

# Edinburgh's Hogmanay will say thank you to all key workers

Although it is all digital and online this year, Edinburgh's Hogmanay will nevertheless say a big thank you to NHS staff and other key workers using the city as the backdrop.

The digital programme which begins tonight and runs until 1 January 2021, was launched last night with a flare display lighting up the Castle esplanade with a rainbow. You can watch the video below.

The castle ramparts is where we normally look to witness the midnight moment and the fireworks which for so many years now have meant Hogmanay in Edinburgh. This year pyrotechnics by Titanium Fireworks in the shape of a rainbow provided a Torchlight Moment, filmed and photographed for all to see online and on TV.

Now the opening event is to be followed by a three part film beginning this evening entitled Fare Well. And it is all free to watch.

This will be [released over the next three days](#) leading up to Hogmanay. *Fare Well* brings together the words of Scots Makar Jackie Kay, the music of NiteWorks from the Isle of Skye, the voices of acclaimed Scottish talent including David Tennant and the pioneering drone technology and filming of Celestial to create the UK's largest swarm drone display. Taking

inspiration from Scotland's land and air, the new work takes viewers on a breath-taking visual journey with the help of 150 individual drones from the Scottish Highlands to the capital city, Edinburgh – a journey that closes the year on 2020 and looks forward to a more hopeful year of 2021.

We swing aroon and turn tae the day.

We give thanks fir solidarity;

Drap parcels tae food banks.

Clap oor haunds frae balconies

fir the gift o' nurses.

*Jackie Kay, Fare Well, Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2020*

Watch all three films on the Edinburgh's Hogmanay [website](#).

Charlie Wood & Ed Bartlam, Directors of Underbelly who produce Edinburgh's Hogmanay, commented: "At the end of a year no one could have imagined, it was important that we started our week of Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrations with a heartfelt thank you to those across the UK who have worked so tirelessly to keep us safe during 2020.

The NHS and our key workers have provided an immeasurable level of help and support and this Torchlight Moment sings Scotland's gratitude with flaming torches in front one of our greatest national monuments, Edinburgh Castle."



City of Edinburgh Council Leader, Councilor Adam McVey, said: "Edinburgh is the home of Hogmanay and this year's digital celebrations will continue, albeit very differently. This is a fantastic and innovative way to pay tribute to all of our front-line workers – both in Scotland and across the globe – that have done so much to support us and keep us safe throughout this year. To our NHS staff and key workers – for those in the labs working on vaccines, those in food preparation and delivery, for our refuse collectors, postal workers, supermarket workers, police and so many more – we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts and hope that 2021 brings with it positive change as we battle to suppress and eradicate this virus."

Depute Leader, Councilor Cammy Day said: "We all clapped for carers and put up rainbows in our windows over the summer and now we light rainbow torches to show our enormous gratitude at the end of this year of tremendous strain on all of our communities. It's wonderful to see this excellent online programme coming to life so that the undisputed Home of Hogmanay can still reach so many people around the world. It will serve as a virtual invitation for everyone to look

forward to visiting us again when we're all able to travel and live more freely in the future."

Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop said: "Scotland is the world-renowned home of Hogmanay and every year thousands of people, right across the globe, look forward to the spectacular of Edinburgh's Hogmanay to welcome in the New Year.

Although we're not able to come together physically to bring in the bells this year, we can enjoy a fully digital programme that continues the tradition of celebrating Hogmanay with poetry, music and performance. I encourage everyone to take part in this year's series of virtual events and celebrate Hogmanay safely at home."