) and the *Flying Theme* from *E.T.* to get everyone back home - cue a hilarious spoof of Owen riding his bike (complete with stabilisers) across the moon on-screen.

"Four families from refugee backgrounds attended and it was a great treat... Thank you for encouraging them to feel confident being in these spaces."

Fakhriya Abdulkadir  
Interfaith, Glasgow

"I loved entertaining people and making people happy. It was exciting to perform in front of so many."  
RSNO Children's Chorus Member



Photography by Sally Jubb



Wednesday 31 August -  
Thursday 13 October 2022

**Cuthbertson Primary School**  
Govanhill, Glasgow

**Dunard Primary School**  
Maryhill, Glasgow

**PUPILS REACHED**  
**146**

- ☐ This 6-session cross-curricular project was delivered for P6/7 pupils - amounting to 36 workshops in total.
- ☐ Recognising a lack of diversity in our sector, and being uniquely placed to tackle this through engaging young people, we approached schools in multicultural communities - with many families also living in poverty.
- ☐ As per CCC's mission, this decision was made to help widen access to culture, encourage future participation and improve the quality of children's lives through shared musical experiences.
- ☐ Pupils received workshops from our Creative Producer, Catherine Earnshaw, and other skilled CCC musicians. Participants wrote original stories, illustrated them (UWS students visited to talk about possibilities for animating their drawings) and invented soundtracks to match, combining music with literacy and art.
- ☐ Pupils showcased their work for peers and free tickets were offered for *Space Invasion*. A group of 33 from Dunard Primary attended.
- ☐ As a follow-up, Artistic Director, Owen Gunnell, together with 3 fellow percussionists visited with a small ensemble performance, *Mad Hatter's Tea Party* (see pg. 12).



*"Really desperately keen to do it again... We have many families who would never dream of opportunities like this. Thanks to all contributors who are beyond outstandingly great."*  
Head Teacher, Dunard Primary School





Sunday 4 December 2022, 3pm  
**Usher Hall, Edinburgh**

Saturday 10 December 2022, 1pm & 3pm  
**Glasgow Royal Concert Hall**

**TOTAL AUDIENCE**  
**5,878**



- With Owen Gunnell having slept through some of December, he raced through his festive 'to-do' list under the baton of RSNO conductor, Ellie Slorach.

- Paul Campbell's *Christmas Bells Medley* encouraged the audience to shake their house keys, using them as instruments to join in with, creating a sound that epitomised Christmas.



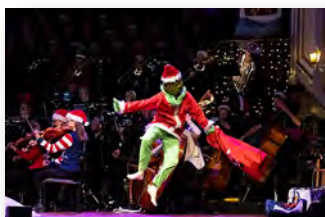
- Having written his letter to Santa on '*The Typewriter*' (Leroy Anderson), Owen set out on his skates (complete with snare drum attached) to deliver it to Lapland (*Bolero*, Ravel).

- *Christmas at the Movies* medley featured beautiful choreography from dancers at The Manor School of Ballet.



- Continuing the storytelling, Owen sat in his comfy chair beside the fireplace to narrate *The Night Before Christmas*, showcasing Philip Lane's celebrated musical setting of the classic poem.

- We welcomed Ukrainian Refugees with free tickets, via the Educational Institute of Scotland (Education and Equality Department) and families most in need through our social care network.



- We attracted our largest ever audience in Glasgow, with attendance at the 1pm concert matching that of the 3pm performance for the first time.



Photography by Sally Jubb

"I've always loved taking part in CCC concerts and am very grateful for the chance to do it again in my last year at Manor."  
**Ballet Dancer**

"'Funny Owen' as he's known in our house is brilliant at engaging all ages, his roller blading tricks were a hit today and the combination of other acts, dancers and singers was the perfect balance!"  
**Audience Member**

## ESSENTIAL ORCHESTRA CONCERTS

Our bespoke 20-piece Essential Orchestra (EO) format proved popular once again; allowing us to explore imaginative themes rooted in storytelling - with music to match, vibrant staging, carefully considered narratives and theatrical presentation.



