



UNIONS INTO SCHOOLS

SONGS FESTIVAL INFORMATION BOOKLET

Musicians'
Union



S.F.E.U

scottish federation of entertainment unions



Education Scotland

eis

The Educational
Institute of Scotland

Background

The pilot Songs for Social Justice Festival took place in 2011/12, and was organised jointly by STUC Unions into Schools and the Alistair Hulett Memorial Trust.

The Festival received a total of 12 Songs for Social Justice entries from 7 Scottish secondary schools: All Saints Secondary; Bathgate Academy; Coltness High; Hillpark Academy; Holyrood Secondary; Notre Dame High; and Shawlands Academy, which highlighted a range of musical genres.

An event to showcase the entries was held on the afternoon of Thursday 26th January, 2012, at the STUC, where a panel of artists considered the entries: Jerry Dammers; Eunice (Northern Xposure); Karine Polwart; Jimmy Ross (AHMT) and Susie MacLeod, Member of the EIS Instrumental Instructors Network. Jen Hunter, Regional Officer, Musicians' Union, introduced the event.

The event was attended by pupils and teachers from the entering schools, together with trade unionists; reps and others. Pupils talked through the synopsis of their entries and their songs were played via CD, with the lyrics projected onto a screen. Panel members gave considered and often in-depth responses to the songs and pupils welcomed the input and experience of the panellists. Panel members also provided brief inputs on their perspectives on music and there was a short Question and Answer session with Panel members at the conclusion of the event providing an insight on the careers and music industry. For assistance, please note YouTube film link below to the Showcasing event:

<http://youtu.be/Yk72aeFIZNc>

Following the Festival, a number of the participant schools had the opportunity to attend and perform at other STUC events: Trade Union Week at the Scottish Parliament Garden Lobby Reception; several of the STUC Equalities Conferences: Youth and Women's Conferences; and affiliated organisations' events.

Festival Timescale & Further Details

The 2013 STUC Unions into Schools Songs Festival was launched at the 85th Annual STUC Women's Conference at Perth Concert Hall on Tuesday 13th November, 2012, with pupils from Hillpark Secondary in Glasgow, along with the STUC, Musicians' Union, FDA Education Scotland, and the EIS and pupils from St Paul's RC Academy, Dundee.

- Initial email notification of the Festival circulated to all Scottish secondary schools in **early December 2012**.
- Schools invited to confirm their intention to participate in the Festival by **Friday 27th September, 2013** (with the submission of a maximum of two songs per school by Friday 1st November, 2013).
- A maximum of 3 minutes will be played of each entry song at the showcasing event.
- All songs to be submitted on an audio CD, together with front cover design by school by entry deadline of **Friday 1st November, 2013**.
- Opportunity for entries to also be submitted onto DVD format with pupils performing.
- Festival to showcase one entry from each school at the Showcasing event to be held on **Friday 29th November, 2013 at the STUC Centre, Glasgow, between 10.30 am and 4.00 pm**.
- A panel of artists and trade union representatives, comprising of:
Jerry Dammers (founder of 2Tone Records)
M C Soom (singer/songwriter who plays rap and reggae toasting to techno robotic and gospel)
Eunice Olumide (from hip-hop outfit Northern Exposure)
Solareye (artist from the band Stanley Odd)
Susie MacLeod (EIS Instrumental Instructors Network)
Aileen Monaghan (HM Inspector, Education Scotland and National Specialist for Music and ICT in Secondary)
Rab Noakes, Musicians' Union, will Chair the event

All participating schools will be presented with an Award and have the opportunity to meet the Panel; attend STUC Equalities Conferences in 2014; Trade Union Week at the Scottish Parliament in February and the STUC Annual Congress in April 2014; as well as other associated events.

Entry Form

Name of School: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Class/School Year: _____

Teacher Contact: _____

Email: _____ Tel: _____

Points to Consider:

1. **Category of song (please tick)**
 - Original
 - Cover version (including songs where the backing music is not an original composition).
2. **Entrants from groups (minimum of 2 members must be pupils from entry school).**
3. **Songs of all genres will be welcome; and may be for solo performers or group and on any relevant theme, providing it fits comfortably with the STUC's ethos of social justice.**

Title of Song: _____

Name of Artist: _____

Name of band members (if relevant): _____

Lyrics: Please provide the lyrics on one side of an A4 sheet of paper.

