



*Go on, Struileag,
sail from hand to hand
on a full tide of music.
On the horizon there
is another horizon*

PRESS RELEASE

Awards Shortlisting for *Children Of The Smoke's* Jim Sutherland

Congratulations are in order for musician, producer and artistic director **Jim Sutherland** who has been shortlisted for 2 awards by the prestigious **MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards – Composer of the Year and Event of the Year** - for his *Children of the Smoke* production. The results are announced on 13 December.

Children of the Smoke was one of the key events of Homecoming Scotland 2014 and the Commonwealth Games Festival Programme – a multimedia live performance involving over 70 writers, musicians, dancers and artists. The performance was the culmination of a visionary two-year international legacy project **Struileag**, involving poetry, story gathering, film, performance and music. Its worldwide reach reflects the stories of the gael's themselves and their connections with people from all 5 continents.

"A watershed moment in Gaelic music" Margaret Mary Murray, Head of Service, BBC Alba

In addition to the one-off spectacular performance, the Struileag project includes:

- **Shore To Shore** - an international, interactive online, storytelling project
- **Struileag: Shore To Shore Now** - a book of poetry
- **BBC Art Film** - a 60 minute film being aired on BBC Alba
- **Children Of The Smoke** - a CD album of CHILDREN OF THE SMOKE

The **CD** is available (direct and as mail order) from CODA Music, Birnam Records and various outlets as well as downloads via itunes and Amazon. It has been extremely well received, including a 5 star review from the Daily Record which called it "inspirational".

The music deconstructs nostalgic perspectives on the notion of Gaelic identity through time, exploring relevant and gritty issues of exile and homelessness. The musical styles range through a wealth of influences including trad Scots, African percussion and rap.

With no geographical, social or stylistic boundaries, these timeless tales of home, loss, hope, longing and adapting to new environments, connections between the old and new world are captured in the music of **Children Of The Smoke** in an extraordinary way.

The **book** of poetry - *Struileag: Shore To Shore Now* – will be launched in December by Birlinn Books, with the **BBC Alba film** of the project having its TV premiere the same month. Jim's La Banda company is currently following up leads for worldwide touring.

The Shore to Shore international storygathering website is up and running at <http://stories.struileag.com/> and collecting stories of the gaelic diaspora around the world.

Struileag project funders include the Scottish Government, Homecoming Scotland, Creative Scotland, BBC Alba, the Commonwealth Games Festival Programme, Ambition Scotland and Cryptic.

**For more press information, interviews, CDs, photos etc please contact
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Web site www.struileag.com**

Jim Sutherland Composer & Artistic Director

"the orchestral alchemist" Anna Burnside, The Times

"A musician renowned for his versatility and individualistic approach to thinking about and creating music." Michael Tumelty, Music Critic, The Herald

"A wonderful musical mind at work" – Hamish Henderson, Cencrastus magazine

Constantly nudging at the boundaries of culture and style, Jim Sutherland is a free-thinking original. With his roots in the Scottish traditional genre, his expansive reach extends to encompass electronic, orchestral, rock and pop music, with commissions including film, TV, theatre and studio production. Not to mention producing large-scale performances including cross-cultural and site-specific work with La Banda Europa and staging the string-driven spectacle that is the True North Orchestra - an orchestra of 35 virtuoso musicians who play ethnic instruments indigenous to their own European country.

- Commissioned by the Scottish government to compose a gift from the Scottish people to the people of Derry, to celebrate Derry as the UK capital of culture 2013. The 'gift' underscored the opening of the celebration in Derry which played to an audience of 30,000 people. Later the music was formally presented by the Scottish Culture minister to the Irish prime minister.
- Commissioned to compose music to celebrate Marseille as European Capital of culture 2013 - a collaboration with Rachid Rezagui the court composer to the King of Morocco and French-Greek composer Alexandre Markeas; composed for a Mediterranean orchestra made up of musicians from around the Mediterranean.
- Invited to speak in the House of Representatives in Washington DC at a Tartan day seminar. The subject of his talk was the Scots diaspora and how we can use the social media to connect.
- Produced two songs for the Disney Pixar movie BRAVE (2012), performed by Julie Fowlis for the film. He has composed scores for more than 70 film and TV projects including the first Gaelic feature film Seachd, the British comedy award winning 'Festival' and Lasse Hallström's 'Salmon Fishing in the Yemen'
- His pop trio 'The Lanterns' achieved top thirty hit with Highrise Town and a number two in the dance charts in collaboration with the great Todd Terry.
- He has performed with such luminaries as Page and Plant, Jack Bruce, Mumford and Sons, Billy Bragg, Emylou Harris, the Chieftains, the Bhundu Boys and the Shotts and Dykehead pipe band
- Produced albums for a great number of influential Scottish folk bands including, Shooglenifty, Salsa Celtica, Gordon Duncan, Savourna Stevenson and Cathy Anne MacPhee

His company La Banda delivers large scale performance events to a very high international standard. The organisation has been managing and creating bespoke ensembles and commissioning new music since 2007. La Banda embodies the ideal of shared citizenship, intercultural understanding and cooperation and has a proven ability to bring people from different cultural backgrounds together in a common enterprise through music.