Sunday 26 February 2023, 3pm  
**Empire Theatre, Eden Court, Inverness**

Sunday 5 March 2023, 3pm  
**Usher Hall, Edinburgh**

**TOTAL AUDIENCE**  
**1,407**



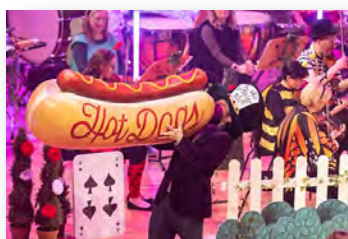
- ☐ Audiences were introduced to music by Shostakovich, Prokofiev and Strauss within the fantastical world created by author, Lewis Carroll.

- ☐ A new piece (by Paul Campbell), that CCC commissioned during the pandemic, brought Lewis Carroll's nonsense poem *Jabberwocky* to life (narrated by Ryan Ferrie).



- ☐ Children were fascinated by the effects of Owen Gunnell's 'shrink', 'fast', 'slow', 'wrong-note' and even 'clarinet flavour' potions on him and the orchestra, with the latter resulting in a stunning virtuosic solo.

- ☐ Owen, as the Mad Hatter, hosted a tea party alongside fellow percussionists-turned-comedy-duo; Tweedledum and Tweedledee - where crockery became instruments and cream pies were flung!



- ☐ Dance moves, led by guest actors Olivia Adams and Ryan Ferrie, as Alice and the Queen of Hearts, enhanced the storytelling.

- ☐ Regarding the Inverness audience, 80% of those surveyed were completely new to CCC and the Edinburgh concert attracted our first video review by young podcast host, Sandy Reilly of [Perfect Score Podcast](#).



*"What a lot of work must have gone into creating such well-timed comedy moments!"*  
Audience Member

*"A fantastic experience. What creativity! Talent! It was so beautiful I had tears in my eyes. You made a 70-year-old teacher cry with joy and appreciation."*  
Audience Member



Sunday 19 March 2023, 3pm  
**Music Hall, Aberdeen**

Sunday 26 March 2023, 3pm  
**Caird Hall, Dundee**

**TOTAL AUDIENCE**  
**1,293**



- ☐ Performers were in full costume as Dahl characters. A bespoke 'pig's house' set piece was designed for us by Cue Props, with walls made to look like straw, sticks and bricks. Cue Props specialises in recycling theatrical sets for new projects supporting CCC's policy of moving towards environmentally sustainable performances.



- ☐ 'Dream jars' belonging to The BFG (contrabassoonist) lit up sporadically across the stage to 'Aquarium' from *The Carnival of the Animals*, which was met with audible gasps of wonder.

- ☐ 'Waltz' (from *Masquerade Suite*) by Khachaturian was the soundtrack to an interactive P.E. lesson with Miss Trunchbull, inviting the audience to participate in weightlifting and hammer throw moves.

- ☐ Our trusty percussionists-turned-actors, stole the show with their antics during Paul Patterson's *The Three Little Pigs* – always sensitive to the characterisation of the musical material.



- ☐ Stephen Quinn joined as narrator and Clara Ashing, a young dancer from The Manor School of Ballet, took on the roles of the cunning Little Red Riding Hood and Fantastic Mr Fox.

- ☐ The concert was bookended by virtuosic performances from Owen on marimba, finishing off with a 'Willy Wonka Medley' including a sing-along to 'The Candy Man' and 'Oompa Loompa' dancing.



*"We all thought it was the best yet for riveting all ages for the whole show!"*  
**Audience Member**

*"This was our fifth Children's Classic Concert and it didn't disappoint! Lovely selection of music, great costumes, storytelling and Owen was fab as usual."*  
**Audience Member**

Photography by Richard Frew

## SMALL ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

Core repertoire, relevant costumes, set and plot were transferred from connected Symphony Orchestra/Essential Orchestra performances, allowing us to replicate the dynamic of larger CCC concerts, retaining their charm and impact.