**How does this song encapsulate the artist's idea of social justice?
Please provide no more than 250 words on one side of an A4 sheet of paper.**

Please complete and return no later than Friday 1st November, 2013, to:

**Terry Anderson
Union and Community Development Officer
Scottish TUC
333 Woodlands Road
GLASGOW G3 6NG**

Supportive Quotes

“Encouraging school students to write songs relevant to them on the theme of social justice is an exciting opportunity for the Scottish TUC. For working people over the years, the arts have been a powerful means of articulating messages of protest, of hope and of demands for progressive change and a better way. I am delighted that the STUC is helping continue this important tradition working with today’s young people.”

Grahame Smith
General Secretary
Scottish TUC

“There is a long history of songwriters and musicians contributing to struggles and campaigns for social justice. Music and song has played a huge role in galvanising, sustaining and recording the struggles of ordinary people. The Musicians’ Union is delighted to support this initiative to encourage young people to write songs about the issues of social justice which matter to them.”

Sheena MacDonald
Regional Organiser
Musicians’ Union

“I am convinced that the great mass of our people go through life without even a glimmer of what they could have contributed to their fellow human beings. This is a personal tragedy. It’s a social crime. The flowering of each individual’s personality and talents is the pre-condition for everyone’s development. In this context education has a vital role to play. The whole object must be to equip and educate people for life, not solely for work or a profession.”

Jimmy Reid
Glasgow Trades Unionist

“Curriculum for Excellence challenges schools to develop children and young people as responsible citizens who show respect for others; who understand different beliefs and cultures; and who are developing informed, ethical views of complex issues. FDA Education Scotland commends the work of the STUC through its Union into Schools work and its promotion of the ideals of social justice. Young people from across Scotland can use Songs for Social Justice to deepen their understanding of difference, and inclusion in Scotland and the wider world. It provides opportunities for them to be creative and inspire.”

David Watt
FDA Education Scotland

“I personally would advise all musicians and artists of all ages to wake up to what is happening in the world and address it in their work. Record companies may tell artists it will damage their career, but I think in the big picture the opposite is true. If artists don’t try and address serious issues at all, we are all, including the record companies, in danger of becoming a bit redundant. Pop music at its best has always had at least a bit of a connection to the social revolution.”

Jerry Dammers

“Music has always been at the heart of many civil rights movements and revolutions, and it also acts as a vehicle for different cultures and faiths to have some common ground. It is something that reaches so far into our very being and existence that it resonates with each and every one of us on a profound level. Indeed, even before we can say our A,B,C,D, we find it is easier to do so with a harmony or wee bit of melody. Therefore, it is NRNXPOs mission to promote music for social justice in all forms and across all genres.”

Eunice Olumide

“In my experience, songs help describe hurt, loss, pain, love. Sometimes a song will hit and soften the hardest heart even more effectively than someone shouting or debating. I rely on song. Patience of Angels was sung because single mothers were being demonised by the, then, Conservative Government, under John Major. I wanted to redress that unfairness by supporting people who ended up bringing up kids alone due to circumstances and fate. The words of that song supported me, and I hope others.”

Eddi Reader

“For some youngsters the lyrics in a song are of secondary importance to the music, but for me they are crucial. In 1977 I was an unemployed school leaver struggling to define myself in a difficult time of mass unemployment similar to the recession we are going through now, but through the words and music of the more politicised bands like The Clash and The Gang Of Four I discovered an alternative worldview to the one presented by my parents and the Evening News. If the words in a song are meaningless the song is rendered impotent, just aural chewing gum and as such will be valued the same and just as quickly discarded. Words can inspire, illuminate, beautify the world or spread dissent, they can be jewels or food or ammunition. Don’t undervalue or waste your words.”

Paul Simpson

(Wild Swans, The Teardrop Explodes)

Entry Details

Postal Address

**Terry Anderson
Union and Community Development Officer
Scottish TUC
333 Woodlands Road
GLASGOW G3 6NG**

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SCOTTISH TRADES UNION
CONGRESS SOUVENIR

R.B.G.