

## Glasgow Piano City

would like to offer a huge thank you to 'Celebrate It' and everyone who helped make this happen by supporting us with their donations of: pianos, creativity, time, energy, cash, paint, photos & videos, biscuits & bunting, and of course, your artistic brilliance, music, songs... and dancing!

This has been an inspiring year ~ to say the least and a life changing experience for a good many people involved, pianists young & old, Glaswegians and visitors to the city alike.

We all found ourselves playing pianos
from ~ Pollok Park to Buchanan St, Riverside to Royston, Govanhill to George Square
and sometimes even taking a wee bow with a round of applause.
We left the city stage . . . often feeling like we just received
the keys to city.



Photo Documentation: T. Binns Cover photo: Craig Fleming HD Stills: Jonathan Metzstein

Additional images from individuals.

Special thanks to Angela Churchill ~ for her magnificent, hardwearing, well travelled 'Play Me, I'm Yours' bunting.









## **Pre-Games**

1 'Mac' ~ On the Verge in Garnethill at GSofA Degree Show	2'Wee Mary' at GoMA with some finishing touches at RCoS
Queens Baton Relay	
3 <b>Day 36</b> July 19th ~ East Dunbartonshire ~ a tale of 4 pianos	4Piano Hopscotch for 'Bart', 'Rod', 'Chloe' & 'Liber~Archie'
5 The Gallus Games, Bearsden & Lillie Art Gallery, Milngavie	6 Southbank Marina, Kirkintilloch & Finish Line, Bishopbriggs
7 Day 37 July 20th ~ 'Calisia' at GCRH Live on BBC News 24	8 'Parker' at the Mitchell Library & 'Mac' at the Reid Building
9 Day 38 July 21st ~ 'Spot' in Yorkhill & 'Bumble', Kelvingrove	10 Day 39 July 22nd ~ Southsiders ''Woody', 'Ming' & 'NIkNak'
Festival 2014 Highlights	
11 Merchant City Fest, 'Woody' & 'LiberArchie' in George Sq	12 'Wee Mary' $\sim$ drawing the crowds on the Portico at GoMA
13 Glasgow Green Live Zone, 'Floyd' by the Peoples Palace	14 Books on a Bike Marathon Storytelling Challenge ~ 'Yogi'
15 Robert Smillie Memorial Primary School ~ visiting ' Nemo '	16 Mermaids, Starfish, Seagulls, Anchors & Pianos at Riverside.
17 <b>The Wee Games</b> , Drumchapel with Lilly & ' <i>Liber</i> ~ <b>Archie</b> '	18' <b>Eric</b> ', Govanhill Baths, ' <b>Chic</b> ', BTFL, ' <b>Rosie</b> ', Scotland Street
19 <b>Mature Maestros</b> ~ there is some vintage talent in town	20 The Wee Ones ~ mini maestros one & all ~ practising hard!
21 Custom House Quay ~ Celebrate showcase in the rain!	22 <b>Extras</b> ~ George Square in the Sunshine and Fabio Tedde.
Post-Games & Preparation	
23 Lids Open Days ~ City Halls, Pollok House & the Mitchell.	24 New Homes & Installations at the Lighthouse & Bike Station
25 Visitors Book Comments	26 <b>Thanks to</b> a cast of thousands
27 Play Me, I'm Yours Paris ~ July 2013 Pastry & Pianos	28 Paintings & Pianos ~ Festival of the Piano, November 2014





Baby Freya . . . testing the piano lid for comfort in Garnethill Park at 'On the Verge', (GPC taster event during the GSofA degree show) while Marsha Burke provides on the spot signage for 'Mac', donated by Biggars Music and destined for life outside the Reid Building, opposite Glasgow School of Art during the Games. Now well loved and played by many people in the Project Café . . . just down the hill on Renfrew St.

'Wee Mary 'gets her finishing touches from students in RCoS Scenic Art Dept just before arriving at GoMA. Straight away a visitor from California is delighted to find a piano to play and sings 'Don't Stop Believing'. No doubt inspiring some of the captivated wee ones in the audience to express the music inside them too. See this performance on the GPC Youtube channel.



















A little singing in the rain never hurt anyone and the drizzle did nothing to dampen the spirits of Graeme, Tom, Karen & Chloe at the Southbank Marina in Kirkintilloch as the Queens Baton arrived on a barge up river. At the Gallus Games outside Bearsden Primary School, 'Bart' joins in too.

















'Rod' leaves his corridor in Bearsden Academy for the Lillie Art Gallery before getting strapped back into the van and heading straight to Easterhouse for the next QBR event.

'Bart' leaves the Douglas Academy practice rooms for the Gallus Games . . . before visiting Royston Library for a day.













