



Music and Dance Policy

Introduction

Manx music and dance offer important and immediate ways of celebrating national cultural identity, with musicians and dancers acting as an integral part of community and national events on the Island as well as representing the Isle of Man all over the world. Increased interest in the Isle of Man's culture sees performers more and more in demand at festivals, which motivates wider participation as well as the production of new source and educational products.

Through the work of the Manx Music Development Officer, this policy is designed to support and strengthen the work of the Manx music and dance community, to widen accessibility to and knowledge of Manx music and dance and to encourage them to take their place internationally.

This policy is framed by Culture Vannin's over-arching policy to support and promote Manx culture and the Isle of Man Government's plan to nurture and promote our cultural heritage as a foundation of our nation's character and future economic, social and cultural success.

Objective: to continue to encourage and develop the study, performance and experience of the music and dance of the Isle of Man and to support these areas through four key areas:

1. Developing skills

Working with young people

- 1.1 to support Manx music and dance in the school curriculum and through extra-curricular activities, providing expertise and teaching.
- 1.2 to develop schemes of work in conjunction with the Department of Education and Children and IOM Music Service.
- 1.3 to develop the Bree traditional youth movement through workshop weekends, regular music sessions and similar activities.

Working with adults

- 1.4 to support and inspire adult performers and learners through community, educational and performance opportunities and events.

2. Developing resources

- 2.1 to develop educational material appropriate for different stages in the school curriculum in conjunction with the Department of Education and Children.
- 2.2 to develop a programme of publication of music editions and re-issues, and to release new and archive recordings.
- 2.3 to maintain and develop the Manx Music Database as an electronic bibliography with easy referencing to collections within Manx National Heritage and other archives.
- 2.4 to encourage the development of new material – both arrangements and new compositions – in a Manx style for both music and dance, with commissions where appropriate.

3. Promotion and support

- 3.1 to raise the profile of Manx music and dance and to encourage usage in a range of contexts.
- 3.2 to develop a wide range of 'access points' to Manx music and dance for as many people as possible, including through the development of a dedicated Manx music and dance website www.manxmusic.com.
- 3.3 to support festivals such as Yn Chruinnaght, Shennaghys Jiu, Manx Folk Awards and the Celtic Congress.
- 3.4 to support the inclusion of Manx music and dance in festivals and events both on-Island and internationally, acting as a facilitator to match appropriate performers with events.
- 3.5 to support the use of Manx Gaelic within Manx music, working with the Manx Language Development Officer where appropriate.
- 3.6 to promote a sense of community and connectivity at the same time as making a record of Manx music and dance activities through the publication of a newsletter, regular web and email postings.
- 3.7 to explore the possibilities for promoting Manx music and dance through showcases at festivals and within educational institutions.
- 3.8 to answer enquiries relating to Manx music and dance in order to promote good practice and extend the knowledge base.

4. Collection and research

To provide a secure basis for the development and understanding of Manx music and dance.

- 4.1 to continue a planned programme of collection and archiving of documentary, recorded and other relevant material.
- 4.2 to continue the identification and copying of existing manuscripts, printed and recorded material.
- 4.3 to encourage research into aspects of Manx music and dance and to support the dissemination of findings through performance and publication on and off the Island.
- 4.4 to help prepare modules for degree programmes as well as the development of seminars, conferences and workshops in collaboration with other bodies, where appropriate.

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