KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

manx music today

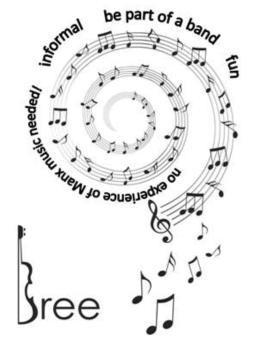
mee boaldyn - may 2012

New May weekend of workshops for Bree 12 & 13 May

Students in school years 6-13 have the opportunity to take part in a free weekend of music, song and dance workshops at Douglas Youth Arts Centre. The workshops are informal and fun and involve working in small groups, forming bands, writing new material, etc. With a range of talented tutors, you don't even need to have any previous experience of Manx music. All we ask is that you are able to play melodies or chords on your instrument or are happy to sing and dance. The application form is at the end of the newsletter - fill it in early to secure your place!

Contact Chloë Woolley on manxmusicspecialst(AT)mhf.org.im or 695787 with any queries.

www.breeiom.tk



weekend
of
free
Manx
music
workshops
for
young
singers,
musicians
& dancers

school years 6 - 13

Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 May 10am – 4pm

Youth Centre, Kensington Road, Douglas

Manx Beat Generation

Local author Andy Wint is seeking memories from the Manx 'Beat Generation' in the era when local

teenagers embraced skiffle, rock'n'roll and beat music. He's compiling a definitive record of Pop Culture in the 1950s and 60s in the Island which will be published by the Manx Heritage Foundation later this year. He's looking for photos, news clippings and personal memories of the groups, venues, cafes and personalities involved in the scene. Here's a video which sets out the ideas and may jog a few reminiscences.

www.manx.net/tv/mt-tv/watch/4559/doyou-remember-the-1950s-60s If you wish to contribute, please contact Andy at: gomango@manx.net or call him on 404225.

The photo (right) shows members of the Manx Jive Club in action around 1956.



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Pupils from Bunscoill Ghaelgagh were chosen to sing for Prince Charles

Pupils from Manx medium school, Bunscoill Ghaelgagh, sang for Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall outside the House of Manannan in Peel on Thursday 26 April. The children can be heard singing in Manx about 58 seconds in to the following MTTV broadcast:



www.manx.net/tv/mt-tv/watch/5333/royal-visit-2-

The Bunscoill Ghaelgagh is celebrating 10 years. A day in the life of the school is available on YouTube here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qKirSX7giE

https://www2.sch.im/groups/bunscoillghaelgagh/



Guild results so far...

Results are coming in for the Manx Music Festival - here are just some of them that relate to Manx music and dance...

Gaelic Choirs won by Hurricanes from Gale Force with 86 Distinction

Morris or Sword Dance won by Arbory School with 85 Distinction

Country Dancing won by Scoill Phurt le Moirrey with a Cornish dance 'Phoebe' with 88 Distinction.

Manx Folk Dancing won by Onchan School with 87 Distinction. What was great to see is that there were 15 entries in this class!

John Riley included David Kilgallon's composition Yn Scollag Aeg in his programme for the advanced organ class

John Kinley's arrangement of a hymn won the Sir Laurence and Lady New Trophy for Rushen Silver Band.

Best of luck to everyone else competing this week. Results and info online:

www.manxmusicfestival.org

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WANTED: BANDS & DANCE GROUPS FOR SUMMER EVENTS!

IOM QUEENIE FESTIVAL SAT 30th JUNE

Tim Croft of the IOM Queenie Festival is looking for bands for an acoustic stage in Port St Mary on Saturday 30th June. there are six slots of 45 minutes each, starting on the hour at 11am and everything finished by 5pm.

http://queeniefestival.com/

PORT ERIN BEACH FESTIVAL FRI 13th JULY

Organiser Aubrey Brooks would like some Manx trad bands with a big sound for the live stage on the beach in the evening (7ish-10.30). This is set to be another great event, with a packed programme of beach sports, music and entertainment all weekend.

If you're interested, email Breesha on **mhfmusic(AT)mhf.org.im** asap.

Newly commissioned work has its first rehearsal with the Isle of Man Wind Orchestra

Music Director of the IOM Wind Orchestra, Paul Dunderdale, was recently commissioned by the Manx Heritage Foundation to compose a new work based on a piece of music collected by Mona Douglas. He chose the song 'Scollag Aeg' and the new work had its first rehearsal at Marown School on Thursday 19 April.