Sunday 11 December, 11.30am, 1.30pm & 3pm **TOTAL AUDIENCE**  
**The Barn, Banchory** **328**



- A relaxed and intimate concert performed by Seonaid Aitken (co-presenter, vocals and violin) and Thistle Brass, with the underlying message of spending time (appreciating family) rather than money, at Christmas.



- This programme included a selection of pieces, scored for brass, from the RSNO Christmas concert e.g. *The Typewriter*, *Christmas Bells Medley* and *Silent Night*.



- Our partner venue, The Barn, requested that the theme alluded to the natural world. Pieces such as '*I Saw Stars*' and a dedicated '*Snowscape Improvisation*' evoked feelings of wintry forest walks under cover of darkness. The latter invited members of the audience up on stage to play Owen's percussion instruments with children gathering around the vibraphone in particular.

- Festive crafts were on offer before/after the performances creating a rounded event, bringing together families from across Aberdeenshire. They made apple bird feeders, pine cone Christmas tree decorations and personalised gift wrap.



*"Our kids loved the whole thing. The performers were brilliant and kept them interested throughout."*  
Audience Member

*"My family had an absolute blast, please come back next year, we'll tell all our friends!"*  
Audience Member



Saturday 4 March 2023  
**Eastwood Park Theatre, Giffnock**  
**Workshop, 10am & Concert, 11am**

**WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE**  
**40**

**TOTAL AUDIENCE**  
**320**



Our first visit to Giffnock was a sell-out. It celebrated Prokofiev's much-loved piece (the focal point of a pre-existing EO concert), as well as a variety of other repertoire, selected to show off the impressive capabilities of the wind family of instruments (performed by CCC's wind quintet).

The light-hearted '*Clog Dance*' (Herrold arr. Portus) was contrasted by Gabriel Pierne's calming '*Pastorale*'.



A highlight was '*The Incredible Shrinking Clarinet*' (Stephen Lawrence) during which, CCC musician, Fran Barker, kept playing despite disassembling parts and handing them to amazed young helpers from the audience.



The concert was preceded by a packed workshop (at capacity) which got participants playing along with the professionals on hand-held percussion.

*"Owen seems like a one-off, he's so funny and loved how he got us all tapping along in time and then caught us out."*  
 Audience Member



*"I was surprised how engaged they were at only 3 and 4 years old!"*  
 Audience Member



Saturday 27 May  
Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock, 3pm

**WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE**  
**50**

Sunday 28 May  
Macrobert Arts Centre, Stirling  
Pre-concert workshop & 3pm concert

**TOTAL AUDIENCE**  
**281**



□ The toe-tapping 1930s Gypsy Jazz genre was celebrated through the eyes of 'Django the Cat' (after the legendary Django Reinhardt); a larger-than-life puppet created/operated by Ella McKay. He joined Owen and string group, Rose Room, travelling across Europe and the Middle East, to hear how the style has adapted between countries.

□ The puppet subtly prowled the stage throughout, able to produce nuanced, life-like gestures.

□ 'Menilmontant' (Charles Trenet) gave families the chance to listen to lyrics in French.

□ The audience participated to Al Rinker's 'Everybody Wants to Be a Cat' (from Disney's *The Aristocats*) with some 'meowography' (cat dancing) which advanced to a lengthy 'cat-conga'.



□ The reaction was overwhelmingly positive at both venues, with lots of stamping, clapping and cheering. At Greenock's performance we welcomed 4 wheelchair users and 2 young children with Additional Support Needs (who participated on stage).

□ In Stirling, a cat-puppet craft session was hugely popular. Children showed off their handiwork as part of the concert, waving their puppets along to the music. A meet-and-greet with Django himself followed front of house.



*"My favourite part was the Egyptian music.  
I liked the beat."  
Child, age 7*

*"It feels like we've just had a real injection of  
energy – we always say music is just like  
taking your vitamins and we definitely feel  
refreshed now."  
Audience Member*

Photography by Fraser Band

## SMALL ENSEMBLE: SCHOOLS' WORKSHOPS / TOURING

The following schedule made the CCC experience more widely available, with visits to rural locations and Island communities. Linked by theme, our digital resource pack – [Music Tells a Story](#), was gifted to each school, offering teachers a clear framework for further exploration of music in the classroom.



