

## **NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Burns performances an online hit**

- 10,000 views of first-ever Burns Sessions, recorded at Robert Burns Birthplace Museum
- More artists invited to perform at historic venue

In the lead up to Burns Night on 25 January this year, the National Trust for Scotland's Robert Burns Birthplace Museum has been inviting performers to come to the place where he grew up, and record their own versions of his works, as part of the inaugural 'Burns Sessions'.

A huge variety of performers, from one-man rock acts to actors in breeches and festival circuit bands, have filmed their tributes which have been posted on the venue's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/RobertBurnsBirthplaceMuseum](http://www.facebook.com/RobertBurnsBirthplaceMuseum) and more are invited to take part. The videos have had over 10,000 views so far.

The idea of Claire Grant, the venue's events manager, performances have included Matt Scott giving a Woody Guthrie-esque take on Auld Lang Syne, a forceful version of 'Ye Jacobites by Name' from David Munro Orr & Stewart Bryden and a folk blues version of The Deil's awa wi' the Exciseman from Gus Munro which had almost 1,500 views in 24 hours.

Claire said: "We wanted to get people from as many different genres as possible giving their interpretations of Burns to try and make him more relevant to a new generation. We've had some phenomenal musicians and readers take part so far and we'd love for any performers with a love of Burns to come and record their tribute here."

All videos can be viewed online at [www.facebook.com/RobertBurnsBirthplaceMuseum](http://www.facebook.com/RobertBurnsBirthplaceMuseum) and Claire hopes to host a festival of Burns performances later in the year with the participants.

To take part in the Burns Sessions, contact Claire Grant, Events Manager, Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Alloway on 01292 443700 or [cgrant@nts.org.uk](mailto:cgrant@nts.org.uk)

The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Alloway which comprises the Auld Kirk and Brig o' Doon, the cottage where Burns was born, the Burns Monument and the award-winning museum with its unrivalled Burns' collection. The museum was generously supported by the Scottish Government and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

-ENDS-



## Burns Session Videos

### **Burns Session #1 (January 6)**

**Performer: Matt Scott**

Biog: Hailing from Ayrshire, Matt Scott is a solo singer-songwriter who pulls influence from the likes of Guthrie, Dylan, Springsteen, Waits, and Frankie Miller. Having performed in London, Nashville, New York and Amsterdam last year, Matt returns with a new EP in 2018.

Piece: Auld Lang Syne, a song which thrilled the soul of Robert Burns in the 1780s, and today has become an anthem sung the world over at New Year.

Link to video: [here](#)

Link to artist: [Facebook](#) / [Bandcamp](#) / [Soundcloud](#)

### **Burns Session #2 (January 6)**

**Performer: Alistair McCulloch**

Biog: One of the most sought-after fiddlers in Scotland today, both as performer and teacher. His versatility and breadth of repertoire have kept him at the forefront of the tradition for almost twenty years.

Piece: Doon the Burn, Davie lad – a song.

Link to video: [here](#)

Link to artist: [Facebook](#) / [page](#)

### **Burns Session #3 (January 6)**

**Performer: Bill Boyd**

Biog: Learner; teacher; speaker; writer; blogger; reviewer; photographer; Moving Image Education specialist; champion of Scottish life and culture.

Piece: A Letter to John Lapraik, a poem written April 1, 1785.

Link to video: [here](#)

Link to artist: [Linkedin](#) / [Twitter](#)

### **Burns Session #4 (January 6)**

**Performer: David Munro Orr & Stewart Bryden**

Biog: Duo playing a variety of classic rock, R&B, and country hits across several decades.

Piece: Ye Jacobites by Name, is a traditional Scottish folk song which goes back to the Jacobite Risings in Scotland (1688–1746). While the original version simply attacked the Jacobites from a contemporaneous Whig point of view, Robert Burns rewrote it in around 1791 to give a version with a more general, humanist anti-war outlook.

Link to video: [here](#)

Link to artists: [David](#) / [Stewart](#) / [YouTube](#)

### **Burns Sessions #5 (January 6)**

**Performer: Luath**

Biog: Luath are a band who perform a selection of Burns' songs, led by Bruce Kennedy.

Piece: The Lea-Rig – traditional folk song

Link to video: [here](#)

### **Burns Sessions #6 (January 6)**

**Performer: Hugh Farrell**

Biog: Renowned Burns expert and Chairman of Friends of Robert Burns Birthplace Museum

Piece: O, Were I Parnassus Hill, Rabbie and Jean Armour had only recently been married and time away from his new bride and her 'tempting lips and roguish een' inspired him to write one of his finest works, 'O Were I on Parnassus Hill'.

