



A standing ovation raised the roof of the Queen's Hall for several minutes after the show had finished. It was a stirring end to a night commemorating a terrible tragedy, one that left the entire audience moved and sombre, but strangely elated.

(Broadway Baby).



FAR, FAR FROM YPRES.

2018 TOUR DATES AND VENUES

Sun	05 Aug	Selkirk, Victoria Halls
Thu	09 Aug	Aberdeen, His Majesty's Theatre
Wed	29 Aug	Oban, Corran Halls
Fri	31 Aug	Portree, Aros Centre
Sat	01 Sep	Ullapool, Macphail Centre
Sun	07 Oct	Dundee, Whitehall Theatre
Sun	14 Oct	Stirling, Albert Halls
Sun	21 Oct	Inverness, Eden Court
Sun	28 Oct	Dumfries, Theatre Royal
Sun	11 Nov	Edinburgh, Usher Hall

Please contact your chosen venue for ticket information.



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“Far, Far from Ypres” is a two-hour multimedia performance presenting World War One through songs from the trenches and music halls, more recent songs inspired by the conflict, poetry and prose readings.

Devised, written and produced by Ian McCalman, of the folk group The McCalmans, *“Far, Far from Ypres”* is narrated by BBC Radio Scotland presenter Iain Anderson and has attracted some of the leading lights in the folk scene. Those joining him on this tour will include Barbara Dickson, Siobhan Miller, Dick Gaughan, Ian McCalman, Iain Anderson, Professor Gary West, Stephen Quigg, Ian Bruce, Sangsters and other well-known faces in the Scottish folk scene. (N.B. Possible cast changes for some shows).

“Far, Far from Ypres” is the story of the Scottish war effort during World War One, its excitement, hope, suffering, endurance, humour, fear and disillusionment in the face of horror told through the eyes of fictional, prototypical soldier, Jimmy MacDonald. Full of enthusiasm and, like many young men, eager to sign up for the “big adventure”, Jimmy joins up as soon as he can and is sent to the Flanders trenches where he endures four long years of hell, sleeping in filth, dodging bullets, artillery poisonous gas, and experiencing sorrow and guilt over the loss of comrades.

Although the war poems by the likes of Sassoon, Owen and Graves are well read, they are predominantly written by officers. It was the popular music which gave valuable witness and testimony to both military and

social history, expressing the disenchantment felt by the average soldier and providing a valuable counterpoint. These songs are a rich source of information about the life and thoughts of the first-ever Citizen Army fielded by Britain, along with those on the Home Front. The early, jingoistic songs promoted recruitment and betrayed an innocence about the reality of trench life and death, through resignation and black humour. By the end of the war there was a bitterness as the carnage of war became obvious. The contemporary music provides an easily-accessible record of the way attitudes to the war amongst the greater mass of population changed over the course of the conflict until its conclusion. The songs provide powerful context to key events in an era very different from our own. In addition, humorous extracts from the contemporary newspaper, “The Wipers Times”, miraculously produced by soldiers in the trenches and bitterly opposed by senior officers, vividly conveys the cynicism of those at the receiving end of war.

To commemorate the lead-up to the centenary of Armistice Day on 11 November 2018, *“Far, Far from Ypres”* will tour in ten towns and cities across Scotland closely associated with Scottish regiments and therefore at the heart of recruitment during World War One.

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