



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

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**IMAGE - Poet Michael Pedersen meets the Big Mouse at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway:** <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/S8fcJH>

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### **JOIN SCOTLAND'S ONLY BURNS CELEBRATION COMING FROM HIS BIRTHPLACE**

The National Trust for Scotland hosts the only online Burns Night event to come from the bard's birthplace in Alloway. Step through the screen to the place where Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns, was born in 1759 on 22 January 2022. The conservation charity's Burns Big Night In streams live from the humble cottage where the Bard was born and spent his early years, offering a night of fabulous entertainment celebrating the poet, that can all be enjoyed from the comfort of your sofa.

The National Trust for Scotland, which cares for Burns Cottage and the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway, has put together another strong line-up of musicians and performers inspired by Burns and his contribution to Scotland and its culture.

The 2022 programme will bring his poems and songs to the world, while the ongoing pandemic is preventing in-person Burns Night celebrations for the second year running. The event is a chance to join together virtually to celebrate one of Scotland's cultural icons while supporting the conservation charity who protect so many of the special items, including manuscripts, pens and even socks that once belonged to Robert Burns, and share his story with all who visit Alloway.

Performers include the award-winning singer Siobhan Miller, Scottish-Algerian poet Janette Ayachi and Jenny Lindsay who will be giving her take on the epic Tam o' Shanter, Laurie Cameron will perform pieces from her latest studio album 'Something In Us Never Dies' of modern reinterpretations of the lesser known writings of Burns. Poet and writer Michael Pedersen will perform original works in his own distinctive voice too.

The Burns Big Night In comes live from Burns Cottage, part of the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway. The site holds the world's foremost collection related to the poet and is owned and cared for by the National Trust for Scotland. DJ and Presenter Edith Bowman who led proceedings at the inaugural event in January 2021 is hosting once again.

Also returning for 2022 is Chris Waddell, expert on Burns and National Trust for Scotland Learning Manager at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum.

Chris said: "Burns Cottage and Alloway was absolutely central to the work of Robert Burns and provided him with inspiration throughout his life. We hope you'll join us at the place he was born for a night celebrating creativity and culture, all inspired by Robert Burns and his words which still speak so strongly to so many of us, all over the world."

The event takes place on Saturday 22 January from 7pm – 8.45pm. Tickets start at £18 for a household and £26 for a ticket and a Box of Braw for two, containing treats and a nip or two to set

your evening off, courtesy of some of Scotland's most iconic brands including The Glenlivet, Mackie's of Scotland, Tunnock's and Mrs Tilly's. Tickets are available: at [www.burnsbignightin.org](http://www.burnsbignightin.org).

## About Burns Big Night In

The first ever Burns Big Night In took place on 23 January 2021. Broadcast live from Burns Cottage, the event featured a mix of music, song and poetry, as well as conversation about Robert Burns's life, work and legacy. Performers included Kevin Williamson, Talisk, Iona Lee and Jenn Butterworth & Ross Ainslie.

The full **2022 programme** is:

**JANETTE AYACHI** - Janette Ayachi (1982 -) BA (Stirling University), Msc (Edinburgh University), is a Scottish-Algerian poet. Her first full poetry collection *Hand Over Mouth Music* (Pavilion) won the Saltire Poetry Book of the Year Literary Award 2019. She is currently working on *Lonerlust*, a memoir about travelling alone searching landscapes, culture, desire & human connection.

**LAURIE CAMERON** - Perth-born musician Laurie Cameron's fondness for her Scottish roots is at the heart of her latest studio project, recorded and produced in Edinburgh with Idlewild's Rod Jones. 'Something In Us Never Dies' is a collection of modern reinterpretations of poems, songs and letters written by Robert Burns in the 18th century, set to new and original music. The album steers away from his already renowned classics, instead presenting lesser-known works of Burns in a modern, synth-folk mood. Laurie's debut album, 'The Girl Who Cried for the Boy Who Cried Wolf' made the Sunday Herald's Top 10 Scottish Albums of the Year and her work has frequent airplay on BBC Radio Scotland's Ricky Ross and Roddy Hart Shows. Laurie's music has been licenced internationally on television including UK TV series *Hollyoaks*.

**JENNY LINDSAY** - Jenny Lindsay is one of Scotland's best known spoken word performers. Described as "one of Scotland's finest cultural innovators," (*Gutter Magazine*), her own poetry, performance and film-poetry has won multiple accolades including a John Byrne Award for Critical Thinking (2020) Her latest work *This Script*, which exists in print, as a stage show, and in film, was described as "one of this year's most necessary spoken word performances" by Becca Inglis and as "genius" by *The Scotsman*.

**NAE PLANS** - Nae programmes, nae qualms...*Nae Plans*: the daredevil, off-the-cuff folk show featuring two Scottish folk musicians of the highest calibre. Taking their cue from the spontaneity of the traditional music session, two of Scotland's finest musicians, [Hamish Napier](#) (piano, flute, whistle, vocals) and [Adam Sutherland](#) (fiddle), sit down on stage without knowing what they will play. It makes for a seat-of-the-pants, incredibly exciting experience for both listener and performer, putting the audience at the centre of an energetic, dynamic and engaging performance which captures the duo's raw creativity and outstanding musical intuition.

**NEVIS ENSEMBLE** - The award-winning Nevis Ensemble is different; there's nothing else quite like it. Its vision is 'music for everyone, everywhere'. Artistically-led by Holly Mathieson and Jon Hargreaves, Scotland's first street orchestra burst into life in August 2018, and is an arts organisation with an explicit social remit at its heart: to bring the therapeutic and community-strengthening value of high-quality live orchestral music of all genres to everyone in our society.

**SIOBHAN MILLER** - A richly celebrated Scottish singer and songwriter, Siobhan Miller's soulful and stirring renewal of traditional folk song has won multiple accolades, including the BBC Radio 2 Folk Award for Best Traditional Track, and the BBC Alba Scots Trad Music Awards' Scots Singer of the Year an unprecedented four times. Her fourth solo release, *All Is Not Forgotten*, received widespread acclaim upon its early 2020 release, marrying traditional song and a return to Miller's acoustic roots, with beautifully rendered, melodiously reflective original songs that deftly mingle indie and alternative sounds with a deep traditional upbringing.

**MICHAEL PEDERSEN** - Michael Pedersen is a prize-winning Scottish writer. He has published two highly acclaimed collections of poetry (Polygon Books), and has a prose debut, *Boy Friends*, forthcoming with Faber & Faber. Pedersen was awarded the John Mather Trust Rising Star of

Literature 2014, and a 2015 Robert Louis Stevenson Fellowship. He's also co-founded and co-captained literary collective Neu! Reekie! for the past ten years.

#### About the **Robert Burns Birthplace Museum**

Robert Burns Birthplace Museum offers a truly unique encounter with Scotland's favourite son. Robert Burns is Scotland's National Bard, and his poetry and songs are known and loved the world over. But who was he and what made him tick? The best place to get close to Burns and his genius is his birthplace in the beautiful village of Alloway. Our flagship museum starts a journey that weaves through the village, taking you from historical buildings to landmarks known to Burns.

#### About the **National Trust for Scotland**

The National Trust for Scotland is the conservation charity that over 90 years has saved, maintained and shared many of the country's most loved places, rich with history, heritage, nature and culture. The charity celebrates Scotland's heritage and with more than 100 places in its care, there's a place for everyone to love.

The National Trust for Scotland relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage that people from Scotland and across the world all love, ensuring its future for everyone to enjoy.

Support the National Trust for Scotland and help them protect the places we all love. Become a member at [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk).