

Bank of Scotland Connecting to Culture

A new partnership between Bank of Scotland and the Edinburgh International Festival

In a brand new arts education initiative created by the Edinburgh International Festival and sponsored by Bank of Scotland, **Bank of Scotland Connecting to Culture** gives diverse opportunities to children and the wider public to engage directly with the Festival and participate in the arts.

It is just one element of the ongoing relationship between Bank of Scotland and the Edinburgh International Festival who have worked together in partnership for over sixty years since the festivals inception in 1947.

Through a programme of creative workshops, outreach school visits and presentations of participants work, **Bank of Scotland Connecting to Culture** explores artists and themes at the heart of the Festival 08 programme, including this year's central idea of culture as a uniting force and a way of transcending social and geographic boundaries.

Twittering Machine engages Edinburgh school pupils in creating visual art and music in response to their exploration of the work of artist Paul Klee and the composer Olivier Messiaen, whose centenary is celebrated in Festival 08. The pupils work with composer Alasdair Nicolson, visual artist Audrey Grant, and metalwork artist Lara Green, culminating in exhibitions of the children's work and performances of their music in the Temperate Palmhouse at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and a further exhibition at The Hub, Edinburgh's Festival Centre in August.

Paul Klee's 'Twittering Machine' sees a complex array of small mechanical birds sing into infinity providing a starting point for the pupils to explore the environs of the gardens through their creations of oil transfer technique paintings/drawings and metalwork sculptures.

Bal Moderne, European dance education specialists, work with school children and members of the public to explore the choreography of Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, the award winning Belgian choreographer at the heart of Rosas dance company. The public workshop is open to all, giving the whole community the chance to dance in a large scale dance piece choreographed by De Keersmaeker.

Border Control involves secondary school pupils in Edinburgh, Rutherglen, Stirling and Cumbernauld. Working with visual artist, Audrey Grant, young people will create their own wall art inspired by the Festival 08 theme of borders: borders changing and being

challenged in political, cultural, social and even religious contexts. The walls will be erected outside The Hub during the Festival in August.

Bank of Scotland Connecting to Culture is a development of a previous collaboration **Bank of Scotland Connecting to Music** which ran successfully for four years to give school age pupils an insight into classical music. During this time, Bank of Scotland and the Edinburgh International Festival engaged 4000 school children in Edinburgh and the Lothians, Glasgow and the Islands with classical music. The legacy lives on in an online resource for teachers at www.eif.co.uk/connectingtomusic

ENDS

Edinburgh International Festival 08
Friday 8 – Sunday 31 August, 2008

Bank of Scotland Connecting to Culture ticketed events

Twittering Machine

Friday 15 and Thursday 21 August, 6.00pm
Temperate Palmhouse
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Tickets £6
www.eif.co.uk
Hub Tickets +44 (0)131 473 2000

Get Dancing with Bal Moderne

Monday 18 August, 2.30pm
The Hub
Tickets £6
www.eif.co.uk
Hub Tickets +44 (0)131 473 2000

The Edinburgh International Festival closes with the **Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert**, with live music performed by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Sunday 31 August, 9.00pm.

For further information on Bank of Scotland Connecting to Culture, the Edinburgh International Festival, to arrange interviews, photos or to attend a workshop or event, please contact Brian Maycock or Susie Burnet, Edinburgh International Festival, on 0131 473 2020 or press@eif.co.uk

For further information on Bank of Scotland, please contact;
Jennifer Mungall | Material | Riverside House | 260 Clyde Street | G1 4JH
T: +44 (0) 141 204 7970 | M: +44 (0) 7813 886 448 | E: jenny@materialmc.co.uk

