



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

PRESS RELEASE

Composer of the Year Award for Jim Sutherland

Congratulations are in order for Jim Sutherland who won the Composer of the Year Award at the 2014 MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards (Na Trads) in Inverness on Sat 13 Dec. The hotly contested award was for his work as Composer / Artistic Director for the epic production *Children of the Smoke*, part of the 2 year Struileag project, which included a live performance, CD, BBC Alba film, interactive storytelling website and a book of poetry. It involved approximately 70 leading musicians, singers, dancers, artists and writers, and travels to all 5 continents to connect with farflung migrants of the Gaelic diaspora.

The live multimedia spectacular performance of *Children of the Smoke* was one of the key events of the Commonwealth Games and the Homecoming events in 2014. 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 draw from a wealth of influences including trad Scots, African percussion and rap, for a distinctively fresh, contemporary sound, reflecting the travels of the migrant gael. Singers include Kathleen MacInnes, Fiona MacKenzie, Brian Ó hEadhra and Canadian rapper Corvid.

Jim Sutherland, whose production company La Banda specialises in large scale events, has worked extensively in music, theatre and film. He produced music for Disney/Pixar's highly acclaimed *Brave*, and has composed scores for more than 70 film and TV projects including the award winning *Festival* and Lasse Hallström's *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*. He has performed with Page and Plant, Emmylou Harris and Mumford and Sons, as well as producing albums for many influential Scottish bands including Shooglenifty, Salsa Celtica, and Savourna Stevenson. His own band the Lanterns had a top 30 hit with *Highrise Town*.

He has been described as "one of the key innovators and instigators on the Scottish music scene" (Scotsman), "an orchestral alchemist" (The Times) and "a wonderful musical mind" (Hamish Henderson)

Jim Sutherland said about the award:

"It is fantastic that Na Trads celebrate new music in this way. These awards are a huge shot in the arm to us all. I am delighted to receive the Composer of the Year Award after such a busy year. I'd like to thank everybody who worked with me and gave me so much support and inspiration on Struileag: Children of the Smoke"

Notes

- *Children of the Smoke* CD – 15 timeless tales of home, loss, hope and longing – is available from Coda Music, Birnham, Amazon and as itunes download
- The 60 minute BBC ALBA film *Struileag* will be broadcast on Christmas Eve (19.55) (on BBC ALBA and available on iplayer)
- The poetry book - *Struileag: Shore To Shore Now* - will be published by Birlinn and is due to be launched in January 2015
- 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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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 Regragui 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, Emmylou 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.

Struileag and Children of the Smoke are produced by **La Banda Ltd**

www.jimsutherland.uk.com

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