Scollag Aeg is just under six minutes and moves from its beginnings in quiet solitude through bolder statements of the theme and experimentation, with changing time signatures.

Paul is an experienced composer whose 'Manannan Suite' is available from Bandleader Publications.

This commission celebrates Mona Douglas' life, 2012 being the 25th anniversary of her death. It will be premiered at the IOM Wind Orchestra's concert at St German's Cathedral in Peel on Tuesday 10th July at 7.45pm, admission free. **www.iomwo.com**



~ SESSIONS ~

THURS 8pm Singing session at The Royal, Ramsey
FRI 8.30pm Tynwald Inn, St. Johns FRI 9pm Irish at The Mitre, Ramsey
Folk at the Club (1st or 2nd Fri of month), 8pm, Peel Golf Club
Last FRI of month 9pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary
SAT 10pm Manx at The White House, Peel

"THE TIPSY FIDDLER; 'MOLLY CHARANE" GEORGE BORROW IN THE ISLE OF MAN (1855)

by Stephen Miller

Part of the entry for 31 August 1855, in George Borrow's diary reads engagingly so: "[...] the public house fire; the dinner; the seat by the kitchen fire at evening; the tipsy fiddler; 'Molly Charane'; [...]." This was in Port Erin. Borrow (1803–81), together with his wife and step-daughter, were visiting the Isle of Man in 1855, as part of a number of walking tours they undertook in the British Isles. His planned book on his trip here never appeared though advertised in 1857 and 1858 under the title, Bayr Jairgey and Glio Doo: The Red Path and the Black Valley, Wanderings in Quest of Manx Literature. Borrow, once a well-known figure, is now a neglected one outside of the circle of the George Borrow Society itself. His notebooks cum diary of his visit ended up in the hands of two Borrow biographers, Clement Shorter and William Knapp, who published only extracts from them and they to date still remain to be fully transcribed and edited.

When in the Island, Borrow seemingly had two passions: the finding and recording of runic stones and that of vernacular music and song as seen in the diary entry above. That same day in August he had walked from Port St Mary where he had overtaken a "sailor with whom I enter into discourse; [...] said he was acquainted with a great many Manx songs; found, however, that he was unable to give the name of any of them, with the exception of 'Molly Charane' ["Mylecharaine"]." The next day, still in Port Erin, "[...] the old fisherman; held discourse with him; asked if he knew Manx songs; said that he had heard hundreds in his youth; asked him what they were about; said that they were about drowned seamen and matters of love, and that some were from the English; [...]."

Here we have here three insights into Insular vernacular song repertoire from this "old fisherman." The comment about "drowned seamen" a reference to locally-composed songs about losses of loved ones at sea, generically known in Manx as a bardoon, glossed by Cregeen as "a doleful song." Songs about "matters of love" requires little in the nature of explanation for their popularity.... "[S]ome were from the English," showing that as the Island's language was shifting towards a greater accommodation of English usage so too did vernacular song.

When in Onchan, Borrow had "discourse with a man who spoke almost unintelligible English; [...] that there were songs in it [ie, Manx], one of which he mentioned, and which he said he had seen in print, but of which he could give me no intelligible account; that it was for twenty years against the parlour wall of a farmhouse, over the hill." As to what this song was, he was soon to discover when still in the village and coming across a woman in St Peters churchyard. On the strength of many passages in his diary, Borrow hectored information out of those he met rather than drew it out. Nevertheless, after asking her if she knew of "Illiam Dhone" he was told:

"Oh, yes," said she, "I know that. Ah! that is a song indeed. Whenever it comes to my mind, my eyes fill with tears. Ah, that's a song indeed! About him who was shot at Hangoe the old Chapel at Castletown. And yet they say there is something wrong about that song; great folks don't like us to sing it, or have it hung up in print on our cottage walls." "There is nothing wrong in it," said I, "it only breeds hated against butchery and tyranny."

Possibly there is a certain license at play here in recounting her words but evidently, this pasting of the ballad on farmhouse and cottage walls, and equally its singing, was a widespread practise. It is a further insight into the reception of the ballad and its place in a Manx consciousness (also, a remainder that print culture is present from an early date in Manx vernacular culture).

