

## **‘We Sing, You Dance’ Scottish Ballet’s third wish comes true, as part of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations**

On Wednesday 5 June, Scottish Ballet made the third of five wishes come true as part of the company’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

Responding to a nationwide callout, Lesley Cumming, Alzheimer Scotland’s Community Activities Officer for West Dunbartonshire, wished for Scottish Ballet to perform alongside Dumbarton’s Every Voice Choir as part of their *summer celebration*.

After unveiling that their simple wish of ‘We Sing, You Dance’ would come true, Scottish Ballet Soloist Jamiel Laurence choreographed a beautiful duet between Principal Bethany Kingsley-Garner and Soloist Evan Loudon, that was performed alongside the 50-strong choir to their rendition of *Only You* by British synth-pop band Yazoo.

The sold-out performance at St Augustine’s Church in Dumbarton saw Scottish Ballet and the Every Voice Choir perform together after the choir came to rehearse at the national dance company’s Glasgow headquarters on Tuesday 28 May. Led by choirmaster Bryan Marshall, the choir were invited to rehearse with the dancers in Scottish Ballet’s biggest studio, before being given a tour of the organisation that took in the studios, technical and wardrobe departments.

The performance was held during this year’s Dementia Awareness Week in Scotland which sees the national dementia charity raising awareness of local dementia support, as well as the need for more people with and without a dementia diagnosis, to sign up to dementia research. It is estimated that there are around 90,000 people living with dementia in Scotland and it is now estimated that 20,000 people will be diagnosed with the condition every year by 2020.

Every Voice Choir rehearse on a fortnightly basis, bringing people living with Alzheimer’s and dementia together, in the hope of improving physical, mental and social wellbeing.

In a continued effort to share their love of dance and music, Scottish Ballet and Every Voice Choir will continue to work together ahead of a special performance that will see the choir join the company on stage during a matinee of Christopher Hampson's new production of *The Snow Queen* in Edinburgh, later this year.

**Talking about the third wish, CEO/Artistic Director of Scottish Ballet, Christopher Hampson, said:**

'Scottish Ballet continues to be inspired by each of our Five Wishes, as we discover the personal stories behind them. For the third wish, Scottish Ballet has worked with 50 singers from Alzheimer Scotland's Every Voice Choir in Dumbarton to make their wish 'We Sing, You Dance' come true. I am looking forward to continuing our work with Every Voice Choir, ahead of their performance with us during *The Snow Queen* this winter.'

**Lesley Cumming, Alzheimer Scotland's Community Activities Officer for West Dunbartonshire, said:**

'I am over the moon that our community choir has been granted this wonderful wish and been able to perform with Scottish Ballet as part of their 50th anniversary celebrations. Thank you to everyone who has supported us, and all those who voted for the Every Voice Choir; the journey from rehearsals to performance has been magical for all involved. It is part of a once in a lifetime memory.

Even more special is that we were able to take part in the performance during Dementia Awareness Week. Hopefully this will help to raise even more awareness of dementia and the support that is available.'

**Susan Calman, champion of the third wish, said:**

'It is a powerful thing to unite people through such a celebratory performance. I am so pleased that Scottish Ballet have been able to make Every Voice Community Choir's wish of singing and dancing together come true.'

Over 400 wishes were submitted to Scottish Ballet's Five Wishes campaign, with over 100,000 votes cast by the general public. The top 50 were presented to an esteemed judging panel which includes **Dame Darcey Bussell, Susan Calman, Fred MacAulay, Janice Forsyth, Christopher Hampson and Principal Dancer Christopher Harrison**, with full details of the five chosen wishes announced on Thursday 31 January.

The Five Wishes continue to take place in Scotland throughout 2019 as part of Scottish Ballet's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, with full details available here:

[www.scottishballet.co.uk/wish](http://www.scottishballet.co.uk/wish)

If you have any questions about dementia, or about the support available in your area, call Alzheimer Scotland's 24 Hour Freephone Helpline on [0808 808 3000](tel:08088083000), or visit Alzheimer Scotland's website for more information about the work of the national charity at [www.alzscot.org](http://www.alzscot.org).

## **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

### **@ScottishBallet**

[Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#)  
[www.scottishballet.co.uk](http://www.scottishballet.co.uk)

Scottish Ballet 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Press Pack can be downloaded [here](#)  
Information about the Five Wishes campaign can be downloaded [here](#)  
Images available to download directly from [here](#)

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### **About Scottish Ballet**

- Scottish Ballet, founded in 1969, is Scotland's national dance company. Based in Glasgow, the company performs regularly across Scotland, and increasingly throughout the UK and internationally – promoting Scotland's pioneering spirit far and wide.
- Under CEO/Artistic Director Christopher Hampson, Scottish Ballet presents bold, adventurous performances rooted in strong classical technique, accompanied by the Scottish Ballet Orchestra. The company's broad repertoire includes new versions of the classics and ground-breaking commissions, as well as an innovative digital season every two year
- Scottish Ballet runs an extensive engagement programme, tailored to the needs of diverse communities, promotes confidence, fosters well-being and encourages creativity through dance.
- In 2019, Scottish Ballet celebrates 50 years of inspiring audiences on stage and beyond, with a creative vision crafted by Scotland. For more information about the anniversary season, visit: [scottishballet.co.uk/50](http://scottishballet.co.uk/50)
- Scottish Ballet is funded by the Scottish Government.

### **About Alzheimer's Scotland**

- Alzheimer Scotland is Scotland's leading dementia organisation, providing care, activities, support, information and advice to people with dementia, their carers and their families. As an organisation, it aims to improve public policies relating to dementia, support developments in dementia research and is a voice for the estimated 90,000 people in Scotland currently living with dementia.
- Alzheimer Scotland is Scotland's foremost voluntary organisation working for people with dementia and their carers. It focuses its efforts in the following ways;
  - Speak out for the rights and concerns of people with dementia and their carers;
  - Provide support throughout Scotland providing practical supports such as musical groups, dementia-friendly cafes, befriending and carers' support services. All supports have been made possible due to fundraised income;
  - Have opened 21 Dementia Resource Centres across Scotland to provide an innovative, safe environment for people with dementia and local communities to come in and receive further information, support or advice
  - Have produced a network of Dementia Advisors across Scotland
  - Provide the 24-hour national freephone Dementia Helpline (0808 808 3000)
  - Publish leaflets, booklets, reports and a quarterly newsletter keeping carers and professionals up-to-date
  - Support the Scottish Dementia Working Group and the National Dementia Carers Action Network
  - Operate a Dementia Research Centre in partnership with the University of Edinburgh, a Centre for Policy & Practice at the University of the West of Scotland and a strategic alliance with Queen Margaret University to ensure we are continuously researching and improving practice, whilst looking for a cure
  - Support highly skilled Dementia Nurse Consultants and a national Allied Health Professional post

**ENDS**