'Chloe' with Ray Charles, Nick Cave & Co for company.

'Liber~Archie' decorated by artist Tom Brown and now freshly installed in Sense Scotland.









Graeme Gass playing 'Rod' to welcome the Baton Bearer to the Lillie Art Gallery, before being whisked away to 'the Bridge' in Easterhouse ~ with bunting in pursuit, ready for Tom Binns to play, as the QBR passes through their café bar the next day. Earlier, at the Gallus Games in Bearsden, 'Bart' (Donated by Douclas Academy) arrived for a late entry in the 3-legged race & managed a respectable last place.













Graeme Gass makes it to Southbank Marina just in time to join the GPC team and a good crowd braving the weather to welcome the Baton arriving up the canal. Meanwhile, four local choirs are rehearsing 'Here's to all our Common Wealth' for the finish line celebrations in Bishopbriggs ~ with the 'Play Me, I'm Yours' bunting in tow of course.







I think we're going to need a bigger stool!



Ronnie Stuart plays 'Calisia' on the Concert Hall steps, shot by Jonathan Metzstein for a short promotional film. Mark Beaumont signs the piano and the BBC News 24 team interview the designer of the Queens Baton and GPC Project Manager, Tom Binns, ( serious BBC face ) live on the early morning news after the QBR entourage carries on down Buchanan Street.















Glasgow School of Art staff looking after 'Mac' at the Reid building as fresh decoration gets quickly added to his new rear blackboard. Earlier that morning down at the Mitchell Library ~ Angela Churchill arrives to see her wonderful bunting, hung for the first time that day, as the Queens Baton is played in by Janice Raeside at the piano.

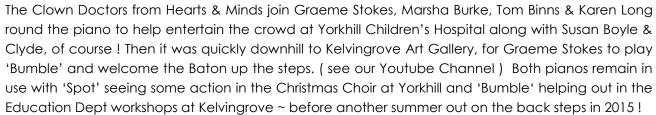






















'Woody', played by Tom Binns, improvising a rousing tune, along with the painted drummers at GalGael while Ben holds the Queens Baton that he helped to make & Martin Campbell stands beside his beautiful handiwork on 'Woody' ~ David Boyce gives 'Ming' a final tuning at the Burrell Collection before he goes out in the sun for people to play ~ as they wait for the QBR entourage. Meanwhile, a bit further along the road at Shawlands Arcade, 'NikNak' joins the crowd to cheer on the Baton.









A real highlight of the Games for many people having two pianos in George Square in the sun. 'Woody' (from GalGaell) and 'Liber~Archie' were both played all day by Glaswegians and visitors to the city from far and wide. 2 Spanish kids were delighted to play for the crowd with plenty of home grown talent having a go too. Rickshaw is the only way to travel for Graeme!

















Fabio drew a crowd at GoMA and made the 10pm STV News. He had came to Glasgow specially to play our pianos during his globetrotting Streetpiano adventures. Well done!

Fabio Tedde, Graeme Stokes & Marsha Burke enjoying the atmosphere at GoMA where 'WeeMary' was played round the clock throughout the Games. The students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Scenic Art Dept. did such a brilliant decoration job on her that no-one had a clue she was a *Welmar*, on loan from their practice rooms, worth a whole lot more than her rusty portholes suggested. Katie Keenan plays for an adoring fan while a mini maestro takes a round of well deserved applause . . . after her first public performance on the city stage.













Nestled in the trees, near the Peoples Palace was 'Floyd' in the Glasgow Green Live Zone. You could also find him in the shade, in his wee pavilion, where he was free for choirs & bands to perform with too . . . as well as anyone taking a break from the entertainment & ice cream.











Another in a long line of happy accidents during the Games meant that the Books on a Bike Marathon Storytelling Challenge ended up using our pianos at An Clachan Café and Tramway, to great colour coordinated effect. Tam Dean Burn roars. . . and a crowd appears!









The painting & decorating squad from Robert Smillie Memorial Primary School in Larkhall arrive at Riverside to see their handiwork on 'Nemo' with Graeme Stokes providing something of a musical education for all.



The Wee Games in Drumchapel had everything ~ smoothie bikes, face painting & pianos. You can see Lilly on our Youtube channel sharing a melody she made up at home. Lilly was so delighted at getting an impromptu piano lesson that she dashed off to make a picture and a smoothie for Tom Binns. Never was a piano lesson so enthusiastically anticipated. 'Liber~Archie' blended right in to the Sports Centre foyer and had quite a few players on the day.

















Alice playing 'NikNak' in Art Village decorated by Jane Churchill & Tom.