But what of "Mylecharaine"? As Borrow recounts:

Two families bearing the name of the miser, and descended from him, still reside upon the curragh, at the distance of about half-a-mile from each other. The name of the head of the principal family is John Mollie Charane; that of the other Billy Mollie Charane.

Off he duly went to see the former. Invited into the croft by his wife, she asked him what was the reason for his calling and one feels that Borrow had been waiting all day to say, "Merely to see Mollie Charane." Taken in by this, she replied, "that he was not at home, but that she was his wife and any business I had with her husband I might communicate to her." When informed by the real reason for

his visit, she said "that there was indeed a song about a member of the family, but that he had been dead and gone many a long year, and she wondered I should give myself the trouble, merely because one of their forebears was mentioned in a song." Upon entering the croft he had been given a dish of buttermilk to drink and "[a]fter conversing with the respectable old lady for about half an hour, I got up, shook her by the hand, and departed for Balla Giberagh. [...] However miserly the Mollie Charane of the song may have been, I experienced no lack of hospitality."

There were three songs that Borrow inevitably sought out information on: "Mylecharaine," "Illiam Dhone," and "The Sheep under the Snow." These appear to have been a core set to anyone who had knowledge at all of Manx song and they were to be translated into English by Borrow and published in 1862. This work is mentioned in the notebooks. "In the afternoon, feeling rather unwell, I remained within and translated the Manx song "Mollie Charane." "Mr Goldsmith the night before left me a scrapbook in which was an elegy in Manx on the Death, or rather Murder, of William Christian in 1662. Endeavoured in the afternoon to translate it." "At night sat up late studying 'William Doo." It was with the Goldsmiths that Borrow and family were lodging and clearly, he had manuscript copies of "Mylecharaine" and "The Sheep under the Snow" for Borrow to work on. Incidentally, Mrs Goldsmith narrated two fairy legends that Borrow took down.

Borrow was also interested in carvals and sought to acquire carval books and being successful in obtaining two of them. They came from two individuals: James Skillicorn of Laxey and John Boyde of Ballaugh. As regards the present whereabouts of these books, one is known and the other suspected.

The former was a lead miner and was likely recruited as a guide by Rowe, the proprietor of the Commercial Inn where Borrow was staying overnight as he was evidently forewarned that he was to visit as will be seen. Setting off to climb Snaefell they passed the Laxey Wheel, Skillicorn proving himself also a guide to the folklore of the Island even recounting a folktale about Fin McCooil for Borrow. Before they had finally made their way to the summit, Skillicorn presented Borrow with one of his carval books showing he must have been informed as to what his guest was seeking on his travels around the Island. Borrow duly inserted an inscription in the book reading: "CAROLS | In the Manx Language: | some of them composed | By | James Skillicorn | a Miner of Laxey | Presented By Him | on the Side of Snaefell | To | George Borrow | 1855."

Acquiring the second book of carvals was not as easy. He had turned up at Glen Dhoo in Ballaugh to find just Mrs Boyde at home, her husband off cutting turf at some distance. The Boydes had three carvals books in their possession and she was certain that her husband would allow Borrow to take one away. He was staying at Kirk Michael (one assumes the Mitre Inn there) and asked if John Boyde could come with it that evening as he was due to leave the next morning. The answer from Mrs Boyde was her husband would be too tired to walk there and back after returning home from turf cutting. This is when Borrow shows a somewhat petulant side to his character: "I am going to walk it," said I, "and I am wet through and have been wandering about the mountains for hours." She gave as good as she got pointing out that he had not had to work all day as her husband had done so. Borrow appeared to calm down a little and asked if he could visit him early the next day. This she should she would raise it with him when he returned. He was shown one of the books and then "[t]he old lady made sit down on a stool by the hearth, and told me to put my wet feet 'into the fire," evidently taking pity on the wet condition of his clothing and possibly on him as well.

Borrow duly turned up the next morning to find John Boyde had now gone off to Ballaugh to dig potatoes but would give him a book of carvals when he was at home and Borrow replied that he would return the next day. He then set off for Ramsey via Sulby and Kirk Andreas and put up at the Mitre Inn there in the town. This was a period in which people walked and walked far without qualms.

He returned the next day and was accompanied on the highway from Ramsey with someone on the way to Ballaugh, one Daniel Kelly, "[f]ound him a first rate walker." Finally making his way to the Boyde croft, Mrs Boyde appeared surprised that he had returned. Seemingly no longer as free with the offer of a carval book, "[a]fter some hesitation I was allowed to have it." Borrow now made them a present of three shillings but this soon unsettled Mrs Boyde as it "was not lawful to take money for anything on the Sabbath day, and that it was not right to accept money for carvals at any time, which ought always to be given."

It was in going over the mountains to Douglas that Borrow had a "terrible journey" in the words of Knapp without defining what it was though one assumes an encounter with the Manx weather at its worst given that it is the end of the month of October. This suggested to him the title of the book though one as seen he did not unfortunately write though this sketch here of him in the Island shows some of the material he had gathered and we possibly would have heard more of the "tipsy fiddler" and his playing of "Mylecharaine" in Mrs Clugston's public house at Port Erin.

Stephen Miller's articles from KMJ are now available online here:

www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/%7Estephen/manxnotes

IRISH SET DANCING

Irish Set Dancing is now upstairs at Macbeths Pub, Victoria Street, Douglas on Thursdays from 8pm

Anyone interested in having a go at set dancing is welcome. This is a social get-together venue with dancing for any ability - beginners to experienced. It would be great to see any musicians who may like to play for dancing or just have a tune

All are welcome to have a go or just arrive for skeet and beer

Start the weekend on Thursdays!!! **David Collister**



Er mooin ny tonnyn haink ad dy chaggey Y reeriaght flaunyssagh shoh y chosney. Ruggit gyn aggle, hug ad Mannin fo smaght, veih Cathy Clugaaish Agh sheel ashoon noa haink magh ass y chraght. Ga foddey jeh ta'n eash shen nish, Ta eiraght ny Loghlinee foast cheet rish. Sy tourey dagh blein, ta caa noa dy chaggey As reesht to ny treanee goll roue dy chosney. Er roaryn staillin t'ad markiaght jiu,

Er y raad dys gloyr as dys ard-ghoo.

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as Chris Sheard

Pan-Celtic in Carlow by Fiona McArdle



As it is Mann's Presidential year for the Pan-Celtic, a group of over 20 Manx set off for Carlow in Easter Week. The official opening of the 41st Festival was by Ireland's President, Michael D. Higgins, and Margaid Bird, as Pan-Celtic President, was a member of the welcoming party who escorted him and his wife into the George Bernard Shaw Theatre for the opening ceremony. Also in the lineup to meet the President were Phil Gawne, MHK, Minister of Environment, Food and Agriculture, and Fiona McArdle, Mannin's representative on the International Pan-Celtic Council. Before the President's arrival there was dancing in the College grounds where the Visual Arts Centre and Theatre are situated, so Judith Wellings, Fiona McArdle and John Kilgallon danced for Mann with a great band of musicians, along with dancers from Cornwall, Ireland, Brittany and Wales. Each country also performed two brief selections of their culture at the official opening, with the Irish President staying to enjoy the whole evening.

Midweek the traditional singing competitions were held, with three solo entries from the Island – Phil Gawne, Paul Salmon and Marlene Hendy. Marlene came third of eleven entries – congratulations to her. A group was also formed to sing - Cliogaree Cooidjagh – no win this year, but a good performance nonetheless.

Thursday was a busy day for the Manx, who organised a 'Kiaull as Coloayrtys' lunchtime session at the Courthouse Hotel where most of the Manx were staying. Then it was the 'New Song' competition in the evening which Cornwall won this time with Ben Lathom, a prodigious young talent who composed, sang and played his own song. Mooinjerey performed their song 'Cowrey ny Croshey' written by Laura and David Rowles well and it was much enjoyed by the audience packed into the Seven Oaks Hotel ballroom, but it was

pipped by the Scots group Macanta. Following on from that was the Manx / Cornish / Breton ceili night, where each country gave fantastic musical performances and there was plenty of audience participation in dancing. Only half of the duo Strengyn was able to make it to the Pan-Celtic but Paul Rogers brought along Tom Callister as his replacement string, much to the delight of Carlow audiences.