Link to video: [here](#)

Link to artist: [Linkedin](#)

### **Burns Sessions #7 (January 7)**

**Performer: Junkman's Choir**

Biog: Junkman's Choir are a two man band with a global sound playing a mix of Cajun, country sea shanties and rockin reels spinning some twists and turns on the works of Burns.

Piece: Parcel O'rogues, Scottish folk song whose lyrics are taken from a poem written by Robert Burns in 1791.

Link to video: [here](#)

Link to artist: [Facebook](#) / [website](#)

### **Burns Sessions #8 (January 8)**

**Performer: Rab Wilson**

Biog: A Scottish poet who writes predominantly in the Scots language. Rab has performed his work at the Edinburgh Festival, the StAnza poetry festival at St Andrews, the 'Burns an a' That Festival' at Ayr and has been 'Bard of the Festival' at Wigtown, Scotland's National Booktown.

Piece: Death and Dr Hornbook, Death and Doctor Hornbook shows Burns making fun of John Wilson, parish schoolmaster at Tarbolton who, in order to eke out his slender income was also keeper of a small grocery shop where he sold drugs and dispensed medical advice

Link to video: [here](#)

Link to artist: [Facebook](#)

### **Burns Session #9 (January 9)**

**Performer: Billy Hillan**

Biog: A guide volunteer at the museum and member of the Glasgow Phoenix Choir

Piece: Ae Fond Kiss. Burns' most recorded love song. After the publication of his collected poems, the Kilmarnock volume, Burns regularly travelled and stayed at Edinburgh. While there he established a platonic relationship with Mrs Agnes Macle hose and they began a regular correspondence using the pseudonyms 'Clarinda' and 'Sylvander'. Burns wrote 'Ae fond kiss' after their final meeting and sent it to Mcl hose on 27 December 1791 before she departed Edinburgh for Jamaica to be with her estranged husband.

Link to video: [here](#)

### **Burns Sessions #10 (January 10)**

**Performer: Rosie Mappleback**

Biog: Storyteller

Piece: Thou gloomy December – a poem written in 1791.

Link to video: [here](#)

Link to artist: [Facebook](#)

### **Burns Sessions #11 (January 11)**

**Performer: Have Mercy Las Vegas**

Biog: HMLV have been described as “an ideal festival band with stacks of energy” by DJ Jim Gellatly. The band have earned rave reviews for their blistering live performances at festivals up and down the country.

Piece: Sweet Afton, a lyrical poem describing the Afton Water in Ayrshire, Scotland. It was written by Burns in 1791 and set to music by Jonathan E. Spilman in 1837, under the title Flow gently, sweet Afton.

Link to video: [here](#)

Link to artist: [Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#)

### **Burns Sessions #12 (January 12)**

**Performer: Junkman's Choir**

Biog: Junkman's Choir are a two man band with a global sound playing a mix of Cajun, country sea shanties and rockin reels spinning some twists and turns on the works of Burns.

Piece: Bonnie Brier Bush, a song.

Link to video: [here](#)

Link to artist: [Facebook](#) / [website](#)

### **Burns Sessions #13 (January 13)**

**Performer: Hugh Farrell**

Biog: Renowned Burns expert and Chairman of Friends of Robert **Burns** Birthplace Museum

Piece: Holy Willie's Prayer, a poem that was written about a certain Willie Fisher who was an elder in the Parish church of Mauchline, in Ayrshire. Fisher was a hypocrite and himself a sinner who spied on people and reported them to the minister if he thought they were doing wrong.

Link to video: [here](#)

Link to artist: [Linkedin](#)

### **Burns Sessions #14 (January 14)**

**Performer: Ken O'Hara**

Biog: Actor, musician/singer and artist.

Piece: To a Mouse, a poem written by Burns after he had turned over the nest of a tiny field mouse with his plough.

Link to video: [here](#)

Link to artist: [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#)

### **Burns Sessions #15 (January 15)**

**Performer: Alistair Mcculloch**

Biog: One of the most sought-after fiddlers in Scotland today, both as performer and teacher. His versatility and breadth of repertoire have kept him at the forefront of the tradition for almost twenty years.

Piece: Mary Morrison, a song written about Mary Morrison a girl Robert Burns admired.

Link to video: [here](#)

Link to artist: [Facebook](#) / [page](#)

### **Burns Sessions #16 (January 16)**

**Performer: Gus Munro**

Biog: Gus Munro is one of the hidden gems of Scotland's thriving music scene; the singer songwriter is starting to create waves in his hometown of Glasgow. His music has been described as Scottish-folk-blues, combining his love of Scottish traditional music and his passion for the blues.

Piece: The Deil's awa wi' the Exciseman, song.

Link to video: [here](#)

Link to artist: [Facebook](#) / [Page](#) / [Twitter](#) / [YouTube](#)