Tuesday 16 May - Friday 19 May 2023  
12 workshops in 8 Perthshire schools

**PUPILS REACHED**  
359

Saturday 20 May 2023  
Perth Theatre (Studio),  
Concerts at 1pm & 3pm

**TOTAL AUDIENCE**  
329



- ☐ Pupils volunteered to create their own sounds to extracts of *The Three Little Pigs* text (Dahl's *Revolting Rhyme*) using percussion and directing CCC musicians. In the final session, staff were still answering in-depth questions after 1 hr 15 mins, with pupils fascinated about the flute and oboe in particular.

- ☐ 100% of teachers surveyed said they would recommend CCC as a visiting organisation.



- ☐ The public performances saw CCC's wind ensemble team up with Owen and a guest pianist to present a tailored version of the EO programme, once again inspired by Roald Dahl's famous characters.

- ☐ A fresh item involved Owen concocting musical 'Marvellous Medicine'. 'Sound potions' for each instrument were added to his cooking pot, resulting in a contemporary improvisation which blended into music by Ligeti.



- ☐ We attracted a lengthy review written by an enthusiastic 6-year-old. Some highlights: "*The BFG music I/Sorcerer's Apprentice*", *Dukas* sounded like he was stomping around...the grass hopper dance [Ernest Bucalossi] made me dizzy...Stephen's accent [narrator/Little Red Riding Hood during Three Little Pigs by Paul Patterson] was squeaky and I laughed! \*\*\*\*\*

Photography by Fraser Band

"The children were engaged, learned new skills and most of all had lots of fun!"

Head Teacher,  
Milnathort Primary School

"The dancing and singing at the end was fab! What a clever interpretation, thank you."

Audience Member





Monday 8 - Friday 12 May 2023

**Public Concert:**  
An Lanntair, Stornoway

**PUPILS REACHED**  
**298**

**Workshops:**  
4 school on Lewis (7 session)  
2 school in Ullapool (2 session)

**TOTAL AUDIENCE**  
**133**



Similarly to the performance in Giffnock, young people in the Highlands and Islands enjoyed a closer look at the orchestral wind family of instruments (experienced more rarely given a predominantly Traditional music culture in these areas).



Workshops involved warm-ups with a few twists, designed to get pupils listening and tuned in; shared music-making based on *Tico Tico* (Abreu arr. Portus) – a cheerful piece perfect for participation on hand-held percussion; fun instrumental demos and the opportunity for questioning our experienced team of musicians.



Schools were given free access to our *Peter and the Wolf* concert film, performed by our Essential Orchestra (not available to the public) as a legacy, alongside the *Music Tells a Story* resource pack.



*"My 9-year-old loved how the melodies the instruments played sounded like the animals they were representing."*  
Audience Member

*"Thank you so much - that was my 5-year-old's first introduction to wind instruments!"*  
Audience Member





28 February - 2 March 2023

### **Glasgow Tour**

TASC After School Care, Westerton Parish Church

Westend Adventure After School Care

Kelvindale Primary School

Fun Lodge After School Care - Merrylea Parish Church

Big Noise - Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre

Dunard Primary School

**PUPILS REACHED  
925**

**TOTAL AUDIENCE  
238**

31 May - 7 June 2023

### **Islands Tour**

**Public Concerts:**

Mull Theatre, Tobermory

Mareel, Lerwick, Shetland

### **Workshops:**

**4 schools on Mull (9 sessions)**

**3 schools on Shetland (6 sessions)**

**Aberdeen City Music School (2 sessions)**



A spin-off to *Wonderland*; Owen as 'The Mad Hatter' was accompanied by 3 fellow percussionists (including a recent graduate) as Alice, Tweedledum and Tweedledee.



They delivered 'un-birthday' celebrations including games (musical statues to *Tio Macaco*, by Snarky Puppy); a mad dash to set the tea party table (*Flight of the Bumblebee* - Rimsky Korsakov) and plenty of slapstick comedy.