Friday was a quieter day with some taking the chance to see the country outside Carlow town or to take the train to Waterford. Cliogaree Twoaie performed in the evening choral concert along with choirs from all the other Celtic countries. Each choir sang two pieces and the Welsh had to be restricted to three choirs (they brought eight altogether).

Saturday was again competition day with Cliogaree Twoaie performing in two choral competitions and John Kilgallon performing 'Gorse Sticks'. John came second in his solo competition (against competition from an extremely athletic Welsh clog dancer!) Jeant dy mie, John!

Carlow really welcomed its Celtic visitors with flags

and bunting of all the six nations in the streets, shop windows decorated in Pan-Celtic themes, some with work of the local schools (there is a strong Irish medium school tradition there from pre-school right through including a secondary school). There was plenty of music and dance in the streets by day particularly from the two



Breton dance groups there, one from Lorient and the other from Auray, and by the weekend there were also three Welsh dance groups. Every hotel and pub had music sessions – some were organised, others spontaneous, so there was a great atmosphere for the week. If you missed it this time the Pan-Celtic will be in Carlow again next year in Easter week, starting on 2nd April 2013.

www.panceltic.ie

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

see www.manxmusic.com for more printable pieces of Manx music

Ben Rein y Voaldyn

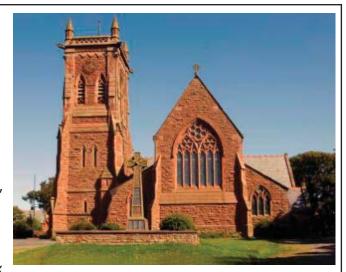
Mona Douglas Collection



Ben Rein y Voaldyn or the Queen of the May is a tune collected by Mona Douglas. In sessions, each 8 bar phrase is usually repeated.

Bell ringing - open sessions in May for tower and hand bells

There are two open days in May for anyone of any age who wants to try ringing tower or hand bells. The first open day is at St German's Cathedral in Peel on **Saturday 12th May from 2-4pm**. 'Come and experience what you hear but don't see! There is no charge, but donations are welcome.' says Treasurer, Louise Horsfall. On **Sunday 13th May, again 2-4pm**, there will be the chance to learn the basics of hand bells at Peel Sailing and Cruising Club. No musical ability is required and the event is again free.



Both groups play a mixture of music, including Manx

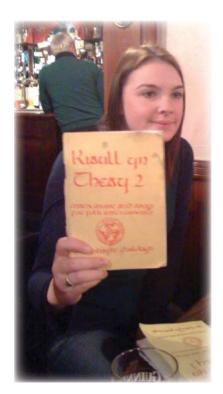
music, which they have arranged themselves. With grants from the Manx Lottery Trust and the IOM Arts Council, the Isle of Man Bellringers are going from strength to strength. Book your places now! Contact Annette 465184 or Louise 422762 for more details.

New String Quartet

Violin teacher and composer Roy L Baker has produced a fantastic new suite for string quartet based on Manx traditional melodies. Commissioned by the Manx Heritage Foundation, the suite consists of a chorale-style Smuggler's Lullaby, a lively Mylecharaine's March and a set of variations on The Sea Invocation. The movements can be performed either separately as individual pieces or together as a suite. The arrangements are designed to be suitable for secondary school string quartets or ensembles, and so the instrumental parts range from around grade 1 - 5 level.

The whole suite is now available to download for free from: www.manxmusic.com and it is royalty free for non-commercial live performances. Separate instrument parts can be provided on request - email Chloë: manxmusicspecialist(AT)mhf.org.im





Just WHAT is going on in this picture (left)? The lovely Ealee Sheard was at the Kiaull as Gaelg session in the Albert PSM at the end of April with a Kiaull yn Theay 2 book (the red book, hint hint) - just take a look?! What happened?!



Bree playing at Yn Chruinnaght's Celtic Coffee Morning last month



find
Manx Music and
Dance
on Facebook

CALENDAR

May

1st Castletown Metropolitan Silver Band Concert, Castletown Methodist Church, 8pm

12th & 13th Bree workshop weekend, Douglas Youth Arts Centre, Kensington Road, Douglas, 10am-4pm email Chloë on manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im for full details.