'Rosie' at Scotland Street School & 'Bumble' at Kelvingrove Art Gallery ( Decorated by Charlotte Isaac and Marsha Burke ~ respectively )

'Yogi' being filmed by STV Glasgow on the 1st day of the games outside An Clachan Café while down on Argyle Street outside the BTFL office,

'Chic' draws the passers by on their way to Glasgow Green Live Zone. (Decorated by Little Book Transfers with a little last minute signage from Paul McDonald)

With a life beyond the Games in Strathclyde University Architecture Department Social Space, 'Chic' is still being played by many people.













Govanhill Baths foyer will never be the same again after the arrival of 'Eric' donated by McLarens Pianos ~ and lovingly decorated by local artist Altron who sits at the keys while Mick decides whether or not to give us a tune.





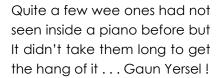




Graeme Stokes and Alan Kenny with over 120 yrs playing experience between them enjoying the chance to share a few choice tricks of the trade with the next generation ~ Siobhan and Karen.





















Stored overnight in McLarens piano shop to avoid the roadblocks, 'Calisia' nipped over the road to custom House Quay for the Celebrate Showcase, on the last day of the Games. Despite the weather report the piano was ready for action & played by Alan Kenny, up bright & early ~ and all the way from Hamilton to give us a smile.











'Ming' at the Burrell Collection ~ Emily& Eva on 'Wee Mary', GoMA portico.















the Grand Hall ~ City Halls the Mitchell Library and at Pollok House. Free access to high quality pianos for all ages &abilities. We met some golden oldies and a few stars for the future like wee Gordon, playing his socks off on 'Floyd' at the City Halls during the Piano Festival in November 2014.













'Yogi' was found hidden under Frank Sinatra in Partick and had quite a life before during and after the Games, at the Gibson St Gala & the Glasgow Mela via: a Church, a Hindu Temple, a Mosque and Dumbreck Stables!

Now in Holly's house, Cardonald, 'Yogi' was named after her horse.



Back in November 2013 when the first GPC piano 'Calisia' was born during the Festival of the Piano as a taster for installation during the Games ~ Lewis Morrison was coming to Glasgow Royal Concert Hall to play 'Calisia' with his friends and asked if he could have a piano when the project was over. His interest led us to his school, Lenzie Academy, who proceeded to take on the decoration process for 'Chloe' who had quite a life in Kirkintilloch at the QBR & Canal Festival in August too.

'Chloe' is sitting happily in Lewis's bedroom now as his mum & brother get used to the new pianos arrival in their house & the sound of music!



'Bart' is now at the Coach House Trust and 'Sprocket' at the Bike Station.











## With Thanks to . . .

Glasgow Music and Festival 2014 Graeme Stokes, Marsha Burke, Lindsay McCann, Clare MacAulay, Alasdair Russell, David Boyce, Graeme Gass, Karen Long, Jonathan Metzstein Altron, Stevie, Alan, Bruce, Jim, Fatima & everyone at Govanhill Baths, the Gallus Games, Bearsden and the Lillie Art Gallery in Milngavie, Martin Cambell, Alasdair, Helen & everyone at GalGael, Joanne Cowie & Dulux Decorator Centres Michael Angus & Strathclyde University, Dave Galloway, Shona Baird & Suzanne Bruce at East Dunbartonshire Council, McLarens Pianos & Gerry Love, Barbara & Gary at An Clachan Café, Dear Green Coffee Roasters, the Art Store, the Old Barn at Dumbreck Stables Yorkhill Children's Hospital and Hearts & Minds, Glasgow School of Art, Julliane, Patrick & Alan at Art Village Kelvingrove Art Gallery, Rverside Museum, Scotland Street School Museum, the Burrell Collection, the Project Café, Caledonian Bicycle Company, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland & the Scenic Art Department Bearsden Academy, Douglas Academy, Lenzie Academy, Robert Smillie Memorial Primary School, The Gallery of Modern Art,

Luke Jerram & Sally Reay at 'Play Me, I'm Yours'

Margaret Pringle, Alan Kenny and

A Cast of Thousands







Preparation began in 2013 ~ when Tom Binns visited his old stomping ground in Paris to experience 'Play Me, I'm Yours' firsthand and clarify how best to approach bringing streetpianos to Glasgow for the 2014 Games. A realistic and achievable installation of around 15/20 pianos was decided upon after witnessing the realities of 60 pianos spread out around Paris ~ and the logistics of retaining a high quality installation.









During the 2014 Glasgow Music Festival of the Piano ~ twelve of the GPC instruments were gathered together at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall for people to play and enjoy. They proved to be a resounding hit with visitors & staff alike. 'Calisia' & 'Floyd' remain available to play all year.











