

Jim Sutherland

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“Conjurer of the ear” - John Berger

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

“The orchestral alchemist” - Anna Burnside The Times

“A wonderful musical mind at work” – Hamish Henderson Cencrastus magazine

Jim Sutherland is composer and music producer who works across genres and cultures.

Jim is an experienced creative director. His company La Banda Ltd continues to manage large scale music projects like the True North Orchestra and La Banda Europa.

He is a multi-instrumentalist with a particular love for percussion.

He is a specialist advisor in music and collaboration for the Cultural Enterprise office

Current

Struileag examines the relevance of indigenous language to the concept of identity and belonging. It is the umbrella for projects involving technology, community outreach, spoken word and music, with participants and events occurring across the Diaspora, culminating in large scale performance presented in Gaelic as part of Homecoming in October 2014. Struileag will tour internationally and gift its acquisitions and knowledge to the people it represents in the form of an online wiki-style public archive and online game. With the support of our project partners, Napier University, La Banda will give Struileag a life of its own and continue to administrate and update the archive for future generations.

Selected recent projects include

- 'An Turas/The Voyage' – 2013 Commissioned by the Scottish Government as a gift from Scotland's people to the people of Derry UK Capital of Culture 2013, this piece was presented by Scottish Culture Secretary Fiona Hislop to the Mayor of the City and the Irish President. The music also underscored the opening ceremony of the 'Return of Colmcille', directed by Frank Cottrell Boyce.
- International music commission to celebrate Marseille, France as European Capital of Culture 2013.
- Two songs for Pixar's 'Brave' and one song for the score of Lasse Hallström's 'Salmon Fishing in the Yemen' 2012

History

Jim Sutherland's career has ranged across a vast spectrum of musical genres, as well as a string of major commissions for film, TV and theatre. He has, composed scores for more than 70 film and TV productions including the multi award winning feature film Festival (Best film at the British Comedy awards) and the acclaimed Gaelic film Seachd premiered at Edinburgh film festival 2007. In 2008 Jim delivered an especially composed score for Trouble Sleeping (BAFTA Scotland new talent award and official selection at Edinburgh Film Festival 2008) which has a refugee theme and Jim worked with the local refugee community on the score as well as brining in middle eastern and Balkan musicians to perform his score.

2009 saw Jim deliver a score for The Edge of Dreaming (selected best of fest at the Edinburgh film festival)Directed by Amy Hardie and for Wasted selected as best of the fest at the Edinburgh Film festival .

- His influential folk tune compositions have been recorded on more than one hundred CDs by artists all over the world
- As a founder member of pop trio The Lanterns, Jim was signed to Sony as a songwriter in 1997,

with the group's debut single Highrise Town, from their wisely-praised album, Illuminate Yer Heid, earning a UK Top 40 place as well as a number two in the dance charts for Winter in my heart

- In 2009 Jim created the True North Orchestra (below) to perform his specially commissioned score for Aisling's Children as part of the Gathering 2009. The show was enjoyed by an audience of 9000 people on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle

Jim composed the score for 10 New Commandments (2008) premiered and selected as best of fest at the Edinburgh Film festival 2008. Jim also delivered a score for Annie Griffin's pilot for the new UK BBC network series Purves and Pekkala (2008)

In 2007 Jim was commissioned to write a 40 min score for Before the Wolf (2007) and collaborated with UZ events and Hillary Westlake (former artistic director of Euro-Disney) to create a large scale spectacular event presented in Newcastle and Falkirk incorporating La Banda Europa (see below), two boy sopranos from the Vienna Boys Choir, a choir of forty people and a twenty strong drumming group. In January 2008 Jim was commissioned by Celtic Connections festival in Glasgow to write two new pieces for La Banda Europa (one of which would feature the 2m long Fajara flute from Slovakia) to be premiered at the festival.

Jim has received commissions from theatre companies such as Boilerhouse - Sister sister, The Bridge, Visible Fictions – Into the dark and 7;84 Scotland.

He has performed and recorded with such luminaries as The Chieftains, Plant and Page (Led Zepelin), The Buhndu Boys, Billy Bragg, Emmylou Harris, Maddy Prior and June Tabor and the Shotts and Dyke head pipe band! As a founder member of pop trio The Lanterns, Jim was signed to Sony as a songwriter in 1997, with the group's debut single Highrise Town, from their wisely-praised album, Illuminate Yer Heid, earning a UK Top 40 place and a number two in the dance charts for Winter in my heart.

He has produced more than 60 albums including, Salsa Celtica (two albums 2000-2002), Shooglenifty (Three albums 1994-2000), Savourna Stevenson (two albums), The Whistlebinkies, Cathy Anne McPhee and Alyth McCormack. He produced the debut album by hotly-tipped roots/pop combo Aberfeldy, Young Forever, out on Rough Trade (summers gone from this album was picked up and used for a diet Coke add in the USA 2007. Recent productions include Witeheath (2011) and Blueflint (2010).

La Banda Europa

– Over the winter of 2006/7 Jim researched and put together La Banda Europa an extraordinary orchestra of 35 virtuoso musicians all of whom play instruments indigenous to their own European country of origin including the bagpipes of 7 countries, Swedish nyckelharpas, , Armenian duduks, Turkish drums, Hurdy- gurdy players from Hungary and France, brass players from Scotland and Serbia the list goes on... The project provides a unique opportunity to compose truly original music that explores the creative possibilities that occur when different cultures collide.

The True North Orchestra

The True North Orchestra is a new Scottish orchestra. This ensemble is made up of 'hand-picked' individuals chosen because of their affinity to and interest in the Scottish traditional idiom as well as for their ability to play together as an ensemble.

Commissions for the True North Orchestra include – Music for 'Aislings Children , The Gathering 2009' performed to an audience of 9000 people on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle. And Shoched Storm, commissioned for the opening of Celtic Connections 2010.