

# The Burns Club of London

**150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year**

in association with **The British Library** and  
**University of Glasgow's School of Robert Burns Studies**



**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018, 7:00 pm**

**Live performance of Robert Burns's dramatic cantata *The Jolly Beggars* at  
The Knowledge Centre, The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB**

A production jointly staged by The Burns Club of London, The University of Glasgow and the British Library to commemorate both our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of this dramatic cantata by Robert Burns.

Step into Poosie Nansie's drinking howff in Ayrshire where you will meet a delightful company of disreputable outcasts. In ***The Jolly Beggars***, the national poet of Scotland summarised the dreary joys and the sordid love affairs of this group of vagrants. It was written in around 1785 but published posthumously, possibly because its controversial content risked damaging Burns's reputation.

Henry Bishop set the cantata to music in 1818 so this will be a great occasion to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This production will feature seven soloists, a narrator, a choir and a musical trio playing period instruments, recreating the piece 200 years after its publication.

Performers include: narrator Tam Dean Burn, Scottish singers Jamie MacDougall (The Bard), Lorna Anderson (The Highland Widow), Alistair Digges (The Tinker) and Andrew McTaggart (The Soldier) and the 'vagrants' of the chorus come from the singers of the University of Glasgow Chapel Choir. The trio is David Gerrard (fortepiano), Clare Salaman (fiddle) and Christopher Suckling (cello).

The evening will begin with a talk about the work by Kirsteen McCue, University of Glasgow, who has edited the cantata for the new Oxford edition of *The Works of Robert Burns*.

Refreshments will be served at the end of the evening.

**Tickets:** Full price £15 Seniors (60+) £12  
Juniors (under 18)/Student/Registered Unemployed £10

available from: **01937 546546** [boxoffice@bl.uk](mailto:boxoffice@bl.uk)  
**or the British Library website** [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk)

Additional information available from  
[president@bcol.org.uk](mailto:president@bcol.org.uk)



Image: 'The Jolly Beggars' from William Kidd (1832)  
*A series of Twelve Illustrations of the Poems of Robert Burns*  
British Library Shelfmark 11633.f.4

Joint production with The British Library and Centre for Robert Burns Studies (CRBS), The University of Glasgow



**The Burns Club of London**  
founded 1868  
150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year



**University  
of Glasgow**