

**Sounds of *The Snow Queen*:  
Scottish Ballet's fifth wish comes true,  
as part of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations**

On Tuesday 4 December, Scottish Ballet made the fifth of five wishes come true as part of the company's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

Responding to a nationwide callout, Anne Bowen submitted a special wish for her husband Colin Bowen; a professional musician who has performed with major orchestras in Scotland and advocated for music education by teaching and inspiring young musicians.

At the age of 45, retired musician, Colin was diagnosed with Parkinson's; a neurological condition that affects the central nervous system. Wanting to share their continued love and passion for music, Anne wished for her husband to conduct the Scottish Ballet Orchestra.

Having practiced with Scottish Ballet's Chief Conductor Jean-Claude Picard, Colin was welcomed to conduct sections of the Rimsky-Korsakov score that sets the scene for the world premiere of Christopher Hampson's *The Snow Queen*.

Before the 70-strong orchestra began their rehearsals, Dance Health Officer Louise Hunter brought the musicians together by introducing a series of movements from the Dance for Parkinson's class, using mindfulness to settle the room.

Welcomed to the podium, Colin lead the Orchestra and the following segments from the chilling score, arranged by outgoing Music Director Richard Honner; *Suite The Invisible City of Kitezh*, *Dance of the Tumblers* from *The Snow Maiden*, *The Dance of the Birds* from *The Snow Maiden*, and *The Flight of the Bumblebee* from *The Tale of Tsar Sultan*.

**Talking about the wishes, CEO/Artistic Director Christopher Hampson said:**

‘It’s been an extraordinary year for Scottish Ballet, and I’m thrilled that we bring our 50th anniversary celebrations to a close with the world premiere of *The Snow Queen*. Each wish has inspired the company in a way that we didn’t see possible. This journey has shown us the power of art, dance and music, not only in inspiring people, but in bringing them together.’

**Fred MacAulay, champion of the fifth wish, said:**

‘For all of us, a trip to the ballet is an exciting visual experience. The orchestra pit isn't even seen by much of the audience, yet the music is as essential to the ballet as the dancers. I'm delighted that Colin got his wish granted and conducted the orchestra for *The Snow Queen*. I can't wait to see AND HEAR it.’

**At the time of submitting the wish, Anne Bowen said:**

‘I was absolutely delighted and very humbled when told our wish had been selected. When Colin conducts the Scottish Ballet Orchestra it will be emotional but also a very happy occasion. Colin is so positive about his condition and told his colleagues that Parkinson’s is no more challenging than life itself.’

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 will come to a close on Thursday 12 December as Alzheimer Scotland’s Every Voice Community Choir from Dumbarton is invited on stage to perform a Christmas song following *The Snow Queen* matinee at Festival Theatre in Edinburgh.

This will be the culmination of the *Five Wishes* story, and the *Five Wishes* documentary that will be broadcast on BBC One (Scotland) on Monday 23 December at 7pm and BBC Scotland on Wednesday 25 December on BBC Scotland at 7pm.

*The Snow Queen* will be captured and broadcast on Tuesday 24 December at 7.30pm on BBC Scotland and broadcast on BBC Four at a later date.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

### **@ScottishBallet**

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[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](#)

### **Scottish Ballet Press Contact:**

Press enquiries and requests can be sent to Joy Parkinson, Press Manager, Scottish Ballet:

Joy Parkinson: [joy.parkinson@scottishballet.co.uk](mailto:joy.parkinson@scottishballet.co.uk) / 0141 333 1092 / 07780310614

### **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.

**ENDS**