Interactive elements for schools involved the audience playing in a samba band – pupils were divided into groups; each with a different mnemonic to help them keep track of their rhythms. Owen led a structured piece with an opening phrase, some call and response, soloists and a clear finish.



All events in Glasgow and the schools' workshops as part of the Islands tour were free to access.



Dervaig Primary on Mull was the smallest school we've ever visited (playing for 6 children). They heard the vibraphone live for the first time. Even the most shy pupils were fully involved (staff too) - a special experience.



2 bonus workshops were held on the return journey at Aberdeen City Music School, rounding off the Season in style. We worked with some skilled young musicians (at secondary school level), splitting out sessions for percussion students and for non-percussionists, to maximise benefit.

*"Experiences like CCC are crucial...It's worth every penny of its funding and more."*  
Teacher Shetland

*"CCC were a fantastic organisation to have in the service due to their friendly and entertaining nature towards the children."*  
Clare Taylor,  
Fun Lodge Afterschool Care

## ACCESS

As a family orientated organisation, inclusivity is ingrained within our core purpose. We strive to reach people who are at a disadvantage or who are typically underrepresented at Arts events and wish to promote accessible formats as the norm – setting a positive example (particularly for the youngest in society, as they grow to become culturally engaged adults).

We provided:

A total of **785** free tickets for families most in need, liaising with a network of **34** organisations best-placed to help (social care charities and specialist schools)

**4 performances** with **British Sign Language** (BSL) Interpretation

**4 performances** with **Audio Description**



*"Using a Deaf interpreter who is a musician too, is a huge source of inspiration for young Deaf people."*  
Paul Whittaker OBE

*"I found the visual cues and descriptions told via BSL interpreter greatly added to my understanding of the story/theme of the music. Having the carols in BSL allowed me to join in for the first time in a very long time."*  
Audience Member

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

CCC recognises that we are in a climate emergency. We mitigated our impact, as follows:

Organised a sensible touring pattern

Travelled to the Islands by ferry, not plane

Gathered data for carbon footprint calculations

Promoted home working

Partnered with Cue Props, who created set designs from a sustainable perspective

Shifted our marketing strategy to predominantly online

## GOALS FOR 2023/24

**Developing** CCC's digital capabilities (initially established in response to the pandemic) fully integrating these alongside our live work for the first time. This will involve a concert film of *Django's Journey* and 2 new educational resources to add to our *Music Sparks* collection.

**Expanding** access provision to selected small ensemble concerts and increasing demand for the use of British Sign Language and Audio Description.

**Adding** new locations/venues to our remote and rural touring pattern.

**Establishing** a new residency format in a local partner school – Dunard Primary in Maryhill, Glasgow.

**Strengthening** our marketing and evaluation strategies, while getting to know our audience better through a Family Forum.

**Continuing** our quest to provide fun-filled experiences for young people that are memorable and impactful.

## OUR SUPPORTERS

We are hugely grateful to the following Trusts and Foundations (listed alphabetically), without whom, we could not deliver our work, for the benefit of children and families in Scotland.

### Grants

Creative Scotland  
Leisure and Culture, Dundee

### Trusts

Alexander Moncur Trust  
Cruden Foundation  
D.C. Thomson Charitable Trust  
Educational Institute of Scotland - Sponsorship of the Arts  
Gordon Fraser Charitable Trust  
Hope Scott Trust  
James T. Howat Charitable Trust  
Lady Eda Jardine Charitable Trust  
Leng Charitable Trust  
Scops Arts Trust  
Scott Davidson Charitable Trust  
Society of Deacons and Free Preses of Glasgow  
Tay 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 and Nicola Taylor Family Trust  
The McGlashan Charitable Trust  
The R J Larg Family Trust  
The Ronald Miller Foundation  
The Saints and Sinners Club of Scotland  
The Stevenston Charitable Trust  
The Turtleton Charitable Trust  
The William Syson Foundation  
Verden Sykes Trust  
Ye Cronies