15th Castletown Metropolitan Silver Band Anti Cancer Concert, Castletown Civic Centre, 8pm

18th Andreas Benevolent Society 200 year anniversary concert, Andreas Parish Hall featuring Marlene Hendy & Dilys Sowrey, Andreas School, etc. Contact Bryan Radcliffe for more info: 880422

20th Castletown Metropolitan Silver Band, Villa Marina Arcade, Douglas, 3pm

June

12th Caarjyn Cooidjagh at St German's Cathedral, Peel, 7.45pm

16th Bree trad youth session, Douglas Youth Arts Centre, Kensington Road, Douglas, 3pm

28th Castletown Metropolitan Silver Band and others at Laa Columb Killey, Ballabeg,

Please send in dates so that we can publicise events here & online:

www.manxmusic.com

2.15pm www.laacolumbkilley.org

30th Manx music at the IOM Queenie Festival (daytime and evening)

July

Thursdays through July and August - Manx music and dance summer season at Villa Marina Arcade, Douglas 7.30pm

5th Manx music and dance at Tynwald Fair Day, St Johns - all day and evening

8th Castletown Metropolitan Silver Band Concert, Mooragh Park, Ramsey, 3pm

10th Scollag Aeg premiere at the IOM Wind Orchestra Concert, St German's Cathedral, Peel, 7.45pm

10th Castletown Metropolitan Silver Band Concert at Villa Arcade, Douglas, 8pm

13th Port Erin Beach Festival - Manx music on the beach outside the Bay, Port Erin from 7ish

14th **Yn Chruinnaght** Inter-Celtic Festival starts **www.ynchruinnaght.com**

The Rachel Hair Trio's new CD *No More Wings* is now available for sale from Rachel's website:

www.rachelhair.com/shop

Apart from Rachel's own connections with the Island as a teacher and friend, there's a self-penned track on the new CD called 'The Eccentric's Emporium' which celebrates that other world that is Jurby Junk!



manx heritage foundation ~ undinys eiraght vannin

For information on Manx music & dance contact:

Manx Music Development Officer **Dr Breesha Maddrell**: **mhfmusic@mhf.org.im** Manx Music Specialist **Dr Chloë Woolley**: **manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im**

www.manxmusic.com

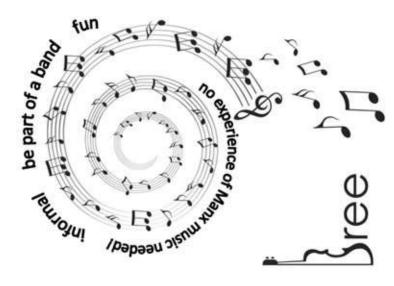
Call: Breesha: 01624 695784 or Chloë: 01624 695787

or write to: MHF Music Team, The Stable Building, The University Centre,

Old Castletown Road, Douglas, Isle of Man IM2 1QB



kiaull manninagh jiu 05/12 manx heritage foundatior



weekend
of
free
Manx
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for
young
singers,
musicians
& dancers

school years 6 - 13

Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 May 10am – 4pm

Youth Centre, Kensington Road, Douglas A concert for family and friends will take place at 3pm on Sunday

FOR MORE INFO email: manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im or tel: 695787 Organised by the Manx Heritage Foundation & the IOM Youth Service

BREE APPLICATION FORM May 2012

SchoolAgeSchool yearAge	
Address	
Contact tel. no. of parent/guardianEmail	
Tell us some more about your musical interest: What instrument(s) you play:	
Fiddle Mandolin Whistle Flute Singing	
Guitar Dodhrán Piano Harp Other	
What else you are interested in:	
Composing Song Writing Manx Dance Drama How long have you played your instrument/s?	
Have you passed any grade exams on your instrument/s?	Yes/No
It so, specify grade/ level	It so, specify grade/level

5. Students are expected to bring their own instrument (where applicable),

be of a competent ability and must be in school years 6 - 13.

53 Students will require a packed lunch or written permission to leave premises (U16).

5 Students are expected to attend the whole weekend, unless otherwise agreed.

Please return this application form by post or email by Friday 4 May:

Dr. Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Specialist, The Stable Building, The University Centre, Old Castletown Road, Douglas, IM2 1QB. Email: manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im

Video footage & photos may be taken during over the weekend for future promotional use. Parents – **please sign here** if you **object** to your child appearing on film or in photos: