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PRESS RELEASE - November 14, 2026 - Asheville, NC

Asheville Sister Cities' 2027 Robert Burns Night Supper to support Dunkled, Scotland Cathedral Choir Restoration

Event: Asheville Sister Cities Inc. (ASCI) 2027 Robert Burns Night Supper; 5:00 - 9:30 pm Saturday, January 23; Biltmore Park Hilton (AKA Hilton Asheville Biltmore Park) celebrating the 268th birthday of the Bard of Scotland. URL: ashevillesistercities.org/burns

Fundraiser: Since 2019, Asheville Sister Cities Inc., a 501c3 organization, has raised funds annually at Burns Night for projects in the Asheville and the Scottish community of Dunkeld & Birnam. The 2027 Burns Night Fundraiser will support the Cathedral Choir Restoration in Dunkeld, Scotland. Many visitors from Asheville have enjoyed visiting this historically significant medieval cathedral. This once in a hundred year restoration will enable the cathedral to be accessed safely and used year-round by the congregation, visitors, and the community for generations to come. The charity fundraiser is open to the public and winners need not be present to claim auction and raffle prizes.

Oscar Wong Whisky Tasting: Second annual tasting will be held in recognition of pioneer craft brewer, Oscar Wong, whose leadership and friendship helped so many causes in the Asheville community. Wong shared his extensive experience with the spirits world by hosting the whisky tasting at prior ASCI Burns Nights.

Introduction to Cèilidh Dancing: The program will include an introduction to this traditional form of Scottish dancing that can be traced back to the 1700's and still livens up Scottish weddings and community gatherings to this day.

Program: The evening's ceremony follows a ritual set down since the first Burns Night in 1801. Entertainment includes piper Alex Stewart, dancers from the Asheville branch of the Carpenter Academy of Irish Dance, and appearing as StrathSpan: fiddler Nora Garver, cellist Julia Weatherford, and piper Cathleen Nixon.

Burns Night: Held near the birthday of Scotland's greatest poet, Robert Burns 1759-1796, Burns Night is a worldwide celebration of Scottish heritage and traditions and Burns's ideals which have shaped Scotland and the world. Burns lived at a time of drastic transition as Scottish culture and traditions were diluted by union with England. Burns devoted the end of his life to preserving these traditions of love of freedom, country, nature, and life through over 700 songs and poems including the second most popular song in English, Auld Lang Syne. Western North Carolina has strong ties with the Scots. By the time of the Civil War, tens of thousands of Scots and Ulster Scots had migrated to Western North Carolina. 2.9% of North Carolinians, the highest percentage nationally, self-identify as Ulster Scots.

Takeaway: All are welcome to 'tak' a cup o' kindness' in celebration of Robert Burns and Scottish culture regardless of one's own heritage. Join us in the fun of following a traditional Burns Night ceremony filled with music and song for a worthy cause!

Contact: Tom Good, ASCI 2026 Robert Burns Night Supper Event Director by text at 802-793-7571 or email tomgood@ecologicarchitecture.com.